

## Our Relationship with the Saints

1Peter 4:7-11

Sermon Series - Living with the End in Mind

New Section in our study of 1Peter 1Peter 4:7 – to End of chapter 5.

4 messages I hope to bring in this section under the title "Living with the End in Mind"....

1. Our Relationship with the Saints 4:7-11
2. Our Response to Suffering 4:12-19
3. Our Responsibility as Shepherds 5:1-7
4. Our Resistance to Satan 5:8-11

As I studied over this section all 4 parts has reference to the END of ALL THINGS...

First Part (Our relationship with the saints) v.7 "the end of all things is at hand..."

Second Part (our response to suffering) v.13 But rejoice.....when his glory is revealed..."

Third Part (Our responsibility as shepherds) 5:1 "glory that is going to be revealed" 5:4  
"..when the chief Shepherd appears you will receive the unfading crown of glory"

Fourth Part (Our resistance to Satan) 5:10 "after you have suffered... called you to his eternal glory..."

THE END OF ALL THINGS IS AT HAND....

1Peter 4:7-11

We know eventually THE END will come..... and we know also

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28) In the END...all things work together for good for those who are called....for those who love God.....

Our SALVATION in Christ is 100% secure. Nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Here's the question... when Jesus comes will he find us SERVING the Lord; Will he find us actively involved in getting the gospel (the good news) to other people. Will he find us regularly supporting the ministry of His church in prayer, and fellowship, and worship? Will he find us ABIDING in HIM as John puts it in 1 John 2:28. Abiding in Christ means we are staying in His WORD; Doing His will.... Listen to 1John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. (1John 2:28)

When HE appears (it's not a matter of IF he appears) WHEN HE appears....will we stand before him in confidence, or stand before him embarrassed and ashamed.

We should live our lives.... Knowing Jesus could come back at any moment.

V.7 KJV - But the end of all things is at hand.... **At hand** = imminent... there is nothing that has to happen before Jesus comes back... Peter writes this letter to people at least 30 years from the time Jesus ascended back to heaven.... Now today.... It's been over 2000 yrs since Jesus ascended to Heaven. The End of all things was AT HAND.... In Peter's time... in the times of the early church....and even so much more...our day of 2024.

## **What are we to do? How are we to act?**

**First of all --- the church of the Lord Jesus must get their ACT together....** This is no time to be quarelling, complaining, and bickering ....No time to ignore our responsibility as BELIEVERS.....we must get our HOUSE in order... Peter will actually say that on down in v.17 *for it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God...*

**Our Relationship with the Saints is so IMPORTANT....** Our Relationship with the Savior is Supremely important.... But if we do not love our brother, how can we say we love our Savior? If our relationship with our brothers and sisters is NOT right, how can we say we are right with the Lord?

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. **1John 4:20**

To IMPROVE our relationship with the Saints.... We must first of all...

1. Be Praying for One Another

### **READ v.7**

The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. (KJ "watch unto prayer")

### **Be Much in Praying. Self-controlled and Sober-minded is for that purpose.**

RSV - "Keep sane and sober **for your prayers**"

SELF-CONTROLLED ---"sane" means "having a sound mind, thinking about and evaluating situations maturely and correctly"

Live day by day with a self-controlled, or a "sane" way of thinking.... A sober-minded way of thinking. What's "sober-minded"? We think of someone who is NOT sober to be under the influence of drugs, or alcohol. To be "sober-minded" is to be able to think clearly, and rationally.

If you are not sober-minded, you can't be Self-controlled. Sober-minded rather than being worldly minded. Being worldly minded is totally occupied with getting things in this world, living for the pleasures of this world, pursuing all that the world has to offer. Being sober-minded, or having clear thinking comes through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Example: a man possessed of demons

**Luke 8:35** "sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind"

**2Timothy 1:7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

To have a life that is characterized by being self-controlled and sober-minded comes by being with Jesus, or being in the Scriptures... praying...seeking His face.... Being filled with the Spirit.. Self-control and sober-minded is essential for effectual prayers.

**NOTICE: for the sake of your prayers**

“prayers” is plural.

