

LIVING IN EXILE

1 Peter 4:7-11- Living in Light of the End

May 22, 2016

The end of all things is at hand... **-1 Peter 4:7**

I. THE END IS NEAR

- The birth of Jesus culminating in his death inaugurated the “end times.” Every Christian who has ever lived has lived in the end times (Acts 2:17; Heb. 1:2; James 5:3; 1 Pet. 1:20).
- We are repeatedly called in Scripture to be prepared, watchful, and anticipatory concerning the parousia - the return of Jesus in glory (Mark 13:23, 33, 37; 1 Cor. 16:22; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; 2 Pet. 3:12).

II. THEREFORE...

1. Be self-controlled and sober-minded
 - “Sober-minded” is an important concept that Peter stresses in this letter (1 Pet. 1:13; 4:7; 5:8).
 - Our prayers are important; don’t let anything get in their way (Mark 11:25; 1 Pet. 3:7).
2. Above all - keep loving one another earnestly
3. Show hospitality (and don’t grumble about it)
4. Use your gift(s) to serve one another
5. Be good stewards of God’s varied grace...
 - A. In the use of speaking gifts (Rom. 12:3-8)
 - B. In the use of vocational gifts (1 Cor. 12:8-10; Eph. 4:11)

III. IN ORDER THAT...

- Our goal in life is to bring God glory in and through Jesus his Son (1 Cor. 10:31; Phil. 2:11).
- He is glorified and has dominion over all things forever - regardless - but our actions can exhibit that or call that into question among the lost (Ps. 46:10; Rom. 2:24; 1 Cor. 15:28; Eph. 1:20-23).

KNOW: Our call as Christ-followers is to demonstrate love to the brotherhood of believers during our time in exile and to glorify God in the process. As the end approaches, we must love and look outward.

DO: Live like you expect things to end someday.

Suggested Reading:

1 & 2 Thessalonians: Living in the End Times, by John R.W. Stott
How Should We Then Live? by Francis A. Schaeffer

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 4:7-11

1. “The end of all things is at hand.” How do Peter’s words affect you? How do you respond when you read/hear those words?
2. Our culture does not like being told “be self-controlled and sober-minded.” What is the typical response from non-believers (and some believers) to this teaching? How do we respond to that?
3. Why is loving one another so important in the church? Is there an even greater need for such love in a non-denominational community church like LifePoint?
4. How do we become better stewards of God’s grace? What does that mean?
5. Peter implies being very careful how we exercise our gifts in the church. Why is that important? What can go wrong when we use gifts inappropriately?
6. Why does God want us to glorify him? Isn’t that a clear sign of neediness and self-exaltation? How is that not wrong?