

1 Peter Lesson 9

“Living Hope” **1 Peter 4:1-11**

Day 1 – Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

Pray for God’s Spirit to teach you as you study this week.

- 1) 1 Peter 4 begins with a “therefore”; what is it there for?

*Read this section of 1 Peter in a couple of different translations

- 2) What does “arm ourselves with the same way of thinking” mean?
- 3) What characterizes the two ways of life which Peter spells out here?
- 4) What do the pagans think about those who live for the will of God?

To whom will they give an account?

Day 2 – Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

Note on 1 Peter 4:6: “This section ends on another one of those ‘Peter, what are you talking about?’ notes when he tells us in verse 6 that the gospel was preached to ‘those who are dead.’ His meaning is really quite simple: he has in mind people who were alive when they heard the gospel but have since died. The basic point of this difficult verse is that God is going to judge everyone, and those who wish to be spared God’s judgment must heed the good news of salvation in Jesus in this lifetime, *before* they die.” (1-2 Peter, Living Hope in a Hard World, Lydia Brownback, p.71)

5) What does Peter mean by “the end of all things is at hand”?

What difference does this make to you and the way you live your life?

Day 3 – Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

6) According to 1 Peter 4:7, what does knowing the end of all things is near lead us to do? What do you think that means?

Then, what does that enable us to do? Do you?

7) How do we pray when we are clear-minded and self-controlled?

8) In 1 Peter 4:8, what are we told to do above all?

Why?

9) According to 1 Peter 4:9, how should we offer hospitality?

How difficult is that for you to do? What underlying sins cause us to grumble?

Day 4 – Read 1 4:7-11

10) What do we learn about gifts from 1 Peter 4:10?

11) What spiritual gifts have you received that you should be using?

How might you know what they are?

12) How should one speak?

How should one serve?

Day 5 – Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

13) What is the purpose of using our gifts? (Think about this in light of the theme of 1 Peter.)

14) Think about the way of life Peter urges in 4:1-11, and also the motives he gives, such as verses 1, 7, and 11. Is there anything in Peter's words that you think should make a difference in the way you act in your current circumstances?

- Make notes about these key words/themes

Suffering
God
Christ
Spirit/spiritual
God's will