

**STUDYING THROUGH
1 PETER (24)**



**The End of All Things
is At Hand
1 Peter 4:7-11 (1)**

Previously

Peter continues to encourage his audience to faithfully endure, even though they were facing trials and tribulations.

In our last lesson we addressed the hostile conditions of the time and audience he was writing to. We also noted we are seeing similar patterns today.

The end of all things at hand (4:7)

What is the end of all things?

Several views:

- Jerusalem destroyed
 - The imminent end of the world (realized eschatology) Cf. **2 Peter 3:10ff, 2 Thessalonians 2:2-4ff**, etc.
 - The end of one's life
 - His yet future second coming-
- I believe this, but with other considerations.

The end of all things at hand (4:7)

What is the end of all things?

Consider expression “end of all things”

- “End” is τέλος (telos) a word that can relate to previous views (except #2).
- Destruction of Jerusalem – **Matthew 24:6, 13-14 (cf. 24:34-35)**
- Christ’s second coming – **1 Corinthians 1:8, 15:24**
- Other uses – **Matthew 26:58** – end of His life; **Romans 6:21-22** – end result of sin or holiness; **1 Timothy 1:5** – purpose of the commandment...

The end of all things at hand (4:7)

What is the end of all things?

Consider expression “end of all things”

- “all things” is a word that typically means everything.

This is one reason I lean toward this text, in some sense, being about final judgment

– **2 Peter 3:10-12** tells us that the elements will melt with fervent heat and the heavens be dissolved

The end of all things at hand (4:7)

What is the end of all things?

Consider expression “is at hand”

- Typically, the word means imminent (e.g. **Matthew 4:17**, **Philippians 2:30**, etc.)
- Or coming close to something – **Matthew 21:1**, **Hebrews 7:19**
- Few verses with other meanings, determined by context.

The end of all things at hand (4:7)

What is the end of all things?

Consider expression “is at hand”

Other uses:

- something closer now than in times past – **Romans 13:11-12** Salvation nearer than...

– a time in point that can change -
e.g. Philippians 2:30 (25-27) – Epaphroditus was near death, then not near death

- Nearness of relationship – **Hebrews 7:9, James 4:8** – draw near to God

The end of all things at hand (4:7)

What is the end of all things?

Consider expression “is at hand”

Other uses:

- It can also refer to something not quite so near in time – **Acts 7:17**, “when the time of the promise drew near...” (of Abraham). The sermon puts that expression likely more than 150 years before they entered the promised land (and some 1500 years till the promise of Christ is fulfilled)

As always, consider context!

The end of all things at hand (4:7)

What is the end of all things?

The meaning in our text:

I contend it is a reference to standing before God in judgment when the world ends.

BUT that was something they did NOT know WHEN it would happen. Thus, they needed to live AS IF, it were imminent.

The end of all things at hand (4:7)

What is the end of all things?

The meaning in our text:

Standing before God in judgment

- **James 5:7-8** – the coming of the Lord is at hand
- **2 Thessalonians 2:2-4** – falling away first (thus not immediate)
- **Romans 13:11** – our salvation nearer
- **1 Peter 1:9** – “receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls”

He IS coming back, but we do not know when!

The end of all things at hand (4:7)

What is the end of all things?

The meaning in our text:

Standing before God in judgment

Also, redemptively – “the end of all things” is the next step! (e.g. “last days”)

- **Matthew 13:39-40** – harvest at the end of the age (different Greek word)
- **Hebrews 9:27, James 4:13-14** – We do not know when OUR time will end!

THUS, Christians ALWAYS live as if the end is imminent! Be prepared!

Therefore (4:8-11)

Be serious and watchful in your prayers

Recently addressed this

- **James 5:16** – the effective, fervent prayer
- **1 Peter 1:13** – gird up the loins of your mind
- **1 Thessalonians 5:6-8** – be sober
- **Matthew 26:41** – watch and pray
- **Philippians 4:6** – anxious for nothing

Therefore (4:8-11)

Have fervent love for one another

Never forget the importance of love

– **John 13:34-35, Galatians**

5:13 – through love we serve one another

- **Hebrews 10:24** – consider one another to stir up love...

As we deal with an unloving world,
we need to love each other!

Therefore (4:8-11)

Have fervent love for one another

For love will cover a multitude of sins:

- God's love does – **1 John 1:7, Romans 5:8, etc.**

- Consider how we are to forgive one another and show mercy and kindness – **Matthew 6:14-15, James 2:13, Colossians 3:12-13**

- Are we willing to overlook each other's quirks and weaknesses? True unity – **Ephesians 4:1-2**

Therefore (4:8-11)

**Be hospitable to one another
without grumbling**

We must be hospitable to all –

Hebrews 13:1-2

BUT this is especially true with our
brethren – **Galatians 6:10,**

**Romans 12:13, cf. Matthew
25:31-46, etc.**

When the world turns against our
brother or sister, will we be there to
help them? Our resources?

Cf. Acts 4:32-37

Therefore (4:8-11)

Minister your gifts

Whatever “gifts” we have, use it to help each other.

Never forget that we are a family! -

- These may be spiritual gifts (back then) or natural abilities and blessings.

- USE them wisely

- Consider your fidelity toward God in using whatever you have (**10-11**)



Studies in 1 Peter



**In this temporal
world, who are we
leaning upon?**



Studies in 1 Peter



Let us pray!