

Small Group Outline for March 14, 2021
1 Peter 4:7-11 Looking Future yet Serving Now

One year ago, we as a world were hit COVID 19. How are you doing?

- Where and how has God been faithful to you in this year?
- How has it been difficult?

In this message and small group time we will learn how to continue to move forward. We are not out of the woods of COVID yet. The Apostle Peter shows us the way through.

Vs. 7 “The end of the world is coming soon.”

- What do you think this means?

Vs. 7b “Be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.”

- Jesus said in Matthew 6, “When you pray” not “Whenever you pray.”
- So that you can pray in these times...
 - Be alert - Be sane
 - Be sober-minded - Clear-headed
- One commentator writes, “Christians must not give way to “eschatological frenzy” but practice self-control and be active in prayer.” Have we ever been more obsessed about the end times at the expense of not impacting our current world?
- How can we be more alert and sober-minded?
- How can we be more disciplined in our prayers?

Vs 8 “Show deep love for each other”

Therefore, in response to Jesus coming back and the end of all things...

- The reason for us to show love is because “love covers over a multitude of sins.”
- This quotation from Proverbs 10:12 *“Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.”* (NIV)
- It does not mean that our love covers or atones for our sins. In the proverb the meaning is that love does not “stir up” or broadcast sins. Christians forgive the sins and faults in each other because they know the forgiving grace of God in their own lives.
- We don’t dismiss sins, but acknowledge them, forgive and walk forward.
 - It’s not “no big deal,” it is important enough to talk about, confess, forgive and walk forward.
- Share about apologies you have received and have been given. What does forgiveness look like and how does it feel?
- The Ephesian Church in Revelation 2:4-5 were losing their love for Christ and fellow believers
 - *“But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! ⁵Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.*
 - Share a time when you not loved Jesus and your fellow Christians as you should.

Vs. 9 “Be Hospitable to One Another.”

- Share about your hospitality experiences: both as you shared and also received.

Vs 10-11b “Serve One Another.”

- An extension of hospitality; yet there are many spiritual gifts and abilities
- His great variety of spiritual gifts
 - Romans 12:6-10 and 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27-28
 - Natural abilities and skills that the Holy Spirit blesses and accentuates
 - And this includes some supernatural gifts
 - Each of us has been given at least one – What do you think is your spiritual gift(s)?
- Note: only when we allow the Fruit of the Holy Spirit to flow through us will the Gifts of the Holy Spirit be truly effective – this is protection for the misuse and abuse of the Gifts
- Share of a time when you noticed your spiritual gift really used of God.

Vs 11c “All glory and power to Him forever and ever!”

- Notice the bookends of “The end of all things” and this verse.
- Read Revelation 4:11; 5:11-14
- What does the word “power” as used in Revelation mean to you?

Conclusion:

Jesus is coming soon...

We are in troubled times now; as they were back then...

What do we do in these times?

- Pray
- Connect with people
- Serve each other
- Worship God - He’s got this whole world in His care

This week:

- Read 1 Peter 4:7-11
- When you pray: ask the Holy Spirit to bring one person to mind each time you pray
- Give a phone call to 5 people this week
- Go for a walk with one person this week
- Is there one person that you could serve this week?

Pray for each other.