

“This is No Time To...”

Text: 1 Peter 4:7-11 Date: July 10, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The end of all things is near. Therefore... (vs. 7a)

Jesus said there would be terrible times in the last days (Matthew 24:4-28)

- There will be false “messiahs” (5)
- There will be wars and rumors of wars (6)
- There will be increased natural catastrophes (7b)
- There will be increased persecution against the saints (9)
- There will be a great falling away due to an increase of deception and wickedness (10-12)
- There will be some who stand firm to the end (13)
- The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to all “ethne” (14)

So THIS is what Peter has in his mind when he says, “the end of all things is near, therefore” THIS IS NO TIME...

...To Be Prayerless (vs. 7b)

⁷ *...be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.*

...To Have Shallow Relationships (vs. 8-9)

⁸ *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.* ⁹ *Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.*

...To Disengage (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. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Hospitality Challenge

I will open my home for friendship and worship.

I will invite people to my home at least _____ x's per month starting _____.

ALSO... I will not be uptight. I will not be embarrassed if my house is a mess. I will serve simple foods. I will grant refrigerator rights and sofa privileges. I will shamelessly ask people to load the dishwasher. If need be, I will show people where to turn off the lights and head to bed. And if I wake up to a mess in the morning, I will smile and thank God for the privilege of being a part of deepening the friendship and worship of my church family.

I will also not feel compelled to do the specifics in the above paragraph but it does give me a picture of the kind of atmosphere we're shooting for! ☺

Name (optional): _____

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. In what ways are you living today light of the fact that we may very well be "in the last few sentences of the last chapter" of world history?
2. Why do you think Peter stated that we need to be sober, alert, clear-minded, etc. in order to pray well? What are those things that would dull the heart and mind spiritually, emotionally, and physically?
3. On a scale from 1-10, how "deep" would say your relationships with other believers are right now? What could you do that would take your relationships at least one step deeper?
4. Do you know what your spiritual gift is? If so, are you being FAITHFUL to use it? And if so, are you careful to be FILLED with the Spirit so that only God gains the glory? If not, what will you do moving forward?
5. Prayerfully consider signing on "The Hospitality Challenge"