

Life Is Too Short To...

November 20, 2016

I. Living in End Times

- *The faith we live out will separate us from the world we live in.*

1 Peter 4:7-11 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 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.

A. The biblical statement the end is near is not a call to eschatological frenzy.

- Jesus taught we are living in the end times.

Luke 12:40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

- The early church believed we are living in the end times.

James 5:7-8 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

- Some will scoff at the idea of living in the end times.

2 Peter 3:3-4 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

2 Peter 3:8-9 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

B. New Testament Teaching

- The end times teaching of the New Testament does not focus on what life will be like THEN and THERE.
- The focus of the New Testament is how we should live HERE and NOW because the end is near.

Acts 1:11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

II. Five Things Life Is Too Short For

1. Life Is Too Short To Not Think Clearly

1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

A. We must allow our spirits to wake up our bodies.

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- When we drop our spiritual guard, we set ourselves up for spiritual defeat.
- A lack of holiness leads to a warped perception of God.

B. When our minds are clear, we can clearly communicate with God.

- Our thinking becomes clouded when we lose focus of our priorities.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- Our thinking becomes clouded when we focus on our anxieties.

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

- A prayerful life leads to a clarity of thought.
- An apathy towards God is a sign of cloudy thinking.

C. Life is short. Pray clearly.

2. *Life Is Too Short To Hold A Grudge*

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

A. Real love is not an emotion, but a decision.

- Real love is expressed in moments of conflict.
- Love is a decision that is made before, during, and after an offense.

B. Real love covers over a multitude of sins.

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.

- Real love chooses forgiveness over grudges.

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Luke 17:3-4 So watch yourselves. If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them.

1 Corinthians 13:5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

A. Real love covers during construction.

- Love does not atone or excuse the sins of others.

James 5:20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Proverbs 17:9 Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a

grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

- Until something can be fixed, love says it can be covered.

C. Life is short. Love deeply.