Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope

Our Lord Will Return Soon (4:7 – 5:11)

What does it mean to be Armed for the purpose of Suffering?

(1 Pet. 4:1-6)

1. We have armed ourselves with the attitude or mind of Christ. (v. 1a)
2. We have parted ways with our past life of sin. (v.1b)
3. We have engaged in the pursuit of God's will, not our own. (v.2)
4. We know the season of sinning is past. (v.3)
5. We walk out of step with the world. (v.4-5)
6. We live in the hope of vindication beyond death. (v. 6)

Round-table Questions / Exercises

Answer the following questions and please be prepared to share with the larger group…

1. Read 1 Peter 4:7-11. At the beginning of verse 7 some ~2000 years ago, Peter says *"the end of all things is at hand"*. What do you he meant by that? How could he say that at that time?
2. What specific things going across our world that lead you to believe this is occurring on the front pages of our newspapers today?
3. The United States does not appear to be front-and-center on the world's stage in end-time prophecy. What are specific things going on in our country today that could be reasons for that?
4. What do you think will happen to either remove or neutralize America's position as the most influential and powerful country in history and in our world today?
5. In your estimation, does this reality appear to be soon? Why or why not?
6. If soon, what should you be doing to prepare for this eventuality?

1 Peter

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

- Introduction
  Peter 's Life & Background Overview
- Salutation (1:1 – 2)
  Our Election into Grace
- Our Past: Remember Our Anchor… (1:3 – 2:10)
  We Have so Great a Salvation
- *Our Present: Remember Our Testimony… (2:11 – 4:6)*
  How We Navigate Life Really Matters
- Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope… (4:7 – 5:11)
  Our Lord Will Return Soon
- Closing (5:12 – 14)
  Greetings, Benediction & Review

Our Focus During Suffering

Learning Objectives:

To develop confidence amid growing threats from an unbelieving and evermore hostile world so that we will…

- *Not be surprised but be ready*
- *Properly focus during inevitable suffering*
- *Crystallize what our motivation should be*

1 Peter 4:7-11

7 The end of all things is at hand;
therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit
for the purpose of prayer.

8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another,
because love covers a multitude of sins.

9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one
another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God;
whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies;
so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,
to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Our Focus During Suffering
1 Peter 4:7-11

- Our Incentive (7a)
  - *"The end of all things is at hand"*
- Our Instructions (7b-11a)
  - *"… therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer"*
  - *"Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint"*
  - *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies"*
- Our Inspiration (11b)
  - *"… so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."*

Our Incentive (7a)

"The end of all things is at hand"

- Do you believe this? Why or why not?
  If so, everything we are comfortable with is about to change! When people's comfort zones are rocked, we react in only one of two ways:
  - We will either bless or we will curse God
  - Either way, the greatest opportunity for ministry and service to God and people is about to be unveiled… are you ready?
- *"the end"* – means to "*finish*" or to "*bring to a close*" or the "limit at which a thing ceases to be"
- In 64–68 AD, Nero was on the warpath having made Christians a scapegoat for burning Rome and a few short years later in 70 AD, Jerusalem and the temple would be decimated
- Peter and Paul were martyred during this time; for them and the early believers, the *"end of all things"* was clearly at hand

Compelling Signs Signaling…
"The End of All Things is at Hand"

- Economy & Money
- Geopolitical Landscape & the Middle East
- Terrorism & Peace
- Rule of Law
- Technology, Media, Knowledge, Education & Transportation
- Disease & Disasters
- Energy, Fuel & Food
- Freedom & Democracy
- Religion
- Leadership Vacuum
- Persecution & Suffering of Christians

Bridging to Today's Headlines

The United States…

- Except for the United States, momentum is building towards world unification against a common foe… Israel
- America not specifically mentioned in Bible prophecy
- Possible reasons for the demise and neutralization of America as the world's superpower
  - Economic Collapse
  - Moral Disintegration
  - Enemies from the Inside
  - Enemies from the Outside
  - Rapture of the Church

"The End of All Things is at Hand"

Our Incentive (7a)

- *"at hand"* – means "*near, close, imminent, approaching, ready to be revealed, bursting forth, breaking out*" (Matthew 3:2; 4:17)
- This present world order is coming to an end and it will do so with a mighty roar
- All things that are contrary to the will of God, evil and godless will come to an end and the only thing that will be left standing will be the kingdom of God (Daniel 2; 7; 9)
- We will soon see His eternal and unshakeable kingdom burst forth on planet Earth. It is "*at hand*"… this is not a time to be fearful but a time to greatly rejoice… (Luke 21:28)
- Hallelujah, our God reigns!!! (Revelation 19:1-6)
- If these things are true, '*how then should we live*'? Where are you at? Are you "*all in*"? What should our focus be as a result?

