"Living Today with a View of Tomorrow"

Text: I Peter 4:7-9 Scripture reading: Luke 12:35-44

I. Sound-minded prayer – vs. 7 (I Tim. 4:1-3, 6; Heb. 10:24-25; I Cor. 2:16; Ps. 37:3-6; Ps. 66:18; Rom. 8:26)

A) Prayer as _____

B) Prayer from _____

C) Prayer in _____

II. Well-maintained love – vv. 8-9 (Rom. 5:8)

A) Love _____ - vs. 8 (I Pet. 1:22; I Jn. 4:8)

B) Love _____ - vs. 8b (Pr. 10:12; Titus 3:10; Eph. 4:15; Ps. 86:5)

<u>Cover over or confront</u>?

-Will the sin _____ _____ to others?

-Will the sin do injury to the _____ of _____

-Is the sin _____ _____ to those offended?

-Is the sin a _____ _____?

C) Love _____ - vs. 9

Conclusion: Summary truths, and questions for study:
1) In spite of the differing views of the end times, all true believers should agree in their diligence to watch and be ready for Christ's return.
-Is the truth of His coming again and your future glory something you think of often? In what ways does this influence your Christian conduct?

2) Praying appropriately to God must be on His terms and in accord with His truth.
-If prayer is our reverent communication with God, what are ways that we should, and should not approach Him?
-How can we demonstrate that prayer is essential? What are ways that we show it is not?

3) Daily spiritual disciplines are necessary for handling trials and temptations, as Pastor John Macarthur wrote.
-What are some daily disciplines that you make regular use of?
-What are things that keep you most frequently from these?

4) Christian love is to be a priority in our end-times living.
-How do you keep, or maintain consistency in fervently loving?
-What are steps we can take to ensure that we have a heart that is always ready to forgive like God has for us? (see Ps. 86:5)

5) Both our family at church and our family at home should be a place of demonstrating love in hospitality.
-What are some conventional and non-conventional ways that we can show Christian hospitality?
-Discuss some causes for complaining when showing hospitality?

"We may be certain that whatever God has made prominent in His Word, He intended to be conspicuous in our lives. If He has said much about prayer, it is because He knows that we have much need of it. ...Prayer has become as essential to me as the heaving of my lungs, and the beating of my pulse." -C. H. Spurgeon; English preacher; 1834-1892

SERMON QUOTES:

Introduction:
Secular author John Updike, (a fictional story rooted in Naturalism)
"*Without warning, David was visited by an exact vision of death: a long hole in the ground, no wider than your body, down which you were drawn while the white faces recede. You try to reach them but your arms are pinned. Shovels pour dirt in your face. There you will be forever, in an upright position, blind, silent, and in time no one will remember you, and you will never be called. …And the earth tumbles on, and the sun expires, an unaltering darkness reigns where once there were stars*."

I. Sound-minded prayer – vs. 7

John MacArthur,
"*…because of regeneration, believers long to obey God and be more conformed to the image of Christ. Sin does limit their ability to do what is right, but all genuine Christians hate sin and love righteousness*."

"*The key to handing trials and temptations is developing daily discipline which includes cultivating the necessary spiritual disciplines that produce growing faith and courage*."

II. Well-maintained love – vv. 8-9
C) Love _____ - vs. 9

F. B. Meyer,
"*This does not refer to giving elaborate banquets, or lavish entertainment, but rather to offering kindness and welcome to those who cannot repay – the poor, the lame, the blind, and the weary. Every home should be viewed as a sacred trust from God, a place that can serve Him. Its guest chamber should not only be open to friends, but also to the servants of the Lord*."

"*…The best hospitality is simple, genuine, and warm – the kind that makes a visitor feel at home, because nothing feels forced or insincere."*