

Steadfast

Announcement:

Property Subdivision Application is done and approved
2020 World Missions Giving

1 Peter 4 NIV

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. **8** Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. **9** Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. **11** If 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.

Vs. 7

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

- If we really believe that we live in the last days, it is all the more important that we pray.
- And to pray we must be alert and of a sober mind...
- The text says so that you may pray...
- The NKJV says "be serious and watchful"
- There is a need to be serious and watchful, alert and of sober mind. These are the very things that activate a fervent and effective prayer life in every one of us.
- We must give ourselves to serious, alert prayer
- We must give ourselves to watchful, sober prayer

As the day of the Lord's coming draws closer
May we be Steadfast in Prayer

Vs. 8

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

When the Apostle Peter says Above all, meaning above everything else, love each other deeply; that takes precedence to God.

What he wants is the our motivation to be in love...

Our Actions to be out of love...

Our Words to be out of love...

In the last days love will be put to the test, not just in the world but in the church.

Matthew 24

9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. **10** At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, **11** and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. **12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

In the day in which we live, “do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.” *Romans 12:21*

Not only are we to above all else love one another...

But we are to love one another deeply...

And Vs.9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

That means I think about you...

I speak of you the same as I speak to you... "Without Grumbling"

I pray for you...

I reach out to you...

I miss you when your gone...

I value you as a brother or sister in the Lord...

I forgive you before you ask...

I look to forgive...

...because love covers over a multitude of sins.

As the day of the Lord's coming draws closer

May we be Steadfast in our Love for One Another

Vs. 10,11

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

11 If 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.

Each one has a gift...

That gift is for serving the Lord and serving others...

We are called to use that gift as **faithful stewards of God's Grace...**

Story: This past week I had the honor of doing two funerals for two wonderful people: Mary Trujillo and Al Robles

I'm so thankful that Mary and Al both loved the Lord and gave me all the material I needed to preach good funeral services...

- I have done so many funerals over the past 12 years of Senior Pastoring. Some have been easier than others.
- Over the past 12 years there have been funerals where there was no profession of faith.
- Most I would say were for people who did profess faith in Jesus.
- But then there were those that blew my mind.
- They really left a lasting impression on me.
- They cause me to reflect back on them again and again.
- They make ask the question, what did they do different.
- Do you what to know which ones those where?

They were the funerals where the lives of the people in the service Loved God and Served God because the person in the coffin Loved God and lived a life of Serving God and Serving Others.

I am convinced that what God expect from us is very simple.

First - believe in Jesus and what he did for us on the cross.

Second - be filled with His Word and the Holy Spirit

Third - serve Him with our lives and serve others out of our relationship with him.

- **We can't just say we believe in God we have to serve Him...**
- **In other words: When I get to Heaven and Jesus asks me what did I do for him what will I say?**

Galatians 6

9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. **10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- There is a Calling to do good...
- There is a Calling to Reap a Harvest...

What is this doing good?

It is the calling to advance the Kingdom of God in my place of influence...

- If you want your kids and your grandkids to grow up and loving and serving God. Don't just talk about Jesus show them what it looks like to love God by serving Him.

Can you imagine a football player going to practice after practice after practice but never going to the game.
before long the player becomes discouraged...

So many Christians become dissatisfied in their walk with God because they come to church and receive and receive and receive but they never do anything with all that they receive.

Oh it's fun to get in the game.

It's fun serving God and getting a win for Jesus...

James 4:17 T-Shirt Edition

"Faith without works is dead"

1 Corinthians 15

55

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Closing:

What Grace has God given you to Steward?

What Gifting do you have?

What are you good at?

What areas of influence do you have that you could use to further the Kingdom of God?

How can you use that Gifting or Influence or Strength to Serve the Lord and others for the Kingdom of God?

Steadfast in Prayer

Steadfast in Loving Others

Steadfast in Serving the Lord