Practical Steps to Prepare for…
"End of All Things" being *"At Hand"*

- Understand what the Scriptures say (1 Peter 1:10-12)
- Understand the times in which we are living (1 Chronicles 12:32)
- Realize that God is sovereign and Lord of all (Isaiah 46:9-10; 40:18, 21-26; Psalm 2; 33:10-12)
- Assess our 'hearts' and begin to put them in 'order'
  - Choose which kingdom we are going to serve (Joshua 24:15)

Two Different Kingdoms

Me-Centered Kingdom

God-Centered Kingdom

Two choice on the shelf, pleasing God or pleasing self!

Practical Steps to Prepare for…
"End of All Things" being *"At Hand"*

- Assess our 'hearts' and begin to put them in 'order' *(Continued)*
  - Sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts (1 Peter 3:15)
  - Learn to trust God with all our hearts in all things (Proverbs 3:5-6)
  - Put on the full armor of God to be able to stand (Ephesians 6:10-11; Romans 13:11-14)
  - Seek and live in intimacy and immanency (2 Peter 3:11-13; Hebrews 11:10, 26)
  - Decide upon our conclusions before the fire (Luke 9:51)
  - Cement Heaven as our future home and our living hope today (Col 3:1-4)

Practical Steps to Prepare for…
"End of All Things" being *"At Hand"*

- Assess our 'houses' and begin to put them in 'order'
  - Consecrate our relationships
  - Pursue '*living at peace with all men*' (Hebrews 12:14; Romans 12:18)
  - Move towards becoming debt free (Proverbs 22:7)
  - Seek and live in community (Hebrews 10:25)

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

Compelling Signs Signaling…

"The End of All Things is at Hand"

New To Church? search Go!

THE VILLAGE CHURCH

To present all people complete in Christ.

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 – Bartlett, IL

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Calendar

MAY 2013

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11

1 Peter - Introduction - An Overview & Introduction of Peter's First Letter

02/12/12

Series: 1 & 2 Peter
Pastor: Mark Hurlbert

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1 Peter - Peter The Man God Used

02/05/12

Series: 1 & 2 Peter
Pastor: Dave Torres

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Compelling Signs Signaling…
"The End of All Things is at Hand"

- **Economy/Money**
  - Global economic underpinnings are interdependent
  - Defaults on loans (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Spain, etc.) support catastrophic domino linkages to EU and United States along with massive uprisings in the streets due to austerity implications
  - Our government is broke; >$16.7 trillion dollars in debt and rising $1 trillion a year and this doesn't include Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid; total unfunded liabilities is said to be as high as $123 trillion
  - Each American taxpayer would have to cough up $1,088,936 just to meet the government's promised obligations not including the average personal debt per citizen of $53,175.
  - Many EU countries and US sovereign currency have been downgraded yet both continue to print money and the dollar's role as the world's default currency is at risk
  - Money is increasingly electronic versus physical increasing the ability to control it
  - Price of gold, platinum, silver continue to escalate significantly year-on-year; China has embarked upon a clandestine plan to own the world's gold

State Debt Clocks | World Debt Clocks

US Debt Clock.org

Debt Clock Time Machine

SEQUESTER CUTS	SEQUESTER to SPENDING RATIO	2013 TAX INCREASES	TAX INCREASES to SPENDING RATIO
$22,758,578,247	2.39397194 %	$58,895,246,100	6.19517330 %

US NATIONAL DEBT	DEBT PER PERSON	DEBT PER TAXPAYER
$16,783,692,119,687	$53,175	$148,059

US FEDERAL SPENDING	US FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT
$3,572,125,816,575	$1,054,074,312,578

US FEDERAL TAX REVENUE	INCOME TAX	PAYROLL TAX	CORPORATE TAX
$2,518,051,458,534	$1,167,177,245,854	$873,781,331,347	$244,398,448,202

