

The End of All Things Is at Hand

1 Peter 4:7-11

"They are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; **but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.**" (1 Peter 4:4-5)

"But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For **it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God**; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4:15-17)

³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, 'Where is the promise of his coming? **For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.**' ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. (2 Pe 3:3-7)

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God... (2 Pe 3:8-12)

The imminence of the end should function as a stimulus to action in this world. The knowledge that believers are sojourners and exiles, whose time is short, should galvanize them to make their lives count now.
(Thomas R. Schreiner, 1, 2 Peter)

I. Clarity of Mind for Prayer

"But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers." (1 Peter 4:7)

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⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. . . ¹³ Therefore, **preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded**, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **(1 Pet 1:6–7, 13)**

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **(1 Peter 5:8)**

Just as the body becomes sluggish through drunkenness and sleep, rendering it unfit for the performance of its duties, so the vain cares and pleasures of this world intoxicate the mind and make it drowsy.
(John Calvin)

II. Sincerity Toward One Another

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.

(1 Peter 4:8–10)

A. Earnest Love

Above all, **keep loving one another earnestly**, since love covers a multitude of sins." **(1 Peter 4:8)**

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. **(Proverbs 10:12)**

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart. **(1 Peter 1:22)**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. **(John 13:34–35)**

And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **(Matthew 24:12–13)**

B. Practical Love

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. **Show hospitality** to one another without grumbling. **(1 Peter 4:8–9)**

Then, as now, there were guests who might overstay their welcome or take advantage of their host's hospitality. This serves as a reminder that hospitality must be extended warmly and sincerely—only then does it have true value. (William Kelly)

C. Serving Love

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... **(1 Peter 4:10–11)**

But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **(1 Peter 2:20–21)**

What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?
(1 Cor. 4:7)

Whatever gift we have received, we should regard it as a gift entrusted to us for the benefit of others. We must not keep it to ourselves or hide it under a basket, but should use it diligently in serving one another. (Matthew Henry)

III. Precision in Understanding Our Purpose

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly... Show hospitality to one another... As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another... **in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.** Amen. **(1 Peter 4:7–11)**

The twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 'Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'
(Revelation 4:10–11)

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, **they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.** (1 Peter 2:11-12)

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

A holy man will follow after spiritual-mindedness. He will endeavor to set his affections entirely on things above, and to hold things on earth with a very loose hand. He will not neglect the business of the life that now is; but the first place in his mind and thoughts will be given to the life to come. He will aim to live like one whose treasure is in heaven, and to pass through this world like a stranger and pilgrim travelling to his home. (J.C. Ryle, Holiness)