



I Peter Week 12

LOOK BACK

1. Take some time and share a highlight and a challenge from last week.
2. Spend a little time sharing how you're seeing God work in your life right now.

LOOK UP

Read I Peter 4:1-11

This section can be divided into two parts. Part one we can call "Put to Death the Old Life". Part two we can call "Living for God's Glory".

Put to Death the Old Life

Since Christ suffered in his flesh to the point of death, we as Christ followers are to take up the same attitude, so that in our conversion to Christ we die to sin. We know that while in the body we will suffer before we are finished with sin (either at death or at the second coming of Jesus). How are you arming yourself with Jesus' attitude?

We are to live the rest of our earthly existence pursuing the will of God rather than for evil human desires. How are you actively pursuing a life consistent with the will of God?

The laundry list of evil activities that Peter addresses were common fair for the pagan gentiles of the day. Are those same activities still around? According to verse 4, what is the world's reaction to the Christian who lives counter culturally? When will the judgment of God ultimately fall on such practices?

In verse 6 Peter teaches that the coming judgment of God will not only condemn sinners but will also vindicate believers. Now, the believers who are dead, perhaps at the hands of pagans who judged them unworthy while they were alive, will live vindicated lives in the spiritual realm with God. How does this give hope to a suffering, persecuted people?

Living for God's Glory

Peter teaches us that all is in readiness, but we are not to live in some sort of end times frenzy, instead we are to live self-controlled and sober lives for the sake of prayer. Why do you think Peter characterizes this time of waiting as a time of prayer? How is prayer a function of clear thinking?

In verse 8 Peter teaches that agape love “overlooks, forgives” the sins of others. This expression of love would be an incredible value in a church that needed to strengthen its solidarity in the face of intense persecution. How can you practice agape love at Currey Creek?

How can you practice hospitality to those *not* in your group?

Peter teaches in verses 10-11 *that each one of us*, in other words ALL of us, have been gifted by God and the purpose of that gifting is to serve one another. How are you serving others at Currey Creek? If not, why not? It certainly isn't because you are not gifted!

The goal of our serving each other is the glory of God! Have you ever thought that service to each other glorifies God? How does this knowledge transform, even elevate the importance of serving?

LOOK FORWARD

1. What from this passage changes the way you see the upcoming week?
2. How can the group be praying for you this week?