

1940 – England – Nazi – Brittan would fall – Winston Churchill – House of Commons

"Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, 'This was their finest hour.'"

- When times are darkest...when the enemy is greatest...when all seems lost ↑
Churchills Message = The times were urgent, so the people needed to live with purpose
- Peter writing a similar speech - **7The end of all things is near.** | Not panic...live Eternal perspective
- Ladies and Gentlemen...the end is near... '2's'...the end is near | **Waiting on King Jesus**
"How should I live while I wait for my King?" | **Peter answers in a surprising way**
- Does not tell Christian’s retreat from the world or spend all their time predicting dates
- **Be serious in prayer, fervent in love, faithful in service, and diligent in using their gifts**

B/C Christ’s return is approaching, Christians must live in a way that displays God’s glory
7The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Imagine reading this text as one of the original recipients – Jesus has been dead 30 years

- Underground, tiny, tight-knit group of people persecuted for your beliefs
 - You worship an executed criminal as God and refused to honor traditional pagan idols
 - 64 AD – Fire in Rome – Nero blames Christians – Hundreds = Burned | Crucified | Dogs
- Peter writes gemstone in the darkness...the beauty of this passage overwhelms**

Big Idea - Righteous and generous lives bring glory to God

In 1646-47 - Westminster Assembly – 120 Scottish Theologians – 107 Questions – Shorter

- **What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy him forever!** | **Text like this...**

Four things that are vital to bringing God glory, in light of the end of all things being near

1. **Honor God through: Intentional discipline (7)** | **Accidentally Become Good at Something**
The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.
What Peter is talking about here is we’re Living on the Edge of Eternity...urgency
 - **Driving down the road...‘Bridge Out Ahead’ – Flip the radio station...have a cheese puff**
 - Headed towards life altering event - **The end of all things is near.** | **Not scary apocalyptic**
 - It’s the next major milestone on God’s timeline...the return of Jesus Christ
Since the clock is ticking, how should we live? Not pack up... | Two practical commands
 - a. **Maintain a Disciplined Mind – Therefore...**because end is near...**be alert and of sober mind**
 - **‘Alert’ = Self-Controlled...think sensibly and wisely...head on a swivel...paying attention**
 - **Because the world is at war against us...we should be paying attention for attacks**

As Christians in a distracting world, stay spiritually awake, vigilant, anchored in God’s truth

- **‘Sober Minded’ = Clear thinking...think about opposite...Drunk-thinking | Kitty Litter**
 - Opposite of being intoxicated by worldly pleasures, fears, anxieties, or distractions

Wake up...smoke in house | Alert & Sober Minded | Smoke fills our air...manage through

- b. **Maintain a Disciplined Prayer Life – SO that you may pray | Connect alert & Sober**
Our mental, emotional, & spiritual state directly impacts the quality and effectiveness of our prayers
 - A distracted, uncontrolled mind will struggle to commune with God
 - A disciplined, sober-minded believer is prepared to pray effectively | **Greg Meek**
Takeaway - Shape your walk | Your walk...your responsibility | Intentional Discipline

2. **Honor God through: Invariable Love (8)** **never changes, fluctuates, or varies**

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Christian Love = Sacrificial action that reflects the grace & mercy we have received from Christ

A Church ready for Christ’s return is marked by a love that is deep, forgiving, enduring
Every family, church, and friendship, there is one unavoidable reality: people will disappoint

