

For the Purpose of Prayer

I Peter 4:7

January 6, 2008

Summary: The apostle Peter made it very clear; the end of all things is near. It is the Lord Jesus Himself who is in control of the end of the world. Therefore we are to have sound judgment, or transformed thinking, and be on the alert for the purpose of prayer.

1. A. How did Peter view the historical setting in his own time? How does that affect us today?
Romans 13:11, I Peter 4:7a, II Peter 3:3-13
- B. Speaking of the end times, who is the ONLY one who is worthy to open the book of seven seals, and what does that indicate regarding the sovereign control that He has regarding the future?
Revelation 5:1-6:1
- C. Take a closer look at Revelation 5:8-14. What kind of prayer is this and how should this impact our own prayers? Do you spend enough time alone with God to be moved into worship like this? Are you willing to do this on a consistent basis?
2. A. There are two commands right in the middle of I Peter 4:7. What are they?
- B. How should we understand the command to be of “*sound judgment?*” What does it mean to cultivate a “*sober spirit?*”
Joshua 1:7-8, Psalm 1:1-3, Mark 12:30, Romans 12:1-3, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Peter 1:13-21
- C. It is good to “get into the Word,” but how much better when the Word gets into us, and **becomes us**, so that we are compelled to love the Lord with all we’ve got! How much better when **the Word transforms our thinking**, so that we become living sacrifices for God. How much better when we learn to give up entertainment for self-discipline, and to give up our ambitions for His ambitions! Is that not the calling of every single believer?
II Corinthians 5:15, 21
3. A. What kind of “purpose” is Peter talking about at the end of I Peter 4:7?
- B. If what we have been discussing is all “*for the purpose of prayer*”, what does that tell us regarding the **importance of prayer**? Why?
John 15:4-5, Matthew 7:7-11, II Corinthians 5:9, Philippians 4:13, Colossians 1:10.
- C. Prayer is so much more than asking God for what we want. Prayer is an expression of our **dependence upon Him**, and **submission to Him**, as we trust Him to know what is best for us. Do you do that?

Prayer is meant to cultivate an **ongoing love relationship with God**. Are you doing that? Real prayer is *connecting with God*, which embraces both **listening to Him** as well as **pouring out your heart to Him**. Isn't that what you really want? If you were to make this a primary **ambition** in your daily life, what would it look like?

Psalm 42:1-2, 145:1-5, Micah 6:8