

1 Peter 4:7-11

Introduction:

1. The apostle Peter wrote 2 of the 21 New Testament "epistles" [letters].
2. In his first letter,:
 - a. Peter addressed a number of responsibilities that God has given to His people
 - b. Peter showed how Christians must fulfill these responsibilities, even while suffering persecution from unbelievers
 - c. Peter emphasized how Christ suffered unjustly for doing the Father's will.
3. This lesson is a study of the information presented in 1 Peter 4:7-11.
4. In these verses Peter dealt further with the responsibilities that God has given to His people.
5. However, before doing so, . . .

Discussion:

- I. PETER FIRST REVEALED THE BASIS FOR THESE RESPONSIBILITIES
 - A. (vs.7a) *"The end of all things is at hand."*
 - B. The Bible uses:
 1. the expression *"the end"* to refer to several great calamities, including:
 - a. *"the end of all flesh"* (Genesis 6:13)
 - b. the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:14)
 - c. *"the end of the world"* (Matthew 28:19-20)
 2. the expression *"at hand"* to indicate that:
 - a. something/someone is nearby (Philippians 4:5)
 - b. something will occur soon (Matthew 4:17).
 - C. To properly understand this statement, we must keep in mind that:
 1. Peter wrote this letter around 65 AD
 2. the emperor Nero was responsible for a horrible persecution against Christians in Rome
 3. this persecution against Christians spread to Asia Minor
 4. the context indicates Peter was writing about a *"fiery trial"* that would test the Christians in this area (4:12: 1:1)
 5. Jerusalem would soon be destroyed (70 AD).
 - D. On the basis that a great calamity would soon occur, . . .
- II. (vs.7b-11) PETER PRESENTED A VARIETY OF ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES
 - A. Vs.7b
 1. Be *"sober"* [of sound mind] (Titus 2:6).
 2. *"Watch unto prayer"* (Mark 13:33; 14:38; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2).
 - B. Vs.8
 1. *"Above all things have fervent charity [love] among yourselves"* (1:22; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7).
 2. *"Charity [love] will cover the multitude of sins"* (Proverbs 10:12; Ephesians 4:32).
 - C. Vs.9: *"Use hospitality one to another without grudging"* (Romans 12:13b; Hebrews 13:2; Philippians 2:14).
 - D. Vs.10-11
 1. (vs.10-11a) Christians are to use their God-given talents to serve one another *"as good stewards"* (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 4:2).
 2. (vs.11b) The purpose for doing this is to glorify God through Christ *"in all things"* (1 Corinthians 10:31).