

“At World’s End”

1 Peter 4:7-11

THEME:

The promised return of Christ is not a reason for escape, it is a cause for engagement. If a person is committed to Jesus Christ he/she needs to live life in anticipation of His return. The Bible does not allow us to withdraw from the world we live in. We are told in strong words that we must energetically embrace God’s expectations for us. Living life with the reality of Jesus’ return means that we are to do life together. Today’s passage shows in part what this looks like.

I. Choices: Escape or Engage

II. Doing Life Together

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III. Seeing Something Greater

Small Group Questions

Opener:

When a friend is encountering difficulty what does it look like to come along side him/her to bring encouragement?

Peter’s letter of encouragement to endure has at its forefront the expectation of the second coming of Christ. (1 Peter 1:5, 7; 13; 2:12; 4:7, 13, 17; 5:4)

I. Choices: Escape or Engage

When you are faced with difficulty which is your first response?

Seek to escape:

Seek to engage:

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

What is the result of Christians putting their faith into practice? (v.11)

II. Doing Life Together

Why does Peter see prayer as a way to bring encouragement?

What does a church at prayer look like?

How can we as a church be better at prayer?

Peter tells us to love each other deeply. This is a choice we make, not an emotion we experience.

How does choosing love cover a multitude of sins? (See back page – Choosing Love)

How would you help a person who chooses gossip to move to love?

What does hospitality look like in the 21st Century?

What is the gift God has given you to serve others?

(Consider Romans 12:6-8 or 1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

Verse 11 looks at the significant responsibility for those who preach – *If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.*

Peter sees the preacher's role to bring forth the words of God. What are the implications of this for those who hear those words?

The word "if" serves as a condition that assumes a positive answer. It could be translated this way: *If anyone serves, and it is assumed they will.*

Which Christians are not called to service according to v. 11?

III. Seeing Something Greater v.11

This verse does not remove the importance of our lives, but it does show the much bigger picture: *God is to be praised and given the glory.*

How should this truth impact the way we as followers of Jesus live?
(How might 1 Corinthians 6:20 help give shape to this answer?)

TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Daily Devotional: Verses for meditation and application.

Christ's coming should lead us to be:

Sunday: Ambassador of Reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:20

Monday: People of Prayer 1 Peter 4:7

Tuesday: Prepared Luke 17:26-27

Wednesday: Using our Gifts Romans 12:6-8

Thursday: Behaving Correctly Toward One Another Mark 12:30-33

Friday: Anticipating His Return Luke 12:35-43

Saturday: Serving Others for God's Glory 1 Peter 4:11

Scripture memory for the Week:

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

Choosing Love

The reason for us to show love is that "love covers over a multitude of sins." This quotation from Proverbs 10:12 does not mean that our love covers or atones for our sins. In the proverb the meaning is that love does not "stir up" sins or broadcast them. So the major idea is that love suffers in silence and bears all things (1Cor 13:5-7). Christians forgive faults in others because they know the forgiving grace of God in their own lives.

This love destroys gossip because of the choices that are made. A believer, who chooses "to stir up sins", chooses to disobey Christ. To choose to "broadcast sin" is to choose not to love.

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