

Sermon: Live with the End in Mind; Delivered on December 29, 2019,
by **Josh Moody**, senior pastor

Bible text explored: 1 Peter 4:7-11

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. From where (*1 Pet. 5:13*) was this letter sent?
For what city was that a code name?
2. Rather than using his Jewish surname, how (*1 Pet. 1:1*) does the writer identify himself?
Who gave him this title, and what does it mean?
3. To what Gentile believers is this letter addressed?
How does Peter assure them that they are fully included among God's "elect"? (See *1 Pet. 2:4-5*.)

The "last days" were ushered in by the Incarnation we just celebrated. The next great event in redemptive history is Christ's second coming. Focusing on this essential teaching at year's-end provides a motivating perspective.

4. What destiny (v. 7) should be front and center for us?
(See *Rom. 13:12; Heb. 10:25; and Rev. 22:20*.)
How does Peter expand on this matter-of-fact statement in his second letter? (See *2 Pet. 3:10*.)
5. How should this awareness change our approach to living . . .
 . . . as to preparedness? (See *Exod. 12:11*.)
 . . . as to purposefulness?
6. How (v. 8) has Jesus' sacrifice for us covered our sins?
How can we cover the sins of others who have offended or disappointed us?
7. The word *hospitality* (v. 9) connotes love of strangers. How can a welcoming stance help us avoid becoming an insiders' club?
8. How many in our body of believers (vv. 10-11) have received a gift?
When have you benefitted from another's stewardship of a varied grace?
Do you sometimes sense God using your words to express his truth?
Have you felt enabled by God to serve others without manipulating?
9. Have you sought and received input from others as to what your gift is?
What are you currently doing to exercise your gift?
Have you experienced increased skill and confidence in using it?