

The Day Before the End of the World

1 Peter 4:7-11

Peter is telling us that if we really believe that Jesus Christ is coming and if we really believe that the climax of history is upon us, then it ought to make a tremendous difference in the way we live. He singles out four things that are especially important for those living in the last days.

I. Keep your EMOTIONS under control so you can PRAY.

(v. 7) - The Greek word translated "clear minded" is the same word used for the man with the legion of demons in Mark 5:1-20 after Christ had healed him. Why should we be clear minded? Peter says "so you can pray."

II. Be QUICK to forgive the THOUGHTLESS things other people do.

(v. 8) - The word "deeply" might be better translated "fervently." It was used of an athlete straining his muscles, or a horse running at full gallop. It means "stretched-out love." It's love that goes on and on and on. We must make that sort of effort because true love is difficult. It costs something.

III. Stop COMPLAINING and start SHARING what God has given you.

(v. 9) - "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." The word hospitality means kindness shown to strangers.

IV. Use your GOD-GIVEN gifts to BLESS others.

(v. 10) - "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others." In that little phrase we learn three things: 1) Everyone believer has a gift, 2) Your gift may not be the same as anyone else's, and 3) You are to use your gift to serve others.

(v.11) - categorizes spiritual gifts into two groups—the speaking gifts and the helping gifts.

In these earth-shaking days, clear your mind for prayer.

In these turbulent times, be quick to forgive.

As you see the end approaching, open your home to others.

As the days draw near for the return of Christ, use your spiritual gifts to serve others.