

“IF A PERSON REALLY BELIEVES IN ETERNITY, THEN HE WILL MAKE THE BEST USE OF TIME.”

What are you going to do with the rest of your life? How much time do you have? What do you want to accomplish with the time you have left? What experiences will make your life most fulfilling and complete?

1 Peter 4:1-11 New Living Translation Key Verses:

“YOU WON’T SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIVES CHASING YOUR OWN DESIRES, BUT YOU WILL BE ANXIOUS TO DO THE WILL OF GOD.” 1 Peter 4:2

“DO IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH AND ENERGY THAT GOD SUPPLIES. THEN EVERYTHING YOU DO WILL BRING GLORY TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.” 1 Peter 4:11

What are you spending your time doing? Sports? Watching TV? Working? Sleeping? Eating? Vacations? Hobbies? Is there time for God?

Are you chasing your own desires, or doing God’s will? Any time for Bible reading, Meditation, Prayer, Visiting the sick...the lonely...the depressed? Time to bring a neighbor to church? Time to host a neighborhood Bible Study? Time to minister in the name of Christ?

The first night in Tanzania with the mission team, Lowell Wertz said, “Don’t come to Africa unless you are ready to die.” I took that to mean, don’t waste my time or theirs as missionaries unless I am anxious to do the will of God...so anxious that I will spare nothing in doing His will. As a faithful servant of Christ, I do not have the option to say “NO” to anything that God wants me to do.

VISIT TO SHANKSVILLE, PA

ACCORDING TO PETER...WHAT IS MY MISSION?

1. Vv. 3 & 4..**Be finished with sin, change my life, and expect my old friends to view me differently.** (A militant attitude toward sin.) Expect suffering
2. Vv. 7 & 8...**Be earnest and disciplined in my prayers and show deep love for each other.** (Note: our loving response to enemies in the midst of trials can be a powerful opportunity to share our faith. By treating our persecutors with love and kindness, we can make our faith respectable and even attractive to them.)
3. V. 9...**Cheerfully share my home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.** (Example of my parents and the Christian guests in our home. Example of Lowell Wertz’s mother in hosting the missionaries at their church. Hrivnak’s sharing their home with Susan and I as we made the adjustments in our business plan.
4. V. 10...God has given me a gift and I must use it to server others. It is to be done in God’s strength and energy, not mine. (Airtran Ministry) Every day is a new adventure in service to God.
5. V. 7...I will have an expectant attitude toward Christ’s coming and display the urgency for others to know Him. I will be a bold and courageous voice for Christ no matter where I am or who I am with. “The end of the world is coming soon.” I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. No earthly authority, no effort for political correctness will silence my voice for Christ.

IT IS ONLY WHEN WE SEE THE AFFAIRS OF EARTH IN THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY, THAT WE SEE THEM IN THEIR PROPER PROPORTIONS; IT IS WHEN GOD IS GIVEN HIS PROPER PLACE THAT EVERYTHING TAKES ITS PROPER PLACE.

SO WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE? IF YOU MEAN THE WORDS OF OUR KEY SCRIPTURE VERSE, SUBSTITUTE THE WORD “I” FOR “YOU” AND REPEAT AFTER ME...

I WON’T SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE CHASING MY OWN DESIRES, BUT I WILL BE ANXIOUS TO DO THE WILL OF GOD. I WILL DO IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH AND ENERGY THAT GOD SUPPLIES.”

THE RESULT:

V. 11...”Then everything I do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to Him forever and ever! AMEN!