

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 1 PETER ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

Lesson 7 - Living for God - 1 Peter 4:1-11

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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1PE 4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. [2] As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. [3] For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do-- living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. [4] They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. [5] But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. [6] For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

1PE 4:7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. [8] Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. [9] Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. [11] If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 7 - Living for God - 1 Peter 4:1-11

78. What did Peter say about the person who has suffered? (4:1-2)
79. What benefit can there be in suffering? (4:2)
80. What did Peter's readers do in the past? (4:3)
81. What did the pagans think was strange? (4:4)
82. To whom did Peter say the pagans would have to give account? (4:5)
83. For what reason was the gospel preached? (4:6)
84. What did Peter say was near? (4:7)

85. What did Peter instruct his readers to do since the end of all things was near? (4:7)
86. What did Peter encourage his readers to do above all? (4:8)
87. How did Peter encourage his audience to love each other? (4:8-9)
88. How were Peter's readers to use their gifts? (4:10)
89. How were these believers to speak and serve? (4:11)
90. What goal did Peter want his audience to reach with all they did? (4:11)
91. What does it mean to be done with sin?
92. How does love cover a multitude of sins?

Lesson 8 - Suffering for Being a Christian - 1 Peter 4:12-19

1PE 4:12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. [13] But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. [14] If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. [15] If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. [16] However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. [17] For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? [18] And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

1PE 4:19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 8 - Suffering for Being a Christian - 1 Peter 4:12-19

93. By what were Peter's readers not to be surprised? (4:12)
94. In what did Peter tell his readers to rejoice? (4:13)
95. What would participating in Christ's suffering prepare these believers for? (4:13)
96. Under what circumstance did Peter tell these believers they would be blessed? (4:14)

97. How did Peter say these believers shouldn't suffer? (4:15)
98. What did Peter urge his readers to do if they suffered as Christians? (4:16)
99. For what did Peter say it was time? (4:17)
100. What question did Peter ask his readers? (4:17)
101. What does the verse Peter quoted say about the righteous and the ungodly? (4:18)
102. What should those who suffer according to God's will do? (4:19)
103. What sort of judgment do members of God's family face?