

1 Peter 4:7-11

Here's an easy summary of the gospel: the Good News says this, therefore do that. But not all Good News is easy news. And not all the "do that" directions are easy tasks. Even so, it's well to know the Good News and act accordingly.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- We have life eternal in our risen Lord, and yet this life has an endpoint for us all (when Jesus returns) or for us each (when Jesus comes for each of us at our death). Though we know the exact time for neither coming, what do you imagine they might be? Why do you think so?
- Peter begins by saying the end is near, and the "end" he has in mind is the return of Jesus. How is that good news? How is it sobering news?
- Following his "end is near" announcement, Peter builds a bridge with "therefore" to four things he says we should do. What are they?
- How does love "cover a multitude of sins"? Who has loved you in that way?
- God has given each of us both speaking and serving gifts (v. 11). How do you most readily bring the Lord's gifts to others: through speaking? Through serving? In what ways?

Next week we will focus on 1 Peter 5:6-11.