

The End of All Things 1 Peter 4:1-11

1 PETER

PEOPLE OF PURPOSE
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”
This is us. Do you see the beauty in that? Do you feel the dignity? What a noble, glorious calling! But we forget. We grow tired and slack. We get comfortable in the world despite it not being our home. But, thankfully, passages like this one shake us awake.

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11 then discuss:

1. Imagine Peter bringing this message to us today. Where would he deliver a talk like this? How would it look, sound, and feel? To what would you liken a message like this?
2. How do you receive this message? Describe how it lands on you?
3. 1 Peter 4:1 calls us to be “armed with an attitude.” We see a lot of attitude in people these days, although not the one Peter has in mind.
 - What’s the attitude Peter wants us to have? How would you describe it?
 - How do we cultivate it?
4. Peter also proclaims “the end of sin.”
 - Do you perceive that you’re done with sin? Why or why not?
 - What helps you to live for the will of God (v. 2) when you feel the pull of the world?
5. Discuss the social and moral distinctives of the early church described by New Testament scholar Larry Hurtado in *Destroyer of the gods*. He says Christianity was multiethnic, concerned for the poor, radically pro-life, sexually conservative, and utterly forgiving.
 - Do you think we can and should recover this vision?
 - Which of the five elements is most challenging to you?
6. Process 1 Peter 4:7-11.
 - Why do you think prayer is job 1 for a church that rightly understands “the end is near”?
 - When you think of loving each other deeply (Greek *ektene* = extensively; at full stretch) so that love covers a multitude of sins, where do you think that is most needed in your life?
 - What do you think are your spiritual gifts? Where are you most energized to use them?
 - What can we do to make God’s glory uppermost in our hearts?