**Study Notes, 1 Peter 4:7-19 – Living ready for Christ(mas)**

**15.12.24.**

**Opening prayer time**

* Read Revelation 22:1-9 and lead into a time of worship/prayer giving thanks to God both for his good gifts in the present and all that is to come.

**Opening question**

* What do you enjoy most/least about this period of Advent?

**1 Peter 4:7-19**

* Re-read the passage together…
* Is there a verse or a phrase that stands out for you in particular? Why?

**Questions for reflection/discussion coming out of the passage**

1. Given that we are still waiting for Christ’s Second Coming, was Peter wrong to say “the end of all things is near” (v7)?
2. What are the key elements of teaching that Peter puts forward in this passage (vv7-11)?
3. What is the purpose of living out this teaching (v11)?
4. Share some examples of when you have been on the receiving end of “prayer”, “deep love”, “hospitality” and the impact that it had for you…
5. How do you understand Peter’s statement that “love covers over a multitude of sins” (v8)?
6. If you are in a group, encourage one another by speaking out some of the gifts that you see in each other… If you are using these notes alone, try to ask someone close to you what gifts they see in you…
7. What is the difference between serving in our own strength and serving with the strength that God provides?
8. If we view ourselves as “God’s mouthpiece” and seek to see all those around us as “made in God’s image”, what impact will this have on the way we speak to others?
9. As Christians, what balance should we strike between living in the present and living with a view to Christ’s return? Is there a difference?
10. How does Peter encourage these 1st century Christians who are suffering as a result of their faith (vv12-16)?
11. How is Peter’s teaching on suffering and judgement in verses 12-19 relevant for us today?

**Prayer**

* Pray for one another, particularly with regard to any stresses or strains that might accompany the joy of Christmas…
* Pray that we as a church family will faithfully reflect “God’s grace in its various forms”…
* Pray for those in our church family you are aware of who need a special touch from God at this time…