

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What do you think are the primary reasons most Christians do not live actively in expectation of the second coming? Read Romans 13:11-14 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. Ask from these verses, how does the Lord call me to prepare for His coming?
2. In this passage, prayer is emphasized as the first way we prepare for Christ's return. What mindset does Peter call us to have as we approach God in prayer? How does the fact of the Second Coming change how we pray?
3. Peter's second call for preparation is to act in love toward others. What two things does he say about this love? This is agape love. How does it differ from any form of natural love? Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and note Paul's very practical description. Give three specific ways you can act in agape love?
4. In speaking about agape love, Peter underscores a primary reason we should love one another. What is that reason in verse 8? Why is forgiveness an absolute necessity in the a body of believers? Read Ephesians 4:31-5:2. How do these verses describe forgiving relationships within the church? How can these truths be applied in our marriages and family life?
5. Peter follows up his call to love with a specific way love is expressed. In verse 9, what is this expression? How is this a reflection of the way God treats us? Why is this type of ministry essential to the life of any church? What are some of the reasons we might not show Christ's love in this way more often? What are some simple ways we can express love in this manner?
6. Why is how we use our spiritual gifts something we should think about in light of Christ's coming? In verse 10, who does Peter say has a gift or gifts of the Spirit? What two broad categories of gifts does Peter give in verse 11? There are a number of gift lists in Scripture. Read Romans 12:3-8. How would you describe the gifts mentioned in these verse? Can you name one of your spiritual gifts?
7. As Peter concludes, based on verse 11, all that we do before Christ's coming is to be done for what purpose? How does this great purpose change how we approach even the ordinary tasks of life?

LIVING HOPE: Studies in I Peter "He Comes. Are You Ready?" (I Peter 4:8-12)

I. *His Time Is Near*

II. *How Should We Then Live?*

1. *With a mind toward* _____ .

2. *With love toward* _____ .

3. *With a ministry of* _____ .

4. *With a commitment to* _____ .