

Sermon: End in View, 1 Peter 4:7-11 .

This week's sermon talking points:

- 1. We are called to live with end the in view.**
- 2. Living with the end in view gives us focus, hope, the ability to dig a little deeper, to reach a little farther, to work a little harder, to not stop, to not give up, to not quit.**
- 3. The constant expectation of Christ's imminent return drove the passion of the disciples and spurred their discipleship and shepherding of the flock.**
- 4. We must balance the reality of each day's obligations and the expectation of Jesus' ever closer return.**
- 5. On the one hand, if we are overly consumed by our attention to Christ's return we lose track of what our Christian responsibilities are to be as we engage culture. On the other hand, if we forget about his return we are lulled and rendered irrelevant by the culture.**
- 6. Communication keeps us focused, informed and passionate about the goal.**
- 7. When the intensity is turned up, the demonstration of love- hospitality- often goes by the way-side.**
- 8. You have a role to play in ushering in the kingdom of God and summing up all things in Christ!**
- 9. Each and every Christian has received a "special" spiritual gift. Do you know yours?**
- 10. Our giftings are not ours to sit on, but God's for us to work out in our experience.**
- 11. Christ is glorified as sinners are saved. God the Father is glorified when those saved model the kingdom of God in creation.**
- 12. The "END" is nearer than it's ever been. How are you living with that end in view?**

Questions:

1. What is the biggest goal you've ever met? How did the goal keep you moving on the path?
2. What is the largest sacrifice you've made to secure a personal, familial, or spiritual goal?
3. In what ways do you become "unbalanced" in attempting to keep both daily obligations/functions and Christ's return in mind?
4. Which is more of a temptation for you, for EBC, for the Church global: overly focus on Christ's possible imminent return or be lulled into living like it's never going to happen in your life?
5. If you knew Jesus was coming back in a couple days, how would your actions, life, etc. change?
6. What is prayer's role in preparing for the "near end?"
7. There's something about intensity that boils us down to the bare reactions and responses. When you get worn thin, how go your responses to those around you?
8. How aware are you of your own spiritual gifts? How do you currently use them in the church? How do you see them helping the body to function and grow toward maturity and greater witness?
9. The passage here suggests that God is glorified as the Church lives out its intended function. How do you feel EBC does at this? Where are some areas and what are some ways in which you feel we could do better?
10. What stuck out to you from this past weekend's message that we haven't talked about yet?