

The Hope That is in You – 1 Peter 4:7-19

Lesson 6

The Church

The previous section of 4:1-6 focussed on the relationship of believers to outsiders, but this section deals with the internal life and relationship within the community of believers we call the church or the body of Christ. The relationships will be tested by adverse circumstances and suffering in the world, but we are to live by faith, and keep rejoicing because of the hope that is in us.

Read 1 Peter 4:7-19

1. What do you think he means by the “end of all things” in verse 7 (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)? Does this sound urgent and imminent?
2. How are we to fervently treat each other in verse 8? What is the result of loving one another? Do you think mutual forgiveness is essential to ongoing unity?
3. Give some examples of being “hospitable” in v 9 (Ephesians 4:29-32, Colossians 3:12).
4. 1 Peter 4:10-11 is one of the key passages about spiritual gifts and their proper use. Notice you receive it from the Holy Spirit, therefore you don’t earn it or merit the gift. How are we supposed to use spiritual gifts (1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor 12:7; 14:12)?
5. If we use our God-given gifts to edify the people in the church, whose word will we speak, whose strength will be given to us, and who will be glorified (1 Peter 4:11)?

6. Even if we are loving one another, being hospitable, and using our gifts to serve others; can we still expect difficult circumstances and “fiery ordeals” (1 Peter 4:12)? Can the “testing” actually have a positive result (1 Peter 4:14, Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4)?

7. Does “suffering innocently” also join us to Christ (1 Peter 4:13-16, Rom 8:17)?

8. 1 Peter 4:17 anticipates that the upcoming expected divine judgment for all mankind will begin with believers. Describe the expected judgment by Christ of believers as taught in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

9. 1 Peter 4:18 asks the question, “If even Christians must be judged, what will the outcome for unbelievers be?” Another way of asking this is, “If the righteous are only saved by God paying a terrible price in the blood of Christ, what will become of those without a Savior?”

10. What then is your best course of action in verse 19? In spite of the hardship of life, should we not entrust our life to our benevolent and faithful Creator?