**It’s praying often.** It’s praying specifically for certain things. **We pray for our needs.** We pray for a more disciplined mind, a more God-centered and Christ-honoring mind. We pray to be more godly, and be holy even as God is holy. We pray to be more like Christ.

But also we **pray for other matters.** Every day has so many situations that press upon us to pray. Missionaries.... So many are in dangerous places..

Our community...for those who are not a part of local church... pray we might be able to reach them with the gospel. We had a shooting in our neighborhood the other day... Some places in our country it’s a daily thing.....

Our young people..... so much is upon our youth... they are coming up in a crazy world, a world that has no answers for real problems;

Our families.... The devil is wreaking havoc upon the American family. There is great confusion in the area of gender.... What is a woman? And What is a man? Great confusion as to what pronouns to use..... it is truly insane to think about what’s going on in our world....

**Pray for our churches**.... They are closing fast throughout the country... there is now what’s been called the GREAT DECHURCHING of America... in the last 25 yrs. ....over 40 million people have walked away from the Christian faith...no longer involved in a local church group.

If we don’t stay sober minded and have self control, then we will not be able to pray as we should. This lost world needs our prayers.... Our country needs our prayers.... Our churches needs our prayer....we need a revival in a great way....

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SAINT MUST BE FIRST AND FOREMOST... PRAYERFUL...

**Pray together. The early church prayed together... They were always continuing in prayer.**

## **2. Loving One another. LOVE ONE ANOTHER MORE EARNESTLY vv.8-9**

<sup>8</sup>Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

<sup>9</sup>Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

ABOVE ALL - this is #1 priority, above everything else -- make sure you are loving one another....how? How are we to love one another? - Earnestly! This is so essential in the life of

a church family. It's important in your own family, but it's a life, or death issue in a church family. When a church has no love for one another, it will die.

Here's the main reason why we are to love one another earnestly --- **since love covers a multitude of sins.** When you think of sins, you might be thinking of those BIG sins...the kind of sins they lock you up in prison for. But it's all kinds of wrong doing.

If you have been active in the life of any church for some time, I guarantee something has been said, or done that has hurt your feelings, or at least rubbed you the wrong way. LOVE COVERS a multitude of sins. Someone offended you, someone overlooked you, or neglected you. Someone gave a remark that hit you the wrong way.

We are Christians yet we have remaining sin.... We are called to be holy, but so often we don't act as we should.

LOVE COVERS a MULTITUDE of Wrong doings; a multitude of offences.

When LOVE is not as it should be in a church..... relationships will be shallow and feelings of distrust will prevail. People will look at each other with suspicion. Every thing will be up for misunderstanding. Why did they do this? Why did they say that?

You become paranoid and you begin to think the worst of other people.

So what are we to do? go back to praying... O God, help me to love my brothers and sisters in the Lord. Help me to love one another earnestly. The Holy Spirit will do just that because the fruit of the Spirit is what? LOVE... it's more than that, but the first item on the fruit list is love. (Galatians 5:22)

How are we to show that? How are we to demonstrate earnest love for one another?

v.9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. (without complaining)

Show hospitality, or "practice hospitality" without grumbling.

Hospitality – showing kindness, being friendly, being warm in your interaction with others. We think of doing this especially with guest, or strangers.

Peter says... to one another (continue to show and practice hospitality to one another)

**Without grumbling...complaining....** Being hospitable towards others takes time and some effort. Does it bother you? Are you resentful of having to take the time to listen to someone?

Do you complain because of the cost involved in buying something that helps toward being hospitable?

Do you complain all the time about what happened to you? What someone said or done to you?

The end of all things is at hand, therefore

Pray for one another; love one another....

### 3. SERVING ONE ANOTHER.

v.10 As each has received a gift, use it to **serve one another**, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

The key words are "**serve one another**"....

#### a. Serve one another.

We are not to wait around for someone to "serve" us; but we are to serve others. We are to think of others. Serve one another as *good stewards of the manifold grace of God*.

