

LIVING KNOWING THE END IS NEAR

Sunday, March 8, 2026 -- 1 PETER Series -- Msg 29 --Jason Hill

1 PETER 4:7-11

English Standard Version (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.

OVERVIEW:

Peter wrote to encourage suffering Christians to live according to the **HOPE** received through Christ. So far Peter has addressed...

- Chapter 1:1-12: The Privileges of **SALVATION**
- Chapter 1:13-2:12: Living in Holiness
- Chapter 2:13-3:12: Living in **SUBMISSION**
- Chapter 3:13-4:11: Theology of Suffering (Currently)

CENTRAL IDEA:

With the end of all things **APPROACHING**, Christians should be vigilant to live to the glory of God by thoughtfully praying, fervently loving others, and actively serving in the **CHURCH**.

SCRIPTURE SPEAKS TO THE **BREVITY OF LIFE**.

"The end of all things is at hand"

v. 7

- Our life is revealed as a few handbreadths and a **BREATH**. Psalm 39:4-5
- Our life is compared to grass or a flower which quickly fades. Psalm 103:15-16
- Our life is illustrated by a **SHADOW** that quickly disappears. Job 14:1-2
- Our life is described as a mist. James 4:14

- Live with your affairs in order as you could pass away at any time.
- Live with the expectation that Christ could return at any time. (SEE Matthew 24:36)

HOW IS A CHRISTIAN TO LIVE KNOWING THE END IS NEAR?

I. FOCUS YOUR **MIND** AND ATTENTION ON WHAT GOD DESIRES IN PRAYER.

v. 7

"therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers"

1. Live **SENSIBLY**. (Godly Thinking)

- Thinking about yourself in a **LEVEL-HEADED** way -- be calm and not shaken.
- Controlling and restraining personal desires/appetites -- Not giving into excess.
- Focusing on God's **PURPOSE**/priorities -- be serious and diligent with responsibilities.

Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to **think with sober judgment**, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

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.

HOW IS A CHRISTIAN TO LIVE KNOWING THE END IS NEAR?

I. FOCUS YOUR MIND AND ATTENTION ON WHAT GOD DESIRES IN PRAYER.

v. 7

1. Live SENSIBLY. (Godly Thinking)
2. Live ALERT. (Spiritual Attentiveness)
 - Thinking about observations in a CLEAR-HEADED way -- being critical and not aloof.
 - Controlling and capturing every thought -- not allowing your mind to wander.
 - Focusing on God's work -- being WATCHFUL to correctly decipher His plan.

Matthew 24:39-42 - 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, **stay awake**, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Why? This is so that your praying will be focused on God's PURPOSE, plan, and work.

- Utilizing these commands informs you on what to included in your prayer.
- Utilizing these commands ensures GOD-FOCUSED not man-focused prayer.
- Utilizing these commands leads to deciphering the purpose and plan of God.
- Utilizing these commands keeps you from getting DISTRACTED.

II. STRETCH YOURSELF TO GENUINELY LOVE OTHERS WITH ZEAL.

v. 8

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."

1. Love COVERS a multitude of sins. (SEE Proverbs 10:12; 1 Peter 3:18)
 - Love does not OVERLOOK sin.
 - Love forgives the sinner instead of holding grudges or broadcasting fault.
 - INTENTIONAL love is the most valuable virtue in a community that's counter cultural.

Romans 5:7-8 - 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but **God shows his love** for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Love shows up in JOYFUL hospitality.

v. 9

"Show hospitality to one another without grumbling."

- Hospitality is love for strangers and travelers who are serving the Lord.
- Hospitality involves SACRIFICE for the good of others from a willing heart.
- Hospitality practically is opening one's home to show love. It is required of leaders.

Romans 12:13 - Contribute to the needs of the saints and **seek to show hospitality**.

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.

HOW IS A CHRISTIAN TO LIVE KNOWING THE END IS NEAR?

III. STEWARDS YOUR GRACE GIFT BY SERVING OTHERS.

v. 10

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

1. God gives a spiritual gift to **EVERYONE** who trusts in Christ for salvation.
 - All true believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit who gives the gift.
 - Believers may **TAKE TIME** to identify which gift they have been given.
 - The purpose of a spiritual gift is to building up of the body of Christ, **THE CHURCH**.

Ephesians 4:11-13 - *11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,*

2. God gives various gifts to different believers to be **MANAGED** and used to benefit others.
 - As the owner, God sovereignly chooses which gift is given.
 - As a manager, the gift does not belong to you, but is on **LOAN** from God.
 - Each gift is **VARIED** so that, together, we might use them as one.

Romans 12:4-6 - *4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...*

3. God gives a gift to **REVEAL** Himself and show His **PROVISION** in order to be glorified. v. 11
"whoever speaks...[speaking] oracles of God; whoever serves...[serving] by the strength...God supplies"
 - When speaking, represent God by **SPEAKING HIS WORDS** to people who need to hear.
 - When serving, God-given strength is available to fulfill the task before you.
 - Spiritual gifts are for the **GLORY** of God and the **GOOD** of the church.
"in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 - *4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

WHY IS A CHRISTIAN TO LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY KNOWING THE END IS NEAR?

v. 11

Because life is **SHORT**, and our focus should be on showing His **GREATNESS** and trusting His forever **RULE**.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS?

1. Is your life focused on the **TEMPORAL** or eternal?
2. Do you..pray God-focused prayers? earnestly love others? faithfully serve in the church?
3. How does your life show the **GREATNESS** of God and that you trust in His forever **RULE**?