The Christian and the Rest of His (Or Her) Life
1 Pet. 4:1-5

Introduction:
A. Peter writes to Christians in trying times.
   1. To Christians (v. 16)
   2. Fiery trial upon them (v. 12)
   3. End of “all things at hand” (v. 7) – probably end of Jewish state (A.D. 70).
B. Peter tell them how to spend the rest of their lives (v. 2).
   1. If in time of trial – what about other times?
   2. Also tells us, as Christians, how to spend the rest of our time here.

Discussion:
I. It Should Be Spent Living by the Will of God (v. 2)
   A. A contrast of two wills – of God and of the Gentiles (vv. 2, 3)
      1. Will of Gentiles takes little effort – go with the flow – wherever lust leads.
      2. Will of God takes great effort:
         a. Studying and practicing what the Bible says.
         b. Things must be done and things avoided to please God.
         c. Resisting the scorn of the worldly minded (vv. 4, 6).
      3. A contrast of two life styles (v. 3 and v. 7).
   B. Enough is enough – of the will of the Gentiles and lusts of men (vv. 2-3 – nkjv).
      1. Because we must give an account unto God (v. 5).
      2. Because the limited time that we have (v. 7).

II. It Should Be Spent Speaking as the Oracles of God (v. 11a)
   A. Nothing else will save now and eternally (Rom. 1:16; Gal. 1:8-9; 2 John 9).
   B. Human tradition makes worship vain (Matt. 15:9).

III. It Should Be Spent Serving to the Glory of God (v. 11b)
   A. Use God-given talent to His glory.
   B. By being good stewards of God’s gifts (v. 10)
      1. Sharing with others – “even so minister the same…”
      2. Loving and serving one another (vv. 8-9).

IV. It Should Be Spent Suffering as a Child of God (vv. 13-16).
   A. No one can avoid suffering (cf. Job 14:1).
   B. Basically two kinds of suffering – unavoidable and avoidable
      1. Unavoidable – sickness, natural disasters, etc.
      2. Avoidable – come as a result of our choices and actions.
         a. As an evil doer (v. 15)
         b. As a Christian (v. 16, cf. 3:17).
   C. Suffering may be bodily or mentally/emotional.

Conclusion:
A. How do you plan to spend the rest of your life?
B. What if today were the rest of your life?