



The End of all Things
1 Peter 4:7-11
Study Guide

1. The words, “the end of all things,” are describing the dark clouds of the day of reckoning that are gathering on the horizon (Jas. 5:8). Read 4:1-6. What is the outlook for those who have not put their faith in Christ? What is the prospect for Christians (note particularly v. 6)? As one writer has said, “all the major events in God’s plan of redemption have occurred, and now all things are ready for Christ to return and rule.” How is this truth going to effect what Peter is about to say in the following verses?
2. What does it mean for the Christian to be of “sound judgment” and “sober spirit”? The Greek word for judgment is found in Mark 5:15, II Corinthians 5:13, and Romans 12:3. Give some examples of what it would mean to be “clear minded” and “self-controlled.” What are some things that might “intoxicate” the Christian and keep him from being alert to biblical priorities? The sad fact is that many Christians waste a lot of time on trivial things. What can be learned from Peter’s example (Mk. 14:37-40)? Notice the connection of all this to prayer. Why is a clear-minded prayer life important in times of persecution (and any time of suffering)?
3. Peter places a high priority on keeping “fervent in love.” What is the significance of the adjective “fervent?” Do you get up in the morning thinking about ways you can show your love to your family and fellow Christians? Use this as an opportunity to “plan” some demonstration of love in the next day or two. As you do this, be sure to notice that Peter connects love with covering a multitude of sins. Is there someone who has offended you that you need to forgive? Are there some ways in which others are irritating you that you need to overlook? Are you holding any grudges? What should you do (1 Jn. 1:9; Mk. 11:25; Lk. 17:3)?
4. One way in which fervent love will show itself is through hospitality (v. 9). Write out a definition of hospitality, then think of some ways in which you can use your resources (home, food, money, automobile, etc.) to show Christ’s love to others. When was the last time you invited a non-Christian into your home for a meal (ouch!)?
5. God has distributed a variety of spiritual gifts throughout the body of Christ (vv. 10-11). Why do you think Peter would bring this up in the context of suffering? What gifts does Peter mention here? How are they to be used? What are some of the gifts that fall into the category of speech activity? Service activity? What do you think your gift(s) might be? What can you do to give yourself more fully to Christ’s service with your gift(s)?