## SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Jesus spoke of the same words that Peter uses in I Peter 4:7a "The end of all things is at hand." Read Luke 12:35-40. What are Jesus' words communicating to us? Do we have to be able to explain the complexities and the order of the events of the end times to be ready for the Lord's return? How do we demonstrate that we are being watchful of His return? Spend some time discussing the implications of this picture of being ready to "open the door" from Luke 12? How should this affect every moment of our Christian life?
- 2. Peter tells us in verse 7 of chapter 4 that we are to be self-controlled (right thinking) and sober minded (clear thinking) for the sake of our prayers. Being sober means "the opposite of being intoxicated," to have "clear thinking". While this can certainly apply to the need to remain sober from the influence of alcohol, is it possible to have our thinking intoxicated or clouded by other influences? What other influences cloud your thinking and thereby impair your ability to pray? How do the three intoxicating vintage wines of Satan affect our ability to pray? 1. The lust of the flesh, 2. The lust of the eyes, and 3. The boastful pride of life? (I John 2:15-17)
- Peter says that we need to have right thinking and clear thinking for the sake of our prayers. If you were to track your prayer activity in the past month, how much time would you say that you have spent in prayer communing with God other than praying out of reaction to a life circumstance or urgent need? What specific action do you need to take to discipline yourself to engage in sober-minded prayer?
- Read Ephesians 6:12-18. In the context of this passage what is the significance of verses 17-18 in light of the priority of prayer in the Christian life? In the increasing business of life and ministry what did the Apostles recognize as a priority in their ministry? (Acts 6:1-4) Is it possible that the reason we feel like Satan is leaving us alone is because we are prayerless?
- I Peter 4:9 says that "we are to show hospitality to one another without complaining." Being hospitable means that you open your heart as you open your home without secretly wishing that you didn't have to be hospitable. What excuses do we make for not being obedient in this matter? What significance do Jesus words have in Matthew 25:35-40 that motivate us to open our lives to be hospitable and minister to others?
- I Peter 4:10-11 inform us that every believer has been given a gift for the purpose of serving one another. How does the fact that the source and empowerment for service being sourced in God alone free us from jealousy, insecurity, laziness, in our service? (I Cor. 4:6-7) Discuss how the ultimate goal of our ministry according to (v.11b in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen) affect the perspective of our service to God?

## **TODAY'S NOTES**