

# *Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World*

**Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope**  
**Our Lord Will Return**  
**Soon (4:7 – 5:11)**

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# Round-table Questions / Exercises

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

1. If you were here last week, share a few insights about what you learned as to Peter's conclusions when he says, *"the end of all things is at hand"*?
2. The US doesn't appear in end-time prophecy. Assume our position as the most influential and powerful country in history and our world is either removed or neutralized. Might this be soon? Why or why not?
3. Do you believe that inevitable suffering will accompany that? Why or why not?
4. Are you personally doing anything to prepare for this eventuality? If so, what? What is it that keeps you from this? What will you do about that?
5. Read **1 Peter 4:7b – 11a**. What guidance does Peter provide us to navigate that? As a follower of Jesus, are you ready? How will you focus during it?
6. What does Peter mean by "love covers a multitude of sins"?

# 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)
  - 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)

# Practical Steps to Prepare for...

## *“End of All Things”* being *“At Hand”*

- Assess our ‘hearts’ and begin to put them in ‘order’  
(Continued)
  - 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)
- 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)

# 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*

It's Nearer  
Than You  
Think



# 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

## Our Incentive (7a)

*7 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.*

*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;*

## 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.*

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# Our Instructions (7b-11a)

*“... therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer”*

- Focus on Communion/Intimacy with God

- *“Sound judgment”* – comes from a term that means to be “in one’s right mind”, “under control”, “sane”, and “self-controlled”
- It also means to “not carried away by an errant view of oneself” or “undue emotion or uncontrolled passion” for anything or anyone but God (Romans 12:3; Proverbs 23:7)
  - Used of the maniac freed from demons (Mark 5:15)
  - Refers to guarding the mind and being lucid (Proverbs 4:23)
  - Our minds must be subjected to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5) and His Word (2 Timothy 3:15-17) with an eternal perspective
  - Not deceived, distracted, defeated or destroyed (1 John 2:15)



# Our Instructions (7b-11a)

- Focus on Communion/Intimacy with God (Continued)
  - “Sober spirit” – means to be “spiritually observant” or to be “on the alert” (Matthew 24:42) or to be “watchmen” (Matthew 26:41)
  - Spiritual alertness and godly thinking are crucial for the “purpose of prayer”
  - Prayer is accessing ALL the spiritual resources we ever need!
  - What keeps us from praying properly? Our minds being unstable, asleep spiritually and not focused due to...
    - Worldly pursuits
    - Ignorance of divine truth
    - Indifference to divine purposes
  - We need to...
    - Become desperate for intimacy with the Almighty (Psalm 42:1; Hebrews 10:22)
    - Understand the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16; Romans 8:27)
    - Pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20)
    - Watchmen take their roles seriously, warn and aren't caught off guard

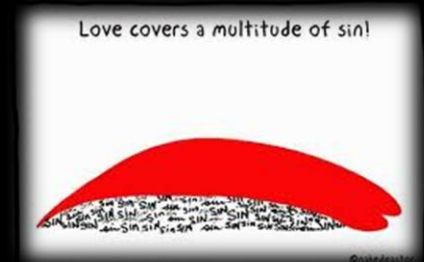


# Our Instructions (7b-11a)

*“Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint”*



- Focus on Love for the Body
  - “Above all” – refers to the supreme importance of that virtue in our lives as believers (1 Corinthians 13:13; Colossians 3:14)
  - “Fervent” – denotes stretching or straining and pictures a person exercising a muscle until it is completely exhausted (1 Peter 1:22; Philippians 1:9-10)
  - “Love covers a multitude of sins”
    - Sacrificial love loves in spite of insult, injury and misunderstanding from others (Proverbs 10:12)
    - This could be God’s love or our love for others
    - Either way, it is strong and volitional and chooses its responses



# Our Instructions (7b-11a)

- Focus on Love for the Body (Continued)
  - “*Be hospitable to one another*” – refers to being a “lover of strangers”
  - Peter is asking us to take this love for one another beyond the circle of our Christian friends to other believers we don’t even know (Hebrews 13:1-2)
  - “*Without complaint*” – this speaks of how we are to exercise our hospitality; complaining or grumbling is a sin (Acts 10:28-29; Philippians 2:14-15; James 5:9)



# Our Instructions (7b-11a)

- Focus on Communion/Intimacy with God
  - “... therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer”
- Focus on Love for the Body
  - “Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint”
- Focus on Spiritual Service
  - “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”



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