

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 2)

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”?

Today's 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 3:7-11

Our _____ (7a)

7a The end of all things is at hand

Our _____ (7b-11a)

7b 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 _____ (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 Instructions (7b-11a)

"... therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer"

- Focus on _____ with God
 - "Sound judgment" – comes from a term that means to be "in one's right _____", "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 _____ (Romans 12:3; Proverbs 23:7)

- Used of the maniac freed from _____ (Mark 5:15)
- Refers to guarding the mind and being lucid (Proverbs 4:23)
- Our minds must be subjected to _____ (2 Corinthians 10:5) and His _____ (2 Timothy 3:15-17) with an eternal perspective
- Not _____, distracted, defeated or destroyed (1 John 2:15)
- “*Sober spirit*” – means to be “*spiritually* _____” or to be “*on the* _____” (Matthew 24:42) or to be “_____” (Matthew 26:41)
- Spiritual alertness and godly thinking are crucial for the “*purpose of prayer*”
- Prayer is accessing ALL the spiritual _____ we ever need!
- What keeps us from praying properly? Our minds being unstable, asleep spiritually and not focused due to...
 - _____ pursuits
 - _____ of divine truth
 - _____ to divine purposes
- We need to...
 - Become _____ for intimacy with the Almighty (Psalm 42:1; Hebrews 10:22)
 - Understand the _____ of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16; Romans 8:27)
 - Pray in the _____ (Jude 20)
 - Watchmen take their roles seriously, _____ and aren’t caught off guard

“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 _____ for the Body
 - “*Above all*” – refers to the supreme _____ 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 _____ (1 Peter 1:22; Philippians 1:9-10)
- *“Love covers a multitude of sins”*
 - Sacrificial love loves in spite of _____, _____ and _____ from others (Proverbs 10:12)
 - This could be _____ love or _____ love for others
 - Either way, it is strong and _____ and _____ its responses
- *“Be hospitable to one another”* – refers to being a *“lover of _____”*
- 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 _____ (Hebrews 13:1-2)
- *“Without complaint”* – this speaks of how we are to exercise our hospitality; complaining or grumbling is a _____ (Acts 10:28-29; Philippians 2:14-15; James 5:9)