STATE REVENUE	STATE DEBT	LOCAL REVENUE	LOCAL DEBT
$1,517,491,687,141	$1,180,610,860,451	$1,049,138,029,569	$1,776,116,162,922

Largest Budget Items

MEDICARE/MEDICAID	SOCIAL SECURITY	DEFENSE/WARS
$816,657,175,139	$779,192,739,277	$664,936,611,756

INCOME SECURITY	NET INTEREST ON DEBT	FEDERAL PENSIONS
$352,667,528,193	$223,266,491,581	$215,530,394,349

US GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	TOTAL FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL SPENDING
$15,678,249,531,037	$6,647,141,872,434

GROSS DEBT TO GDP RATIO	REVENUE TO GDP RATIO	SPENDING TO GDP RATIO
107.0504249 %	32.4315669 %	42.3970551 %

US TOTAL INTEREST • 2013	INTEREST PER PERSON
$3,006,580,686,755	$9,529

US TOTAL DEBT	TOTAL DEBT PER PERSON	TOTAL DEBT PER FAMILY	SAVINGS PER FAMILY
$59,311,562,615,926	$187,915	$746,118	$7,640

TOTAL PERSONAL DEBT	MORTGAGE DEBT	STUDENT LOAN DEBT	CREDIT CARD DEBT	PERSONAL DEBT PER PER.
$15,983,952,188,584	$13,154,205,297,436	$976,689,037,723	$851,110,550,035	$50,641

Money Creation

FEDERAL RESERVE MONETARY BASE	M2 MONEY SUPPLY	TREASURY SECURITIES	CURRENCY AND CREDIT DERIVATIVES
$2,949,163,615,601	$10,366,683,253,656	$1,249,158,743,130	$625,252,395,483,990

Trade Numbers

US DEBT HELD BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES	US TRADE DEFICIT	US TRADE DEFICIT • CHINA	US IMPORTED OIL	IMPORTED OIL • OPEC
$5,689,933,059,157	$723,829,864,039	$317,288,809,486	$426,437,630,435	$171,300,803,005

SMALL BUSINESS ASSETS	CORPORATION ASSETS	HOUSEHOLD ASSETS	TOTAL NATIONAL ASSETS	ASSETS PER PERSON
$8,167,091,502,232	$17,932,181,102,748	$67,312,529,598,394	$93,411,804,517,363	$295,956

SOCIAL SECURITY LIABILITY	PRESCRIPTION DRUG LIABILITY	MEDICARE LIABILITY	US UNFUNDED LIABILITIES	LIABILITY PER TAXPAYER
$16,274,933,261,595	$21,532,988,403,987	$85,631,187,574,579	$123,439,107,948,337	$1,088,936

US POPULATION	315,629,803
US INCOME TAXPAYERS	113,357,807
US WORK FORCE	143,311,360
NOT IN LABOR FORCE	90,008,448
OFFICIAL UNEMPLOYED	11,723,089
ACTUAL UNEMPLOYED	21,373,056
US RETIREES	46,172,924
DISABLED (SSI)	14,160,758
LIVING IN POVERTY	49,986,242
FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS	47,880,350
STATE/LOCAL EMPLOYEES	19,170,982
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES	4,392,872

MORTGAGE/LOAN CALCULATOR | GOLD SUPPLY/DEMAND | SOURCES | AUTO SALES | ABOUT | ENERGY OUTPUT | SHARE | GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS

US Debt Ceiling Visualized in $100 Bills

United States owes a lot of money. As of 2012, US debt is larger than the size of the economy.
The debt ceiling is currently set at $16.394 Trillion and approaching rapidly.
To see current debt live visit US Debt Clock.

One Hundred Dollars

$100 - Most counterfeited money denomination in the world.
Keeps the world moving.

Ten Thousand Dollars

$10,000 - Enough for a great vacation or to buy a used car.
Approximately one year of work for the average human on earth.

$10,000
$10,000
$10,000
$10,000
$10,000
$10,000
$10,000
$10,000
One Million Dollars
$1,000,000 - Not as big of a pile as you thought, huh?
Still this is 92 years of work for the average human on earth.

One Hundred Milion Dollars
$100,000,000 - Plenty to go around for everyone.
Fits nicely on an ISO / Military standard sized pallet.
The couch is worth $46.7 million. Made out of crispy $100 bills.

