

Call to Worship— Psalm 9:7-10

Sermon Text— 1 Peter 4:7-11

Benediction— James 5:7-9

Text — 1 Peter 4:7-11 ESV

[7] The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. [8] Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. [9] Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: [11] whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

[1 Peter 4:7-11 CSB] 7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer. 8 Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaining. 10 Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

NEXT WEEK: "If" 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Outline: "The End is Near"

- **INTRO— THE END OF ALL THINGS IS NEAR... Peter says, and today in August of 2020 just 40 years shy of 2000 years later, the end of all things CONTINUES to be near. True in 60's AD, and true every day since. Some today pray for the Lord to come quickly, as you should, and I assure you that WHEN he comes, no matter how many years and generations from the Acts apostles watching him ascend it will be QUICK. Every second of existence of all of the heavens and earth is but a blink in light of eternity. So we vapors, here today and gone tomorrow, can still with great expectation proclaim, and prophecy of the Kings eminent return. THE END IS NEAR. THEREFORE...**
- v7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore...
 - CSB "End Times Ethics" or as Them Schreinner puts it "living in light of the end"
 - Be self controlled [alert, watch] and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers (Be self governed enough to see, to be alert, to walk circumspect AND stay calm without distractions for the sake of your prayers that are a KEY weapon in these end-times.)
 - James tells us the prayers of a righteous man availeth much, is it not fair to infer the inverse, that our prayers offered without being upright, obedient, walking by faith our ill-effective, NOW CAREFUL the power of prayer is in the object of our faith, the effectiveness of our prayers are in the object of our faith BUT prayer is more than a communication a hotline to God for our needs, it is the conversation we are to be having with the lover of our souls, and our intercessions should be the interrupting of our blessing and praising and glorifying him to seek the good of others. Prayer is DRIVEN by relationship, and relationships are observed as authentic in the way we interact with those whom we say we love.
- v8-9 ABOVE ALL (most important, a crescendo of instructions)
 - Keep loving (maintain the love you possess) one another (one another includes you/us) earnestly
 - categorical love we have been gifted is a treasure to be maintained (1 Corinthians 13 is going teach us this LOVE is everlasting)

- One another is a command “scope” we can all get behind because your neighbors ONE ANOTHER includes you/us
- Earnest and fervent love is active, intentional, and essential NOT passive, accidental, or indifferent
- SINCE love covers a multitude of sins
 - 1st Christ example of sacrificial love literally covers our sins
 - 2nd our practicing sacrificial “agape” assumes that we are leading with grace, mercy, compassion, AND NOT spirits of offense, outrage, division, and me-first-ness
 - LOVE one another well, earnestly, as Christ loves us, and when you become the one who is hard to love or even what the world or even churchianity deems unlovable watch the body of Christ love you even then.
 - If that hasn’t been your experience let me challenge you to look again at this text, have YOU above all things loved one another earnestly? Here’s a test do you know the people’s names in this room that you claim to have covenanted with to accomplish the kingdom mission? That’s not a memory test, the real question is do you even put forth the effort to know? That’s just the start but I assure you that attending church like it’s a movie where you come in sit down eat your popcorn and get up when the credits begin to roll WILL NOT result in the type of love necessary to sustain you as history continues in this age of strain and confusion. There is more to this but there’s not time.
 - SHOW/DISPLAY hospitality without grumbling/complaining.
 - This is not rocket science AND no not everyone is wired to have parties and gatherings in their homes. BUT I would dare to predict that the very people NOT wired for large gatherings could suffer a small gathering of onesies and twosies because they would be gathering with other “small gathering only” folks. So that is all I can offer regarding your comfort level when this instruction is very plain ESPECIALLY since it is qualified with the admonition to do so WITHOUT COMPLAINING.
 - No complaining even means IN OUR HEARTS or BEFORE THE GUESTS ARRIVE and AFTER THE GUESTS LEAVE
 - Finally, SHOW HOSPITALITY is not qualified by whether there is a pandemic, outbreak, civil unrest, natural disaster etc... feel concerned that you cannot show hospitality like you recognize it to be offered? Time to get creative. Fervent love requires it. AND end-times require fervent love.
- v10-11 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace...
 - Peter echoing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit all the same tones and teaching we have been observing from Paul
 - Repeated in scripture, another author, another mission field, a general epistle to be used as a reference says the SAME... we need to pay attention THIS IS IMPORTANT
 - Exercising our gifts is eschatological and missional... AS STEWARDS OF GOD’S GRACE
 - Gospel Agents on duty until he returns
 - whoever speaks, speaks God’s words— Proclaimers proclaiming with authority (the source)
 - whoever serves, by God’s supplied strength— Supernatural service (the source)
 - ... in order that (SO THAT when this is done as instructed in this time) in EVERYTHING...
 - God may be glorified through Jesus Christ
 - This is the ultimate goal... God’s max glory carried out by blood bought believers, his very body
 - Christ’s continued glory from his church is God’s ultimate glory forever and ever
 - Glory AND power forever and ever (eternal things... this is about eternal things!)

CONCLUSION: “...glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Eminent... ARE YOU READY?