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WHAT'S YOUR URGENCY ?

What gives you a sense of urgency? A yellow light? Sale flyer? Deer stand? Pictures of grandkids? Pile of bills?

The Apostle Peter relates some thoughts about the "urgency" of living for Christ in today's world. He's given you a purpose, and there's a limited time in which to serve Him.

In 1 Peter 4 he says believers should "arm yourselves with the same way of thinking" that Christ had. His death on the cross paid the penalty for sins and His resurrection from the dead gives new life to all who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Because of this, Peter says it's time to make a decisive break with sin. Remember back in 1 Peter 2 he said Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the cross, so that you would "die to sin and live to righteousness." 1 Peter 4 says you can now live the rest of your life "no longer for human passions but for the will of God."

That's a new way of thinking, and a new way of living. A night-and-day transformation of your reason for living! Christ asks you to realize that following Him requires changes in your life. Not by your own power but by relying on the power of the Holy Spirit who empowers all who trust in Jesus.

Think of cement blocks being placed to construct a building. You are like blocks being placed to line up with the cornerstone, Christ, so that your life reflects His design and direction. You no longer exist as a single block, but as part of what God is building. You now have a purpose beyond yourself.

That's because you're not just saved from something, but also for something. When you're saved from sin, you're also saved to serve the Savior!

That's the purpose of your new life in Him -- being transformed to become like Him. While you live on this earth you are His representative, as He lives His life through you, in order to fulfill His purposes for you and for the world He came to save.

Peter spells it out clearly when he says "for the time past suffices for doing what unbelievers want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry." That's pretty much in-your-face, isn't it.

He says you've spent enough time already pursuing self-serving natural appetites -- things that are the opposite of self-control and of new life in Christ. You now have the power to say no to sin and yes to God.

But the Christian life isn't just a matter of behavior, it begins with believing. Believing in Christ as Lord and Savior starts an incredible spiritual change in your very inner being. That new way of thinking about yourself -- as Christ's representative, empowered by His Holy Spirit -- leads to a new way of living.

You now only have time to God's will. You no longer have time to do what the world, the flesh, or the devil want you to do. Those things belong to your old life, not your new life. Those are things of your past, not your future.

And because your future on earth has a limited time, it's time to quit listening to what the world, the flesh and the devil say you should want, and start doing what God wants you to do.

And that's good news – because God gives you both the purpose and the power!