

## 1 Peter 4:7-11 Living in the Last Days Part 2

<sup>7</sup> But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. <sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “*love will cover a multitude of sins.*” <sup>9</sup> Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Last week we started chapter 4 in our series here in 1 Peter week 17 in our deep dive!

A) Last week the title of the message was Living in the Last days part 1 – today is part 2

B) We are calling it that because of Peter's statement he makes in V.7 **The end of all things is at hand.**

C) The primary concept of “end” is that of the achievement of an intended goal or the conclusion of a process.

D) So here is what we need to understand – what is happening is not random –

1) it is the orchestrating of a plan

**E) God has a TIME TABLE**

At times we can feel like God is taking forever, but he says – no, things are moving right on schedule

A) Delays – More saved – none perish –

Aa) So question: How many of you were not saved in 1996? 1999? 2005? 2010? 2015? 2020?

B) If the rapture happened before any of those years – all of you would have been left behind –

1) gone through the Tribulation time

C) Last week we talked about how the Holy Spirit inspired the NT writers 2,000 yrs ago to write about the soon return of Jesus

D) The Reason: God's time table – a day..... 1,000 yrs as a day

E) But more importantly – God Knows that His bride is more impactful and effective –

1) when we live like Jesus could come today!

And last week we talked about some of the signs that were indicators that we could be living in the last of the last days.

A) Although we don't know what that means

B) But one of the things that I pointed to was Zechariah 12:2 where the Lord declares that in the last days the city of Jerusalem would be a stumbling block for all the surrounding nations

C) We talked about how the latest battle between Israel and Palestine

1) has centered once again completely around the control of Jerusalem

D) A city in the middle east that Square miles is about the size of OCSD

Well the battle has come to a cease fire but the tension against Israel is heating up

A) Last week the United nations met to discuss Israel

Headlines: UN rights chief: **Israeli strikes in Gaza may be war crimes – Associated press**

Islamic nations ask UN to form unprecedented permanent panel to critique Israel

B) For over 80 yrs Leaders from around the world have been attempting to broker a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians –

C) Two more recent attempts

In 2000, at Camp David, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat a Palestinian state in all of Gaza and 94% of the West Bank with East Jerusalem as its capital.

D) But Arafat rejected the offer.

E) In the words of U.S. President Bill Clinton, Arafat was “here 14 days and said no to everything.”

**In 2008, Israel tried again.**

A) Prime Minister Ehud Olmert went even further than Ehud Barak had, expanding the peace offer to include additional land to sweeten the deal.

B) The Palestinians said no, again.

C) The main reason the Palestinian keep rejecting peace proposals is it means that a Jewish state in the Middle East would still exist –

1) That is the problem

**D) There are 22 Arab states in the Middle East, but there is no room for one Jewish state.**

1) The Hatred runs that deep – and it is centered primarily over occupation of Jerusalem

E) So Don't get too excited about peace talks –

1) when they start saying peace, peace, sudden destruction is coming

**Keep an eye on Iran:**

A) Iran has a deep seeded hatred for Israeli –

B) Several of their leaders in recent years have been quoted as saying – “Israeli needs to be blown off the map”

**C) In 2015 maps were produced in the middle east that did not show Israel existing**

1) The Collins Atlas did the same thing – no Israel on it's 2015 Atlas

D) Today there are at least 25 countries that do not recognize Israel as a nation

**This past week Iran has been taking credit for the recent war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza**

A) A Hamas official has said the Palestinians won the latest war against Israel thanks to the support provided by Iran.”

B) Hamas uses Iranian technology for its drones and missiles –

1) Iran doesn't just send financial assistance, but provides technical know-how.

C) Hamas would not have a rocket arsenal if it wasn't for Iran; Iran made Hamas what it is.

D) And now Iran is openly admitting how much of a role it played in the conflict that began on May 10.

**E) This was a quote that came out of Iran last week-** “Much of the credit for the potency of the Palestinian resistance in Gaza today belongs to Iran, which for some years now has been training Palestinian fighters in weapons and tactics, and has aided them in amassing a vast arsenal of missiles.”

**Now Some of you might be thinking – Who cares that is happening in a part of the world I have never been and know little about**

A) Here is the Significance: Ezekiel 38 prophesies in the last days a confederation of nations will come against Israel – **led by Russia and Iran**

B) Russia and Iran have a partnership already – they exchange troops for military purposes

C) For years Russia was the major source in supplying Iran with advanced conventional arms 1) as well as know-how and technology for its ballistic missiles and chemical and biological warfare programs,

D) Russia is also the sole source of civilian nuclear technology.

**E) And now that the arms embargo against Iran was lifted in October of 2020 –**

1) arms sales between Russia and Iran are ramping up again - Always keep an eye on Iran

**So in light of the events that we see going on in the world –**

A) The Bible admonishes us as believers to redeem the time! –

B) Are you just counting time or are you making time count?"

1) Don't just spend time, invest your time.