$100 Million Dollars = 1 year of work for 3500 average Americans

It takes 3500 Americans 1 year of work to make $100 Million dollars. The 155 million Americans who worked with earnings in 2005 on average made $28,567 / year.

In front of the 3500 people is the $100 Million pallet that they all have to work for 1 year to earn.
Look carefully to see a stack of $1 Million and the 35 average Americans required to earn that $1 Million in 1 year.

One Billion Dollars
$1,000,000,000 - You will need some help when robbing the bank.
Interesting fact: $1 million dollars weights 10kg exactly.
You are looking at 10 tons of money on those pallets.

$1 TRILLION
$1,000,000,000,000
One Trillion Dollars
$1,000,000,000,000
The 2011 US federal deficit was $1.412 Trillion - 41% more than you see here.
If you spent $1 million a day since Jesus was born, you would have not spent $1 trillion by now...
but ~$700 billion- same amount the banks got during bailout.

$1 TRILLION
$1,000,000,000,000
One Trillion Dollars
Comparison of $1,000,000,000,000 dollars to a standard sized American Football field. Say hello to the leaking 101-200 transcontinental airliner that's hiding in the back. This was until recently the biggest passenger plane in the world.
You can see the White House with both wings to the right.
"My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government" - Thomas Jefferson

US DEBT CEILING

122.1 Trillion Dollars

$122,100,000,000,000. - US unfunded liabilities by Dec 31, 2012.
Above you can see the pillar of cold hard $100 bills that dwarfs the WTC & Empire State Building - both at one point world's tallest buildings.
If you look carefully you can see the Statue of Liberty.

The 122.1 Trillion dollar super-skyscraper wall is the amount of money the U.S. Government knows it does not have to fully fund the Medicare, Medicare Prescription Drug Program, Social Security, Military and civil servant pensions. It is the money USA knows it will not have to pay all its bills.
If you live in USA this is also your personal credit card bill; you are responsible along with everyone else to pay this back. The citizens of USA created the U.S. Government to serve them, this is what the U.S. Government has done while serving The People.

The unfunded liability is calculated on current tax and funding inputs, and future demographic shifts in US Population.

Compelling Signs Signaling…

"The End of All Things is at Hand"

- **Geopolitics**
  - Israel claims her land and becomes a nation again in 1948 after over 2000 years of not existing
  - Israel has become the epicenter of the focus of the whole world
  - Democracy falters in Russia who is courting Iran & the Islamic nations for the first time in all of history; signed a strategic alliance
  - A power struggle has emerging in Europe & the Middle East
  - Islamic extremists seek both the United States (Big Satan) and Israel's (Little Satan) annihilation
  - Peace for Israel is becoming one of the rarest possessions
  - Fostering of tensions in the Middle East and the readiness for war
  - Except for the United States, world unification against a common foe… Israel
  - Continual migration of Jews back to Israel (Aliyah)
  - Geo-political landscape is a muck
  - Growing global calls for a New World Order

Compelling Signs Signaling…
"The End of All Things is at Hand"

- **Terrorism / Peace**
  - Safety and security has been eclipsing the economy since 9/11
  - Defense spending is bi-modal but changing rapidly
  - The world is becoming an incredibly dangerous landscape littered with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that is unmatched in the history of the world
  - America's borders are porous and have been and are being infiltrated by jihadists in partnership with the drug lords leaving us compromised as to national security
  - Israel will most likely engage Iran's nuclear apparatus soon and probably spark a regional war which may draw in the United States, the Arab Union, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, European Union, Russia, etc.

Compelling Signs Signaling…

"The End of All Things is at Hand"

- **Terrorism / Peace (Continued)**
  - One strategically placed nuclear bomb detonated hundreds of miles above the surface of the United States would create a high-altitude electromagnetic pulse (HEMP) device that would neutralize all line-of-sight computers, the servers undergirding the internet, and entire power grid. This could put us back to the 1800s.
    - Disruption would be immense. In a matter of hours there would be large-scale looting in the major cities and in days there would be riots in all large cities over food and water. Marshal Law would be declared and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would nationalize all police forces and take control over managing the people of the United States.
    - All major transportation systems would be broken. Most means of communication would not be possible. No TV, little radio, no useable cell phone systems, no Internet system and no food or water distribution other than through the direction of Homeland Security. All essentials would be rationed.
    - Those carrying out the DHS directives would confiscate all critical supplies. All able bodied manpower in the United States would have to report for assignments directed by DHS.
    - All financial assets would be frozen. There would be no access to any money, the stock market would be closed and the U.S dollar would become near worthless on the world market.
    - For weeks, months, and perhaps years there could be little gross national product in the US.
    - The U.S is the largest debtor nation in the world so she would be forced to default on her debt bringing about a massive world depression.