- The closer we are to someone, the more opportunities there are for hurt
- A careless word - forgotten promise - difference of opinion...can create wounds divide
Question is not if Christians will have conflicts, but how Christians will respond when do
- a. **A Christian’s Love Must Be a Priority – Above all**
 - Peter places love at the top of the list. Prayer matters – Hospitality - Using spiritual gifts
 - But all of those are empty without genuine love | **Most beautiful car...no gas**
Love is not an optional virtue for Christians—it is the defining mark of discipleship
Jn. 13:35 - “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
Church may have sound doctrine, excellent programs, faithful ministries...w/o love it fails
 - b. **A Christian’s Love Must Be Persistent - love each other deeply**
 - The word *deeply* means stretched out or extended to its limit – **RUBBER BAND**
Love is commitment to seek good of others, even when it requires patience & sacrifice
Greatest test of love is not how you treat people easy to love, but how respond people disappoint you
 - Describes love refuses to quit when relationships become difficult | **Love Correctly**
 - c. **A Christian’s Love Must Be Forgiving - because love covers over a multitude of sins | not saying**
 - Peter does not mean our love atones for sin—only blood of Christ can cover sin
 - Peter not saying love ignores sin, excuses evil, refuses to confront serious wrongdoing
He means love is not easily offended and does not keep a record of wrongs
Love willing to overlook personal offenses, bear w/ imperfections, to protect relationships
“covers” carries idea of concealing something from public shame rather broadcasting it
 - **Do I need to bring this up, or can I graciously overlook it? First three steps...let it go**
Imagine being caught outside on a freezing night. Body shaking...the cold is unbearable
Someone comes...blanket | Blanket not remove existence cold...protects you from effects
Does not deny offence - Puts a blanket of grace over the weaknesses and failures
Takeaway - Share your heart | Kelsey Pfendler – 24-foot boat named Lilly | 2400 Miles
- 3. **Honor God through: Innovational Homes (9)**
9Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. | **Connected digitally...more distant relationally**
 - We can have hundreds of online friends and still eat dinner alone...updates w/o hearts
 - Christians scattered bc persecution...displaced from homes and separated from family
 - They depended on other Christians for food, shelter, encouragement, and fellowship
God’s grace opens our hearts and our homes to others
 - a. **Christian Hospitality Is a Command to Be Practiced - Offer hospitality to one another**
 - The word *hospitality* literally means “love of strangers.” - kindness, generosity, & care
Peter does not present hospitality as an option...he poses it as a responsibility
 - Abraham welcomed strangers and discovered he was hosting messengers from God
 - Jesus often shared meals with sinners and outcasts
 - The early church gathered in homes and cared for one another
 - b. **Christian Hospitality Requires a Heart of Joy - without grumbling**
 - Hospitality can be costly. It takes time, money, energy, and sometimes inconvenience
It’s possible to open your door while closing your heart – Invited someone...don’t want do
Takeaway - Show your care - ‘I have to do this’ Vs ‘I Get to Do This’

4. Honor God through: Involved Gifts (10-11)

¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

There is something deeply satisfying about seeing a person use a gift they have been given
Musician - Craftsman - Athlete | [Best in the world at anything...I'll watch](#) | [69 Watermelon](#)

In each case, the gift is not meant to remain hidden—it is meant to be developed and used

- Same Christian life - God has not saved us merely to sit on the sidelines of His kingdom
- Every believers abilities, opportunities, & spiritual gifts...meant to serve others & build

Three ways you can honor God through your gifts

a. **Recognize the Gifts You've Received (10a)** - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others - each believer has received a gift | [White Elephant / Yankee](#)

[Every Christian has been uniquely equipped by God for ministry](#)

- The word "gift" emphasizes something given freely – [Don't Earn...Develop...Worship](#)

- Intelligence, personality, resources, experiences, and spiritual abilities are entrusted

[Master Craftsman give you a tool...I made this for you...put it on the shelf...bad stewardship](#)

[What abilities has God given me? - What opportunities has God placed before me?](#)

b. **Manage the Grace You've Been Given (10b)** as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms – You're not an owner of God's gifts but a **steward** of them

A steward was someone entrusted with the resources of another person

- Some speak, some teach, some encourage, some lead, some give, some show mercy

- No gift is insignificant because every gift reflects the grace of God – [Cymbal Guy](#)

[Faithfulness is not measured by how visible your gift is but by how faithfully you use it](#)

["Were you as gifted as someone else?" - "Were you faithful with what I entrusted to you?"](#)

c. **Let Your Ambition be God's Glory (11)**

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Peter gives us the ultimate purpose of every gift: the glory of God

- Our gifts can become dangerous when we use them to draw attention to ourselves

Teacher > Applause | Singer > Admiration | Leader > power | Servant > recognition

[Christian service is never about making our name known—it is about making Christ known](#)

⇒ **Those who speak are to speak** "as one who speaks the very words of God."

- those who teach and proclaim God's Word must do so with humility and faithfulness

- remembering they are delivering God's message, not their own opinions

⇒ **Those who serve are to serve** "by the strength that God supplies."

- We do not rely on our own energy or ability - God provides the strength, God receives

[You are working towards something bigger than yourself](#) – [Golden Gate Bridge 1933-37](#)

[Takeaway - Steward your deposit](#)

- Discover what God has placed in you - Identify the abilities, passions, and opportunities

- Develop what God has entrusted to you - Grow in skill, character, and faithfulness.

- Deploy what God has developed in you - Put your gifts into action in service to others

⁷The end of all things is near.

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