**Living in Light of the End**

**(1 Peter 4:7-11)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1.** What is significant about the way Peter begins this section of his letter (v. 7)? Cite at least three other places in 1 and 2 Peter in which he focuses on the end times/return of Christ.

**2.** In your own words, describe the significance of the word “therefore” in 1 Peter 4:7. How does the first part of verse 7 inform and influence the remainder of the passage?

**3.** What does it mean to be “self-controlled” and sober-minded”? How are they related? How are they different? In what way(s) might neglecting to cultivate these characteristics impact one’s prayer life?

**4.** What do the words “Above all” (v. 8) signify? What character trait should be primary for Christians? What does Peter have in mind when he tells us that love “covers a multitude of sin”? Give a practical example of what this might look like in the life of the church.

**5.** Why do you think Peter offers the qualification “without grumbling” to his exhortation for believers to show hospitality? How might a robust understanding of the gospel and an awareness of Christ’s glorious return serve to motivate us to joyful, open-handed service to one another?

**6.** What two categories does Peter use to summarize the myriad spiritual gifts bestowed upon God’s people? What qualifiers does he apply to each one (v. 11a)? Why? How does “in order that” (v. 11b) help us understand the ultimate aim of Peter’s instructions?

**7.** What is significant about the way Peter closes today’s passage? In what way(s) does it echo his opening in verse 7?

**8.** To what degree does eschatology (i.e., study of the end times) influence your thinking and living as a Christian? Explain. In what way(s) have you/could you become out of balance regarding the end times? How does the glorious return of King Jesus encourage you to pursue godliness? Strengthen you against despair amid hardship?