**C) How do we redeem the time – make it count?**

D) Last week – 4 things Resist sin / Renounce our Past/ Run toward the will of God / REACH the lost

**Today a few more insights**

A) #1 Be Sober minded and given to prayer

**B) Serious and watchful – carries the idea of being Sober minded**

1) Several translations – Alert and sober minded

**C) Opposite of – not cavalier or reckless**

**Interesting that this phrase sober minded is also used in Mark 5:15 about the Demon possessed man who seemed insane - naked**

A) After his meeting with Jesus – was clothed and in his right mind

**B) Sober minded carries the idea of being clear headed and not moved by our emotions!**

**C) This is why this is exhortation is connected to prayer - -**

1) it is when we are given to prayer that we learn to responds in the spirit rather than react in the flesh

**D) I have learned the importance of stepping back to pray – instead of just reacting**

1) “Speak my mind” – emotional or angry

**Prayer can sometimes be a hard discipline for us – but I think part of the problem is our approach.**

A) We tend to approach prayer as an activity. – I am going to set up a time to pray.

**B) I am going to a prayer meeting- and there is nothing necessarily wrong with either of those ideas.**

**C) But the Bible tells us to pray without ceasing – the idea is one of dependency and connection.**

1) Realization of I realize my constant need to stay in connection with Jesus

**But the idea of praying without ceasing also carries the idea of relationship.**

A) Think of it this way: I don't “**Schedule times to talk with my wife Denise**”

**B) Every morning at 6am we are going to talk to one another for 30 minutes**

1) I will talk for 15 and I will listen for 15

**C) No we talk throughout the day. We text throughout the day – why we are in a relationship.**

1) Sometimes we talk about important things – sometimes meaningless things

**D) Sometimes we are sharing deep issues on our hearts –**

1) Other times we are just laughing and enjoying each other company

**Here is my point: My prayer life took on new meaning when I started approaching talking to God like talking to my wife. But with more reverence! 😊**

A) Less about a specific set time of prayer and more about – just talking throughout the day.

**B) Walking, driving, sitting – something or someone pops into my head – I am talking to God about it**

**C) Because what we have is a relationship.**

1) I want to include Jesus in everything that is going on in my life –

**D) Always seeking his heart – wisdom – setting aside time to just sit and be still and allow him to speak to my heart**

**E) So first things we note today Peter says about Redeeming the time – Be sober and alert in prayer.**

**#2 Be Loving - And above all things-**

A) The words Above all things reminds us of the primacy of love among God's people.

**B) Love is the badge of a believer in this world (John 13:34,35).**

**1) By this they will know that you are my disciples.....**

**C) Peter is going to describe two ways that we are called to love – Fervently and graciously**

<sup>8</sup> **And above all things have fervent love for one another**

A) The word fervent literally means strenuously.

**B) It's a word that in ancient times described a horse at full gallop.**

1) That horse was stretching and straining its muscles. That's the word for fervent.

**C) It also described an athlete who would stretch or strain his or her muscles to win the race,**

1) To give it all that they had in order to win!

**So now let me retranslate it: "When you love people, give it all you've got.**

**A)When you love people, hold nothing back in your love for them.**

**B)Love people like you're trying to win the Love Olympics. That's loving fervently, strenuously.**

**C)This same word for fervently is used of Jesus in Luke 22:44 when he was praying the garden of Gethsemne**

<sup>44</sup> **And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly.**

**(Fervently) Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**

**Here is what we learn from this: Christian love takes work!**

**A)Doesn't just happen or come easy -**

**B)To Love fervently is going to require us to be stretched and pressed on –**

**1)and pressed out of our comfort zones and our natural tendencies**

**C)Often times our reluctance to love flows from an unwillingness to work at it**

**1)It is easier to run from difficult situations and people –**

**2)easier to isolate than to be vulnerable and pressed and stretched.**

**Let me just say this: Fervent love for others flows out of a fervent love for Jesus**

**A)Which flows from understanding how deeply we have been loved by Jesus**

**B)It all flows together!**

**C)Let me just speak from the heart here for a moment –**

**D)Fervent love is one of the things I am deeply concerned about for all of us.**

**Prior to Covid – I think many people in the Church in America had become a little nonchalant in their fervency toward Jesus**

**A)Easy to go through the motions – easy to take things for granted –**

**B)Which is one of the reasons why church attendance amongst Christians in America**

**1)had dropped to an average of 1.3 Sundays per month prior to Covid**

**C)Now Most of you were not average – don't be average**

**And Church attendance is not the end all.**

**A)But here is what we noticed around here when we opened up after months of being shutdown**

**B) There was a Vibrancy – renewed appreciation – started when outside – grew moved inside**

**C) Fervency in worship we had not seen in a long time –**

**1)You have always been a worshipping church –But when we came back – you took it to another level**

**C)I felt an engagement from you as I was teaching – that I had not experienced in a long time**

**Here is my encouragement – Don't lose that –**

**A)Lets stay fervent in our Love for Jesus**

**B)and our appreciation for gathering and studying the word of God – AMEN**

**1)Lets stir up one another to love and good works**

**I think living like Jesus could return at any moment is a part of that**

**A)Think of it this way: Two people waiting for a train to arrive at the station**

**B)One person is the station agent in the ticket office.**

**C)He is an authority on the train schedule, he knows all the in's and out of train schedule**

**1)he knows exactly when the train is due. Well versed in train schedules**

**The other person is a young bride-to-be who is looking for her lover to come on the next train.**

**A)She does not know a great deal about the train schedules**

**B)the only reason why she is interested in this schedule is because of him who is coming.**

C)She was told that her Man was coming on the 3pm train!