Compelling Signs Signaling…
"The End of All Things is at Hand"

- **Technology / Media / Knowledge / Education / Transportation**
  - Technology is becoming capable to manage the Mark of the Beast including digital footprints leading to worldwide data mining, analytics and asset tracking

  - It took Radio 38 years, TV 13 years, Internet 4 years, and I-POD 3 years to reach a market audience of 50 million; FB added 100 million users in 9 months; I-POD app downloads hit 1 billion in 9 months; If FB were a country, it'd be the 4th largest in the world!!!
  - Un-tethered, ubiquitous, immediate, global communication has emancipated the explosion of knowledge

  - A sinister and growing existential threat exists which is creating a climate for global deception by co-opting the media
  - Cable and Internet only yet exist as the last bastions keeping this from happening
  - The amount of new technical information is doubling every 2 years – for students starting a 4 years technical degree, half of what they learn in the first year of study will be outdated by their third year of the study!!!

Compelling Signs Signaling…
"The End of All Things is at Hand"

- **Technology / Media / Knowledge / Education / Transportation (Continued)**
  - Today's learners will have 10 - 14 jobs by age 38; 1 out of 4 workers has been with their current employer for < 1 year; 1 out of 2 has been there < 5 years
  - We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist, using technologies that have not been invented; the top 10 jobs in 2010 did not even exist in 2004!!!
  - The 21st century will be equivalent to 20,000 years of progress at today's rate of progress!!!
  - Heavy indoctrination underway in the public schools and re-writing history in their textbooks including our Judeo-Christian foundation
  - Transportation is worldwide

- **Disease / Disasters**
  - Pandemic disease possibilities multiplying every day
  - Increasing seismic activity producing increased major earthquakes worldwide
  - Drought causing famine growth and starvation

Compelling Signs Signaling…
"The End of All Things is at Hand"

- **Energy / Fuel / Food**
  - Oil dependency has changed the political construct and becoming a national security concern
  - Food prices continue to escalate significantly

- **Freedom / Democracy**
  - Arab Spring, Iraq and Afghanistan's futures
  - Compromised due to Islamic extremism and Sharia law
  - Our Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights are all at stake
- **Religion**
  - Radical Islam is on the prowl worldwide and committed to establish a worldwide caliphate no matter what the cost
  - An abundance of "prophets" the Scriptures prophesy either exists or is believed to be imminent (i.e. - 12th Imam, etc.)
  - Religious leaders debate the authority of Scripture and pursue ecumenism and tolerance

Compelling Signs Signaling…

"The End of All Things is at Hand"

- **Religion (Continued)**
  - Creating a global pattern for religious open-mindedness paving the way for the establishment of not only one-world religion but also one-world government
  - Growing realization amongst Jews that there is no hope but in God and that the fulfillment of prophecy is on the immediate horizon
  - Religion has married tolerance and politics

- **Lack of Leadership**
  - True and trusted leadership is becoming increasingly and extremely rare in all venues
  - It is clear that God is allowing our Adversary to raise up his own leaders as his pawns on the world's stage to prepare the way for the end of days and Antichrist
  - The 2012 presidential election will be the most momentous, destiny-shaping transformational election in the history of the United States

Compelling Signs Signaling…

"The End of All Things is at Hand"

- **Persecution**
  - > 200 million Christians in at least 60 countries are denied fundamental human rights solely because of their faith
  - Christians are the most persecuted group; 75 out of every 100 people killed due to religious hatred are Christians
  - In the past 100 years (during the 20th Century) 26,000,000 Christians were martyred for their faith. This is more than the combined total of all previous centuries. It does not count the untold numbers who were persecuted in other ways, imprisoned, tortured, and enslaved
  - Persecution of believers is accelerating worldwide at a speed not seen before in the history of the world

"For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake" (Phi 1:29 NAS)