

OUR GREATEST MISSION

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TEXT: 1 PETER 4:1-11(NIV)

INTRODUCTION

We need not fear what lies ahead in the future because we are constantly reminded that our Savior Jesus Christ, knows, understands and is with us through all of our trials. Our greatest mission in this world is to follow the example of our Savior in every way. The fulfillment of our mission is dependent upon how well we know Christ and emulate Him. Consider the many *resources* we have at our disposal to help us to be successful.

I. OUR GREATEST WEAPON IS A SPIRITUAL MIND (vv. 1-3).

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. **2** As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. **3** For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

A. The mind of Christ (spiritual mind) is a powerful weapon (v.1).

Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

B. The mind of Christ changes the focus of our mind (v.2-3).

C. The “mind” of Christ is about the “intent” of our heart.

II. OUR GREATEST WITNESS IS OUR CHOICES (vv. 4-6).

4 They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. **5** But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **6** For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they

might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

A. The *intent* of our heart is seen in the choices we make—the unconverted should be surprised (v.4).

B. The intent of those who reject God will also be obvious (vv. 5-6).

III. OUR GREATEST VICTORY IS IN HOW WE LIVE (vv. 7-11).

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. **8** Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. **9** Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

A. We have been given, not only the mind, but also the motivation to live for Christ (v.7).

B. We have been given the motivation to care for one another (vv.10).

C. We have been reminded our mind and motivation are dependent on the power or strength given by God (v.11).

CONCLUSION

When we consider the many *resources* we have at our disposal to help us to be successful. We are reminded that we need not fear what lies ahead in the future because we are constantly reminded that our Savior Jesus Christ, knows, understands and is with us through all of our trials.