

# *Anticipating Christ's Coming!*

**1 Peter 4:7-9**

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

August 28, 2022

## Introduction

- Preparations around our house when company is coming!
- Jesus is coming!
  - John 14:1-3-- *"Let not your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*
- But we do not know when!
  - Matthew 24:36-- *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."*
  - Matthew 42-44-- *"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, you also need to be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*
- Peter anticipated the soon return of Jesus Christ
  - 1 Peter 4:7-- *"But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."*

## *Anticipating Christ's Coming!*

### **A. Keep our heads screwed on straight, and not carried away by self-indulgence or excitement.**

- 1 Peter 4:7-- *"But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."*

### **B. Must be mentally alert for effective prayer**

- 1 Peter 4:7-- *"But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."*
1. We are at war!
    - Ephesians 6:12-13-- *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."*
  2. Offensive weapon is prayer
    - Ephesians 6:18-20-- *"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."*
    - 1 Peter 5:8-- *"be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."*
    - 1 Peter 5:7-- *"casting all our cares on Him, for He cares for you."*
  3. Satan hates when Christians pray, so he will do whatever he can to keep us from praying.

### C. Focus on fervently loving one another

- 1 Peter 4:8-- *"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.'"*
1. Love for one another is to characterize our relationships
    - John 13:34-- *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also may love one another."*
    - John 15:12-14-- *"This is My commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you."*
  2. Love is a decision of the will. We choose to love.
    - Romans 5:8-- *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
  3. Characteristics of Loving One Another
    - a. **FOREMOST**—*"Above all things"*—top priority
    - b. **FERVENT**—*"stretched and strained"*
      - 1 Peter 1:22 -- *"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart."*
    - c. **FORBEARING, FORGIVING, FORGETTING**
      1. Love **forbears** with little wrongs!
        - a. *"love covers a multitude of sins"*
          - Proverbs 10:12-- *"Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins."*
        - b. Does not rule out confrontation of sin
          - Matthew 5:23-24-- *"If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before your altar, and go your way. First, be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."*
          - Matthew 18:15-17-- *"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear you, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and tax collector."*
          - Galatians 6:2-- *"bear one another burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."*
          - James 5:19-20-- *"Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."*
        - c. When does one forbear and when does one confront?
      2. Love **forgives** the "multitude of sins"
        - a. Jesus' teaching on forgiveness
          - Matthew 18:21-- *"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"*
          - Matthew 18:22-- *"Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.'"*
          - Matthew 18:35-- *"So My heavenly Father will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."*
        - b. Those who have been forgiven much forgive little.

3. Love **forgets** the wrongs.
  - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8-- *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no records of wrongs. It does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."*

#### **D. Show Hospitality to others**

- 1 Peter 4:9-- *"Be hospitable to one another without grumbling."*
1. Hospitality taught in Old and New Testament
    - Deuteronomy 14:28-- *"Levites... and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates" so that they "may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do."*
    - Matthew 25:35-40-- *"For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and took You in, or naked and clothed You? Or when did we see You sick or in prison, and come to you?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"*
    - Romans 12:13 -- *"distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."*
  2. Hospitality practice in Israel
    - Hebrews 13:1-2-- *"Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."*
  3. Right attitude – *"without grumbling"*: Open homes, Open hearts!