



Sermon Series: Aliens in this World  
1 Peter 4:1-11- Prepared to be different  
Sunday 1 December 2024  
Small Group Notes

When have you been in a dangerous situation that required a strategy to be safe?

What would it have been like to be persecuted as part of the early church?

What is similar or different when it comes to comparing our situation with theirs?

**Read 1 Peter 4:1**

Why do you think Peter used the phrase ‘arm yourselves’ in verse 1?

How can we be ‘armed’ with an attitude?

What was Christ’s attitude toward suffering? How can we have this same attitude?

This attitude, combined with suffering, opens a different way of relating to the world.

**Read 1 Peter 4:1-6**

What do you think it means to be ‘done with sin’?

Sacrifice or suffering, combined with the right attitude, can have a powerful effect on our desires. Can you think of any examples of this? Can you think of any examples where Christians are called to sacrifice because it is good for who we are deep down?

**Read 1 Peter 4:7 and 2 Peter 3:8-10**

Why might Peter refer to the ‘end of all things’?

What did Peter mean by saying the ‘end of all things is near’, but later saying, in 2 Peter, that ‘the Lord is not slow in keeping his promise’?

If you were expecting the ‘end of all things’, how might you prepare? What might we expect Peter to say following this?

How is it profound that Peter's challenge leads to self-control, prayer, love, hospitality, and service?

### **Read 1 Peter 4:7**

What stands out to you in this verse? Why start here?

### **Read 1 Peter 4:8**

How does the 'end of all things' encourage us toward deep love? What does deep love look like?

### **Read 1 Peter 4:9**

How does the 'end of all things' encourage us toward hospitality? Why is it important that this is 'without grumbling'?

Finally this flows out in serving others for which Peter gives two examples.

### **Read 1 Peter 4:10-11**

How is God active in these verses? Why is that significant?

Peter's challenges operate on both an individual, but also corporate level. In others words it about how we live individually, but also marks the church. It is about how we live toward people within the church, but also people that don't know Christ yet.

What is challenging if you think about this on an individual level?

What is challenging if you think about this on a corporate level?

The quality of their community makes the church a refuge in the storm that surrounds them. I hope that is true for us today as well.

For the world we don't operate by normal rules. We're confusing.

When hated we love. When rejected we welcome. When mistreated we take a place of service.

In the sermon Shawn used an illustration that involved carrots, eggs, and coffee beans. Which do you feel most like when suffering? How can we be 'coffee beans'? When have you seen people being 'coffee beans'?

Our normal response to persecution is to fight back. Why is the response Peter encourages so profound, and how can we live more like this?