

Sermon Notes 10/19/2025

The Gospel of Life

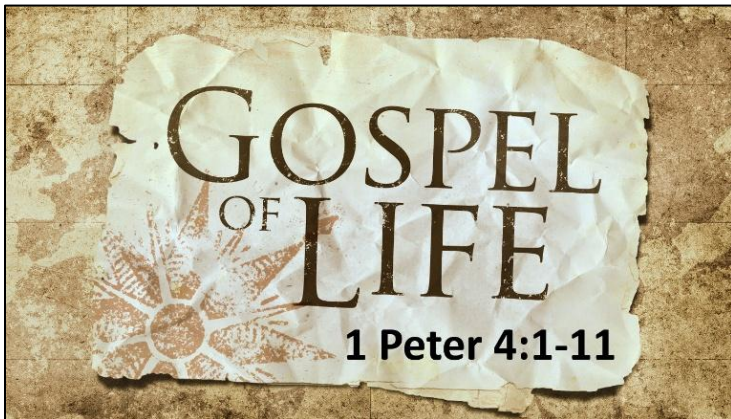
El Evangelio de la Vida

How should we respond to the Gospel of Life?
¿Cómo debemos responder al Evangelio de la Vida?

1. Let's live for the will of _____.
Vivamos para la voluntad de _____.
1 Peter 4:1-2 (1 Pedro 4:1-2)
1 Peter 4:3-4 (1 Pedro 4:3-4)
Mark 8:34-35 (Marcos 8:34-35)

2. Let's love each other _____.
Amémonos _____.
1 Peter 4:8 (1 Pedro 4:8)
1 Peter 1:22 (1 Pedro 1:22)
1 John 3:16-18 (1 Juan 3:16-18)

3. Let's serve others _____.
Sirvamos a los demás _____.
1 Peter 4:10 (1 Pedro 4:10)
1 Peter 4:11 (1 Pedro 4:11)
Mark 10:42-45 (Marcos 10:42-45)



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 8: October 19

1 Peter 4:1-11

In 1 Peter 4, Peter continues to use the suffering and death of Christ to encourage Christians to remain faithful to Jesus in times of persecution. The word gospel means good news. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news that we can have forgiveness and eternal life because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. However, the gospel not only gives us the hope of eternal life in heaven. It also helps us to live a fulfilling life here in this world, even in times of suffering.

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

1. What attitude and example did Peter tell us to follow in verse 1?
2. Why did Peter say, “He who has suffered in his body is done with sin”? (4:1)

Allen Black writes,

The point seems to be that when a Christian suffers for doing God’s will, he or she demonstrates that they have ceased from or are done with living in violation of God’s will and are ready to do God’s will even if it entails suffering. The New Living Translation provides a useful paraphrase: “For if you are willing to suffer for Christ, you have decided to stop sinning.” (Black, 110)

3. According to verse 2, what should we live for in this earthly life?
4. How did Peter’s readers live before they became Christians? (4:3)

Jack Cottrell comments,

These are certainly not all the sins that are typical of the pagan, non-Christian world, but the list is sufficient to show us how unbelievers are usually slaves to the flesh, controlled by the desires of the flesh, unrestrained by God’s laws in matters of the flesh. Well, says Peter, “Enough is enough!” In verse 3, he says that the time for that kind of living is past. Your past involvement in such gross “sins of the flesh” is enough! The past is the past; let go of these pagan practices! (Cottrell, 248)

5. How did the pagans respond to the behavior of Christians? (4:4)

6. How does verse 5 give assurance to the Christians who are suffering?

Black notes,

Those pagans who currently malign Christians and their God will have to answer for it. Peter assures his readers that there will be a time of reckoning for those who are currently abusing them. They will have to give an account to God (or Christ) in the great Judgment. (Black, 112)

7. According to verse 6, why was the gospel “preached even to those who are now dead” (NIV)? (4:6)

There are two different ways to interpret this verse. Peter could be talking about those who were spiritually dead (Luke 15:24; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13). Or Peter could be talking about those who are now physically dead but were alive when they heard the gospel. The NIV follows the second interpretation by adding the word “now,” which is not in the Greek text. However, with both interpretations, the application for us is the same, as Cottrell explains:

All of this applies to all Christians, of course. We are simply encouraged to remember that the purpose of preaching the gospel—and living the gospel—is to bring more and more of that pagan, spiritually dead crowd into the sphere of those who are truly alive unto God! (Cottrell, 257)

8. What did Peter mean when he said, “the end of all things”? (4:7)

Wayne Grudem observes,

Peter thinks in terms of “redemptive history.” From that perspective all the previous acts in the drama of redemption have been completed – creation, fall, the calling of Abraham, the exodus from Egypt, the kingdom of Israel, the exile in Babylon and the return, the birth of Christ, his life, death and resurrection, his ascension into heaven, and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit to establish the church. The great “last act,” the church age, had been continuing for about thirty years by the time Peter wrote. Thus, the curtain could fall at any time, ushering in the return of Christ and the end of the age. All things are ready: the end of all things (the “goal” to which “all” these events have been leading) is at hand. (Grudem, 180)

9. What should we do since “the end of all things is near”? (4:7)
10. How did Peter encourage his readers to love each other? (4:8-9)
11. How should we use the gifts that God has entrusted to us? (4:10-11)

Black comments,

Just as speaking is a comprehensive term including various forms of Christian teaching, so serving is a comprehensive term including various forms of Christian ministry. Whether one speaks or serves, it should be clear that the ultimate source of such activity is God. He provides the message to speak and the strength to serve. (Black, 118)

12. What helps you to live for the will of God rather than your own evil desires?
13. What do unbelievers find strange about the way you live?
14. Why is it important for us to think about the end of the world?
15. How can our love for others cover a multitude of sins?
16. In what ways can we offer hospitality to others?
17. What gifts has God given you that you could use to serve others?
18. How can you use your communication skills for God’s glory?
19. How will you love others deeply this week?
20. How will you communicate or demonstrate the gospel in your life?

Sources cited:

Black, Allen, and Mark Black. *1 & 2 Peter*. College Press, 1998.
Cottrell, Jack. *Studies in First Peter*. Christian Restoration Association, 2017.
Grudem, Wayne. *1 Peter*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.