1)She is there early

D)Who is going to be more excited about the 3pm train? The Station agent or the Bride to be?

**We are the bride to be!**

A)But sometimes we can resemble the Station agent – we are well versed in Prophecy Schedules

**B)We are aware of the prophecies – we watch the times and seasons**

C)We have knowledge that Jesus is coming and based on our calculations it could be soon!

D)But we are not excitedly anticipating his return like the bride waiting for her lover!

1)We need to be more like the Bride

**My mentor Jon Courson – made this observation about the Jesus people movement**

A)lots of talk about prophecy – Jesus coming

B)But When Jesus didn't come – quite a few people who got saved in the Jesus people movement

1)walked away from the Lord

C)Courson made this observation: **A lot of people were excited about the coming of the Lord – rather than the Lord who was coming!**

1)It needs to be both

**Love Fervently – Starts with having a fervent love for Jesus**

A)Left your first love ?– Repent Return

B)So we are to love fervently – and we are to love graciously <sup>8</sup>And above all things have fervent love for one another, for *“love will cover a multitude of sins.”*

**C)F. F. Bruce** - Love covers unworthy things rather than bringing them to the light and magnifying them

D)Noah after the flood – Wine – drunk and exposed 1)Ham saw him and told his brothers – check out dad – Ham exposed his fathers sin

E)The other two brothers got a blanket and walked in backwards

**Love is that beautiful virtue that throws a cloak of silence over what is displeasing in another person**

A)Such a love will not publicize the faults and failings of other believers, but will protect them from public view.

Grudem – “Where love abounds in a fellowship of Christians, many small offences, and even some large ones, are readily overlooked and forgotten. But where love is lacking, every word is viewed with suspicion, every action is liable to misunderstanding, and conflicts about - to Satan's perverse delight.”

B)Above all things – Be loving – Badge of honor for the church – Love fervently and graciously

**#3 Be Hospitable**

A)Hospitality" is a New Testament word that literally means loving the stranger.

**B)Hospital" comes from that, where you'd set up a system to treat people.**

C)Some hospitals have that kind of reputation – Atmosphere of love and care

1)Scott and Amanda with Lennon at the Hospital – Incredible

D)The body of Christ is to be like a Hospital – in caring for the needy – the hurting

E)If you are bringing someone into your home – same idea – they feel welcomed – the opposite of cold

1)Communal living was more a part of the Norm in the first century – than today

**Notice Peter says: Be hospitable to one another without grumbling**

A)This is the ultimate test of sincere hospitality.

B)Is your hospitality "without grudging or murmuring"?

C)Sometimes we begrudgingly respond to needs – 1)that is hypocritical and most of the time people can tell

D)For sure the Lord sees – we lose our reward!

1) Be Hospitable without grumbling

**#4 Be good stewards -<sup>10</sup> As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

A) The Manifold grace of God – what does that mean – Intake manifold – exhaust manifold

B) What is the Meant by the Manifold grace of God ?

C) Manifold = many colored – many shades of his grace.

**This is the point that Peter is making here: God's grace is most clearly seen when everyone in the body of Christ is using their gifts!**

A) When God's grace is shown through one person who has the gift of Hospitality – the color blue

B) Another person gift of encouragement – Purple – Helps – Red

1) Giving the color green

C) All together it creates this beautiful array of color.

1) Idea

**Now Peter divides the gifts into two Categories – Speaking and Serving**

<sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Those who speak –**

A) Those who seek to encourage and give advice and counsel – those who teach – words of prophecy

B) Make sure what you are sharing is in line with what the Word of God says

1) and not your own opinion –

C) What does God's word say about something vs what Culture says

D) Stressing the importance of God's word and having a Biblical worldview

E) Not just truth though but also heart – Speak the truth in Love –

1) One translation – speak as though God were speaking through you!

**So those who speak – speak in line with God's word and God's heart**

A) And those who serve – do it with the strength that God supplies

B) Here is a phrase that should never be a part of a Christians vocabulary are the words I CAN'T

C) The beauty of God amongst his people is using Ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

**D) The result is – God gets glorified – Peter says that is the goal**

1) The Glory of God

**Close with this: Village in France bombed in World War II**

A) Famous statue of Jesus – destroyed – able to rebuild it from original pieces – All except for the Hands

B) Statue of Jesus with no hands – Plague which read – He has no hands but ours. -

C) That's the concept that I want to leave you with ---he has no hands but yours.

D) He has no feet but yours. He has no mouth but yours.

**E) We're the body of Christ.**

1) We're the expression of Jesus Christ by what we do.