

Daily Bible Study

“Living-In View of The End”

1 Peter 4:7-9

December 6-12, 2009

THE LORD'S DAY –As we continue on this week in **1 Peter** we focus on **verses 7-9** where Peter gives us instruction on how to live in light or in view of “*The End*”. He spells out for us three specific areas that we will focus on. They are: Prayer, Love, and Hospitality. Both this week and next week we find how we are to “*Live*” and “*Serve*” for God’s Glory in view of “*the end of all things*”. Read our text: **1 Peter 4:7-11**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week, and to help you practically apply in your life these Scriptural principles.

MONDAY –Peter starts out **verse 7** by saying, “*But the end of all things is at hand...*” He is in essence giving us as believers the incentive for why we should be living out the Scriptural instructions. That incentive is that the “end” is “near” (NAS) or “*at hand*”. Some see this term as a reference to the end of each individual life, or the end of the Jewish state before the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, or as a general reference to the consummation of life as we now know it. The context would lead us to the latter of those three. Peter is reminding them that Jesus **is** coming back and the goal will be achieved and the age we are now living in will be consummated. We know from Scripture that life does not come to a complete “End”; rather it will go on forever but go on in the eternal state God has ordained. Read **Acts 3:19-21, Romans 13:11-12, 1 Timothy 4:8-10**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to help you understand and live with the return of Jesus and the “end of the age” in constant view.

TUESDAY –So much could be said in relation to this incentive of the believer to be prepared for the return of our Lord and the “end” of the age. The New Testament is full of exhortations to believers to anticipate and live in a way that would be appropriate when Christ returns. Jesus Himself spoke to this issue in **Matthew 24** when He said, “...*you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*” We are to live in the light of the return of Christ understanding that as Scripture explains since Christ’s earthly ministry has ended we are living in the last days (**Hebrews 1:1-2**). Read **Hebrews 9:26-28, 1 John 3:1-2**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask God to help you live with the return of Jesus in mind. Ask Him to help that understanding affect your behavior.*

WEDNESDAY – Peter continues **verse 7** by saying, “*Therefore...*” Because of the fact that we as believers know that Christ will return, he calls us to “*Therefore*” live lives of obedience and expectancy. In the remainder of **verse 7** he addresses the first area of concern—prayer. He tells us “*be serious and watchful in your prayers*”. These two instructions, “*serious and watchful*” describe the necessary conditions for prayer. “*Serious*” is the Greek word *sophroneo* which literally means to be of sound mind. “*Watchful*” is *nepho* in the Greek and means among other things to be calm and collected in spirit. Both of these words are closely related and tell us we are to pray being alert, under control, not carried away with uncontrolled passion and emotion, and having a proper view of ourselves. This is how God wants us to be for the purpose of prayer. We will cover more of this topic this coming Lord’s Day. Read **Romans 12:3, Colossians 3:2, Hebrews 10:22**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Dear God, help me to have my mind fixed on You and Your Word and then be alert in prayer having an eternal perspective.*

THURSDAY –The next thing Peter instructs us about is found in **verse 8**. He tells us, “*...above all things, have fervent love for one another...*” The preposition “*above*” (before) tells us of the supreme importance of this next virtue. Much is said in reference to “*love*” these days, even within the church is this often misunderstood but Peter goes on to show us what real love looks like in the next phrase—“*...for love will cover a multitude of sins.*” God’s love covers the multitude of sins committed by those who have repented and turned to Him by faith for salvation and the true believer follows this example and is a person of genuine forgiveness toward those who have wronged him. Do you want to know if you really love others, well then ask yourself if you forgive others of their sins toward you? Again, we will cover this in greater detail this Lord’s Day. Read **Proverbs 10:12, Ephesians 4:31-5:2**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to my life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *God, help me to love others fervently and to be forgiving as You are. Help me to be one who covers sin with genuine love.*

FRIDAY –I must say here that in “*covering sin*” God is not saying that we are to overlook sin within the church body that is not repented off. For further details on this see Jesus’ instruction in **Matthew 18:15-19** as well as the Apostle’s instruction in **1 Corinthians 5:9-11**. There is a time when we must confront sin and call brethren to repentance to keep the body healthy and pure. But all the while we are to not have hard feelings and bitterness but rather live our lives with the attitude of forgiving and bearing with others and thus fulfill “*the law of Christ*” (**Galatians 6:1-2**). Read **Luke 17:3-5**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Christ Jesus, help me to be like You; zealous for truth and righteousness and at the same time forgiving and patient in love with those who hate me or have offended me.*

SATURDAY –The last thing we find Peter addressing is in **verse 9**. He tells us to be “*hospitable to one another without grumbling*”. The Bible is full of commands that we are to be hospitable and providing toward others, unselfishly and sacrificially providing to meet needs. Many people are busy “showing” or maybe better said “showcasing” their hospitality yet they miss the important part of the verse that says, “...*without grumbling*”. This is where the unselfish, sacrificial attitude and true hospitality is REALLY displayed. This is a fruit of the “*fervent love*” spoken of in **verse 7**. It is also to be done toward “*one another*” and does not allow for ANY professing believer to disregard these instructions regardless of their economic or social status. Read **Matthew 25:35-40, John 13:35**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Dear God, help me to truly live out these virtues. May I not be deceived by hearing them and not doing them. Give me a heart like my Savior Jesus and help me to think less of myself and more of others.*