



**The Rest of Your Time**  
**1 Peter 4:1-6**  
**Study Guide**

1. Peter is writing to encourage persecuted Christians. They faced many uncertainties, among them the possibility of martyrdom. The supreme example of suffering unjustly is Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 4 is a call to Christ-centered, God-serving endurance. The “therefore” in 4:1 is a grammatical hinge which swings the door of thought from summary to anticipation. What does the word “arm” ask Christians to do in response to the afflictions of Christ? Who is it that “has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin?” Consider the two views and make your decision.
2. According to 4:2 how does God want the Christian to live for the remainder of his years? How should your answer affect the Christian who wants to deliberately seek martyrdom? This would be a good place to pause and write down some summary principles from the Bible regarding Christian martyrdom (Matt. 10:21; 24:9; Jn. 16:2; Matt. 10:28; Rev. 2:10; Matt. 16:24-25; Acts 21:13; Heb. 12:4; Rev. 6:11; Lk. 11:50-51; Rev. 18:20-24).
3. What two things does Peter say about the believer’s former manner of life in the statement, “For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried the desire of the Gentiles?” Six terms are used to describe the pre-conversion life of his readers. The assumption is that as believers they no longer pursued such
- behavior. Select one of the behavior patterns mentioned, define it, and explain what spiritual dynamics were involved in the change experienced.
4. What kind of response did the Christians experience because of their changed lives (4:4)? What did unbelievers resort to? Have you ever been verbally attacked because of a moral stand you have taken? Why is it that unbelievers can often be so hostile toward the gospel of Jesus Christ (Jn. 3:19, 20)?
5. Non-Christians can reject Jesus Christ and the Bible if they want to, but there will a time of reckoning (v. 5). What kind of judgment awaits non-Christians (Acts 10:42; Rom. 14:9; 2 Tim. 4:1; 2 Thess. 1:8; 2 Pet. 3:7; Rev. 20:11-15)?
6. Who are the dead to whom the gospel has been preached (v. 6)? What is the one way to escape from a life of sin? Since both believers and unbelievers die physically, what is the one great difference? Read through the obituary section of the newspaper at least once this week and then think about your neighbors who have not died yet? What is the best thing you can do for them before they die?