

Living With The End in Mind (1 Peter 4:7-19)

Your life is guided and prioritized by your vision of the future. What future is your life guided and prioritized by? A future job, income, or relationship? Peter fixes our vision first and foremost on our ultimate future; the return of Christ. It's this future that sifts what we give ourselves to and how we respond to suffering.

1. Our Priority: Relationships (1 Peter 4:7-11)

Vs.7 Self-Controlled-Sober-Minded. Clear thinking leads us to prayer as priority. Drawing strength and guidance.

The end of all things reminds us that LOVE is worth giving ourselves to. This love is shown to people, other Christians. It's a love that manifests itself in direct and tangible actions towards others. It overlooks sin, showing grace. It's a love that builds community through sharing.

Vs.9 Sharing your home=Hospitality

Vs.10 Sharing your gifts= Steward of God's grace.

Love shown through generosity is how God is glorified in everything. These attitudes manifested in action lead to God being seen as beautiful and glorious. Glory belongs to Him.

2. Our Suffering: Rejoice (1 Peter 4:12-19)

Vs.12 Expect trials and suffering to come when you choose the path of Jesus. Don't seek them out but be ready when they occur.

Suffering for Christ builds your solidarity with his suffering and can highlight the greatness and graciousness of his coming. This can lead us to rejoice in our sufferings, because of how God can use them to deepen our relationship with Christ. Suffer for righteousness NOT evil.

In our suffering we entrust ourselves to a faithful God who is the judge of all.

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. How does living with the future in mind affect your present? What future does Peter want us to be mindful of? How will that guide our present?
2. What does Peter mean by the end of all things? How is the end of all things a new beginning for believers in Christ? How does it bring hope and clarity?
3. What does it mean to be self-controlled and sober-minded? How does that impact our prayer life?
4. Why is love above all the most important? What does Peter mean that "Love covers a multitude of sins"? How can/should this practically be lived in the life of the church? Why do we need the gospel to love this way?
5. What does Peter say about hospitality and service? How does God receive glory when we live in this manner?
6. How are we to approach suffering for Christ? What are we not to suffer for?
7. What does it mean to entrust yourself to God while suffering? How is God's future judgment both humbling and encouraging for the Christian?

