



The End is Near (7)

(1 Peter 4:7-11)

Finding Hope in a
Hopeless World

Our Time is Limited, So We Need To...

- We give every moment to God

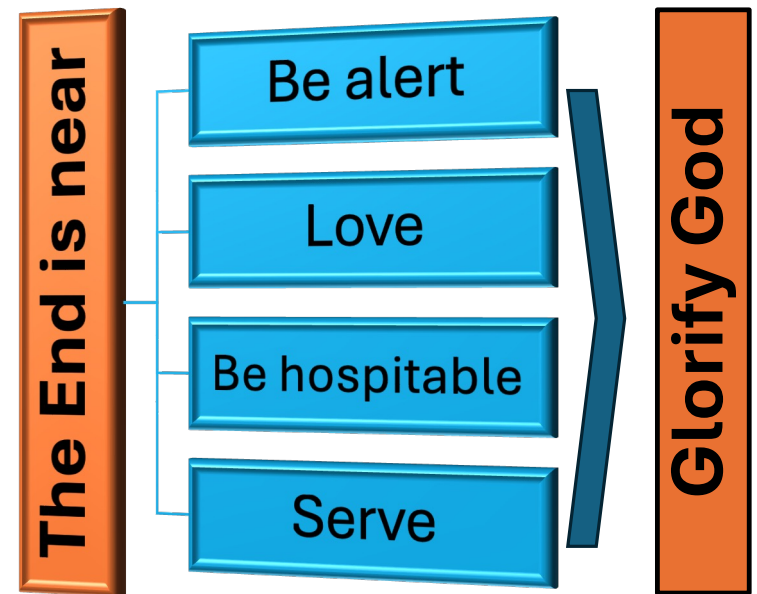
The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 4:7-11).

- God's Commands

- Be alert and of sober mind; Love each other; Offer hospitality; Use gift to serve others

Four Commands

- The end is near:
 - The final culmination of God's plan is near.
 - Jesus will come back soon!!!
- What should Christians do if the end is at hand?
 - Our goal must be to spend all our energy and every moment He gives us for His glory.
 - The reality of Christ's return should never lead to passivity but practical righteousness.
- The last great things we need to do
 - Be focused so you can pray;
 - Love one another earnestly;
 - Be hospitable without complaints;
 - Use your gifts;



Be Focused So You Can Pray

- Be alert and of sober mind
 - The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober (self control) mind so that you may pray (1 Peter 4:7).
 - Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things (Colossians 3:2).
- The end is near
 - The end is good news, the word of triumph. God would visit His people.
 - Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us (1 Peter 2:12).
- Align yourself with God's purposes
 - Keep God's timing in mind: It is the last hour we are to live.
 - Keep a clear mind: Don't be reactive. Exercise self-control.
 - Be in a spirit of prayer: If we are not diligent, we like the disciples who fell asleep.
- Are we soberly doing all we can do to see how we ought to be praying?

Love One Another Earnestly

- Love is the most essential Christian characteristic
 - Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).
 - A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13:34-35).
- Love deeply (earnestly, fervently)
 - Deeply: a strenuous, intense love takes work: Love involves effort.
 - It builds a strong, unified community, especially during times of persecution.
- Love covers sins
 - Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins (Proverbs 10:12).
 - Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6).
 - A deep, unconditional love overlooks the flaws and offenses of others, just as Christ's love overlooks believers' sins. It doesn't erase the need for repentance but fosters forgiveness and reconciliation within the community.

Show Hospitality without Grumbling

- Be hospitable
 - Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9).
 - Be hospitable: to love strangers; to welcome traveling evangelists into their homes.
- Without grumbling
 - Grumbling turns the act of serving into something negative, while a willing heart sees it as a privilege.
 - Jesus is the ultimate example of hospitality, showing love and generosity without grumbling.
 - Rather than being a burden, it is a way to build up the community and demonstrate Christ's character to a watching world.
- Christians are responsible to exercise hospitality
 - Your home is a tool for ministry and evangelism.
 - Hospitality is one way to show fervent love for other believers.

Serve God as Faithful Stewards

- We are faithful stewards
 - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10).
- Stewards (servants, slaves)
 - A slave who managed their master's household.
 - Christians are managers of the gifts and resources God has entrusted to them, not the ultimate owners.
- Faithful stewards
 - God is owner of everything, we are managers of what God has given us, to be used for His glory and purposes.
 - Stewardship applies to all aspects of life, including how we use resources like money, skills, and free time.
 - We will be accountable to God for the responsible management of these entrusted gifts, as illustrated in parables like the 'Parable of the Talents' (Matthew 25:14-30).

Use What God Has Given to You

- Spiritual gifts
 - If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:11).
- 2 types of gifts
 - Speaking gifts: involve vocal ministry: prophecy, teaching, evangelism, exhortation.
 - Serving gifts: involve practical action and ministry: leadership, mercy, giving, helping.
- Spiritual gifts are...
 - God-given supernatural abilities for ministry;
 - Given to every believers
 - For the benefit of others;
 - Given as a stewardship (It has entrusted to me);
 - Should be exercised to the glory of God.

One Goal

- Glorify God: The highest goal of the church and Christians
 - In all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 4:11).
- Serving and suffering to God's glory
 - Finish the sentence: The highest goal of all things everywhere is the glory of God through Jesus Christ, so we ought to be _____?
 - ✓ Be self-controlled and sober-minded.
 - ✓ Love one another earnestly.
 - ✓ Show hospitality without grumbling.
 - ✓ Use what God has given us to humbly serve one another.

