

Add To Your Faith Series

# BUT THE END OF ALL THINGS IS AT HAND

1 PETER 4:7-19

Text: 1 Peter 4:7

## **1 Peter 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> *But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*

Introduction:

How soon is our LORD'S coming for us? Personally I believe it is very soon! I don't know when, but I believe it is very near!

The Christians in the early Church expected the Lord to return in their lifetime.

Paul said in Romans 13:12

## **Romans 13:12**

<sup>12</sup> *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

If Paul and the early Christians believed Christ was going to come in their lifetime; surely with all we see happening all around us we can see His Coming is near!

Our LORD in Luke 21 gives us several signs to look for concerning His coming, and in vs. 28 He says:

**Luke 21:28**

*<sup>28</sup> And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

Our Key Responsibility as Believers is to Live for and Look for our LORD! We must all live with an attitude of expectancy! How we live and serve Him today will determine our judgment and Joy on that day! But our expectancy should not be turned to slumber! In Jesus' Parable of the Bridegroom in Matthew 25:5 tells us:

**Matthew 25:5**

*<sup>5</sup> While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.*

In our text we see ten commandments to keep us alert and serving till the Lord returns.

Notice we are to:

# 1. BE SOBER (VS. 7)

## **1 Peter 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> *But the end of all things is at hand: **be ye therefore sober**, and watch unto prayer.*

The word sober means to be with a sound mind.

God would have us to not think wildly but soberly concerning His plan for His People!

There are those who set dates, claim to know the name of the beast, things which we cannot know!

## **Acts 1:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> *When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?* <sup>7</sup> *And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*

Being "sober-minded" means that our minds are focused and fixed on what they should be on-Jesus Christ and His Soon Return!

## **Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,* <sup>12</sup> *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;* <sup>13</sup> **Looking**

*for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;<sup>14</sup> Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

We must live our lives as if Christ might return at any time, yet still planning and serving for the future!

Notice not only should we be sober, but also we are to be:

## **2. WATCHFUL UNTO PRAYER (VS. 7)**

### **1 Peter 4:7**

*<sup>7</sup> But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*

If we live "sober-minded" we will be watching unto prayer!

The word "watch" means to Keep Awake and be Spiritually Alert.

Watching unto prayer means to be alert in our prayer life.

There is no place for apathetic or routine prayer.

When we fail to watch and pray, then can our enemy gains the advantage on us!

**Matthew 24:42-44**

<sup>42</sup> Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. <sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. <sup>44</sup> Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

The greatest gauge of our commitment to Christ is our thinking and praying.

If our thinking and praying is right, our living should be right!

Not only should we be sober and watchful unto prayer but also we are to:

### **3. BE LOVING (VS. 8)**

**1 Peter 4:8**

<sup>8</sup> And above all things **have fervent charity among yourselves**: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Love is what differentiates Believers from the rest of this world!

### **John 13:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.* <sup>35</sup> *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Sad to say but many churches have "left their first love", so they also have lost love for each other!

As the time of Christ draws nearer, we must have a greater love than ever before for each other!

This Love Must Be:

- Fervent (vs. 8a)

The word fervent means without ceasing.

It implies that love will go to any lengths!

### **1 Corinthians 13:8**

<sup>8</sup> **Charity never faileth:** *but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

Illustration:

The word pictures an athlete straining to reach a goal. It speaks of eagerness and intensity. Christian Love is

something we have to work at, just as the athlete works on his skills.

It is not a matter of emotional feeling, though that is included, but of dedicated will! Christian Love means that we treat others the way God treats us, obeying his commandments in the Word. It is even possible to love people we don't like.

This Love must not only be fervent but also:

- Forgiving (vs. 8b)

***Ephesians 4:32***

<sup>32</sup> *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Love doesn't condone sin, but love covers sin in that love motivates us to hide the sin from others and not spread it abroad!

The world has enough ammunition against God's People without us giving them more!

We happens here at our Church should stay at our Church-if one falls or commits a sin, let us pray for that one; not spread it all over town!

Not only should we be sober, watchful unto prayer and be loving but also we are to:

## **4. BE SINCERE IN HOSPITALITY (VS. 9)**

**1 Peter 4:9**

<sup>9</sup> *Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*

"Hospitality" according to Webster's Dictionary means "kindness to strangers and guests."

I believe in the world in which we live, Hospitality is a lost virtue.

Note:

**Exodus 22:21**

<sup>21</sup> *Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.*

When we show hospitality we are reflecting God's Hospitality to us!

He has promised to go and prepare a place for us with Him and receive us to Himself.

In like manner, we should be willing to receive others!



### **Romans 12:13**

<sup>13</sup> *Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*

### **Luke 6:30**

<sup>30</sup> *Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.*

This is to be done without grudging (v9b)!

### **1 Peter 4:9**

<sup>9</sup> *Use hospitality one to another **without grudging.***

This means that we are use hospitality without murmuring.

If it is going to cause us to complain and murmur to help others, we probably should bother.

Not only should we be sober, watchful unto prayer and be loving and be sincere in hospitality but also we are to:

## **5. BE MINISTERING (VS. 10-11)**

### **1 Peter 4:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> *As every man hath received the gift, **even so minister** the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup> If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let*

*him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

The word minister means to be a “servant.”

We are to serve with gladness.

***Psalm 100:2-3***

<sup>2</sup> *Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.* <sup>3</sup> *Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

True Love Serves! Each Christian has at least one Spiritual Gift to use for the glory of God and the building up of the Church!

***Ephesians 4:7***

<sup>7</sup> *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

***Ephesians 4:12-13***

<sup>12</sup> *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:* <sup>13</sup> *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

What has God given to each of us?

- Time

**Psalm 90:12**

<sup>12</sup> *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

- Talent

**Luke 12:48**

<sup>48</sup> *But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*

- Testimony

**Psalm 23:3**

<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness **for his name's sake.**

Close:

As we await His return we are to be sober, watchful unto prayer, loving, be sincere in hospitality, and be ministering.

Are we doing these things in waiting for His soon return?