

## 1 Peter 2:11-12

### Verse 11

*Beloved* – Esteemed brothers and sisters in the Lord’s family.

*I urge you* – I strongly appeal to you. This phrase often marks off a new section of an epistle and typically introduces exhortations. Note Romans 12:1.

*As aliens and strangers* – Because our true homeland is the heavens (Phil. 3:20, Psalm 39:12, Eph. 2:19, Heb. 11:13).

*Abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul* - Because these lusts are inconsistent with our heavenly home. 1 John 2:26 reminds us of this very fact. Paul describes the warfare in Galatians 5:19-21. The verb *abstain* means to avoid, or keep away from. The idea is that we do have conscious control.

### Verse 12

*Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles* –

“Gentiles” is used here in the sense of “unbelievers”.

*So that...as they observe...* We should never give unbelievers justifiable cause for slander. Our good deeds should be observable to all. Peter gives a specific purpose for this behavior.

*That they may...glorify God in the day of visitation* – Some see this as the final day of judgment or Christ’s return. However there is no definite article and it can easily refer to whatever time God “visits”. The idea seems to be that our conduct may result in the salvation of those who slander us. Sometimes God’s visitation is for judgment and sometimes for blessing. Luke 19:44 seems to be a similar passage where “*the time of your visitation*” refers to Israel’s offer of salvation. Nowhere in the Bible do we read of unbelievers being forced to glorify God. We actually see just the opposite in Revelation 16:9 where they refuse to glorify God. It appears here that their salvation, which results in glorifying God, has come because they observed the good deeds of believers.

Verses 11-12 state in summary form what Peter will explain in detail in the second half of his letter.

“Christians living in an unbelieving society must avoid sinful desires and continually maintain exemplary patterns of life, so that unbelievers will be saved and God glorified.”<sup>1</sup>

Wayne Grudem

### Verses 11-12 = Four Exhortations

- 1) God’s people must lead exemplary lives.
- 2) God’s people must leave no room for slander.
- 3) God’s people must do good deeds among unbelievers.
- 4) God’s people must remember they are being watched.

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

**What about you? Will you live this year in such a way that people are drawn to Christ by your good deeds and attitudes or will your behavior be offensive and push people away from Christ?**

<sup>1</sup> Grudem, Wayne A., 1 Peter, Tyndale New Testament commentaries, 2009, p 125.