This is the personal touch, interacting with one another. We live in a day of high tech, with Artificial Intelligence taking over our lives. You go to some stores, you scan your groceries yourself, you put them in a bag yourself, you load them by yourself into a buggy, you hear a computer voice giving you instructions how to use the keypad. Instead of a store clerk asking if you found everything you needed, you get a keypad with a bunch of stars to punch to indicate how was your shopping experience.

When we gather together, it's not to a performance we are coming to. It's not like a movie theater, where you sit with your folks with no interaction with others. We come to "serve one another", and the first step in doing this is Loving one another by showing hospitality; warm greetings; and friendship.

#### b. Serve out of your spiritual gift.

How do we serve one another? Out of the gift God has given us.

10 As each has received a gift, use it to **serve one another**, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Every Christian has a spiritual gift. The Holy Spirit has given you at least one spiritual gift. You may have more than one. There is one dominant gift given to you.

There are five lists given in the Bible recording various spiritual gifts. (Romans 12:6-8; 1Cor. 12:7-11; another list at the end of that chapter vv.28-30; Eph. 4:11; 1Peter 4:10; and there are two more listed in 1Cor. 7:7 marriage and celibacy.)

Not one particular list has an exhaustive listing of all the spiritual gifts. Each spiritual gift has a multi-faceted way of being manifested. Everyone is different. God has made us unique, and the Spirit has gifted us in our uniqueness. Just like there every snowflake is different, so are we. How is that? V.10 we are to be good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (ESV God's varied grace) God's grace is so multi-faceted; so diverse.

We can see this in the two spiritual gifts given here in our text.

### c. **SPEAKING gifts** (v.11a)

Speaking gifts include primarily preaching and teaching God's Word. It includes evangelism, sharing God's Word with someone else. Giving a scripture to someone who needs to hear it for a particular situation. Witnessing. I think singing can be included....giving a word of praise, and expressing thanks to God in a church gathering.

### d. **Serving gifts** vv.11

That covers a wide range of abilities, serving wherever the Lord might use you. Baking a pie for a neighbor that's gone through some hard times. Hammering down some tin on a shed for an elderly person who does not need to be on a ladder. Taking someone to the doctor who is no longer able to drive. If your doctor's appointment is in Nashville, you need someone to drive even if you can drive, if you know what I mean.

Notice Peter says.... **Serves by the strength that God supplies.** If we employ our resources, God will restock your resources. We operate out of the strength God supplies. We are the body of Christ. We are His hands, His feet, His shoulders, His back, His eyes, ears, and mouth available for God's service. If we depend on human strength we will "burn out". We serve by the strength that God supplies.

I think back to the time when Carpenters for Christ, and Campers on Mission came to help us with building the auditorium. People in their seventies and eighties it seemed like, but I believe their enthusiasm, love, joy and power for service came from the strength God supplied.

## 4. **GLORIFYING GOD TOGETHER** v.11

In order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
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Speaking for Christ and Serving Christ is not FOR THE PURPOSE to make a name for ourselves. In everything God is to be glorified through Jesus Christ.

To Christ belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The End of all things is at hand. We are moving toward that day. Peter will go on to speak about the fiery trials to come. We don't know what all we'll have to face before the Lord returns. He has promised to be with us.

Until that time we are to Focus on Praying more, loving one another, and Serving one another for the Glory of God.

We must remember as the Hebrew writer tells us:

### **Hebrews 10:25**

not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Jesus came the first time to save all who would believe on Him.

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

(Philippians 2:8)

He's coming again to bring it all to an end. He's coming for His church. All the redeemed will be gathered together.

Jesus gave the church this ordinance of the Lord's Supper, or Communion. We remember Jesus' s words... Do this in remembrance of me.

**Paul said it this way:**

**1Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The bread represents His body. God in human flesh.

John 1:14 the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The cup containing the fruit of the vine (or wine) represents the Blood Jesus shed to purchase our redemption.

The Body – represents the LIFE HE LIVED...perfect, flawless, sinless, The life he lived.

The Blood – speaks of the LIFE HE GAVE.... Pure, precious, blood...

So, we do this in taking of the bread and cup...we remember His First coming...

And also, we look forward to His SECOND COMING.....