“Arm Yourselves”
1 Pt 4:1-12

Introduction:
A. For impending “fiery trial” (v. 12) – Probably events leading to destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.
B. Life’s troubles “manifold” (1 Pet 1:6; Job 14:1)
   1. Hardship and ease (cf. Amos 6:1)
   2. Poverty and prosperity (Prov 30:8-9)
   3. Peter lists certain arms we can take up to prepare for difficult times.
C. We should arm ourselves with:

Discussion:
I. A Saintly Character (vv. 1-5)
A. A mind to suffer for Christ (v. 1)
B. Dedication to God’s will (v. 2)
C. Separation from will of Gentiles (v. 3)
D. Void of popularity seeking (v. 4)
E. Awareness of God’s judgment (v. 5)

II. A Sober Mind (v. 7)
A. “Of Sound mind” (ASV) - “Clear minded” (NIV)
B. A mind to pray rather than panic (cf. Phil 4:6-7)
C. A mind to keep emotions in check under pressure
   1. Prevents a run away zeal (cf. Rm 10:1-4)
   2. Prevents a run away anger or fear
D. A mind to prevent rashness
   1. Moses acted rashly in striking the rock (Num. 20:10-12)
   2. James and John acted rashly in wanting to call fire from heaven (Lk 9:54-55)

III. A Strong Love (v. 8)
A. Strong enough to cover sin (cf. Prov. 17:9; Jas 5:19-20)
B. Strong enough to obey God in everything (1 Jn 5:1-3)
C. Strong enough to bind us together (Col. 2:2)

IV. A Sincere Service (v. 9)
A. Serving each other helps anytime - especially hard times.
B. Any service helps the beneficiary, but only sincere service benefits the benefactor.
   1. Hospitality helps the beneficiary, but only sincere service benefits the benefactor.
   2. Hospitality not only helps others - brings blessing to ourselves.

V. Scriptural Authority (v.11)
A. “Oracles of God” speak by command, example, or necessary inference.
B. “Oracles of God” must be respected (Col 3:17; 2 Jn 9-11; 2 Tm 3:16-17)

Conclusion:
A. If you want to survive life’s troubles, arm yourselves.
B. If you want to survive judgment then obey gospel and arm yourselves.