1 Peter 4:7 - 11

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

"… a primer for winning the war that really matters"

Our Focus During Suffering (Part 1)

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?

Today's Learning Objectives:

To develop _____ amid growing threats from an _____ and evermore _____ world so that we will…

- Not be _____ but be ready
- Properly _____ during inevitable suffering
- Crystallize what our _____ should be

1 Peter 3:7-11

7 <u>The end of all things is at hand</u>; 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 _____ (7a)

"The end of all things is at hand"

- Do you believe this? If so, everything we are comfortable with is about to change! When people's comfort zones are _____, we react in only one of two ways:
  - We will either _____ or we will _____ 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 *"_____"* or to *"bring to a _____"* 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 _____ 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 _____ _____, momentum is building towards world unification against a common foe… _____
    - America not specifically mentioned in Bible _____
    - Possible reasons for the demise and neutralization of America as the world's superpower
        - _____ Collapse
        - _____ Disintegration
        - Enemies from the _____
        - Enemies from the _____
        - _____ of the Church

- *"at hand"* – means *"near, close, _____, 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 _____
- 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 _____ (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 _____… (Luke 21:28)
- Hallelujah, our God _____!!! (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 _____ say (1 Peter 1:10-12)
- Understand the _____ in which we are living (1 Chronicles 12:32)
- Realize that God is _____ and Lord of all (Isaiah 46:9-10; 40:18, 21-26; Psalm 2; 33:10-12)
- Assess our '_____' 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

  - Sanctify Christ as _____ in our hearts (1 Peter 3:15)
  - Learn to trust God with _____ our hearts in _____ things (Proverbs 3:5-6)
  - Put on the full _____ of God to be able to stand (Ephesians 6:10-11; Romans 13:11-14)
  - Seek and live in _____ and _____ (2 Peter 3:11-13; Hebrews 11:10, 26)
  - Decide upon our conclusions before the _____ (Luke 9:51)
  - Cement _____ as our future home and our living hope today (Col 3:1-4)
- Assess our '_____' and begin to put them in 'order'
  - Consecrate our _____
  - Pursue *'living at* _____ *with all men'* (Hebrews 12:14; Romans 12:18)
  - Move towards becoming _____ free (Proverbs 22:7)
  - Seek and live in _____ (Hebrews 10:25)