**I Peter 4:7-11**

 ***The End Of All Things Is At Hand***

Introduction

1. Can America survive?

2. *The end of all things is at hand.* How are we to live?

3. I Peter 4:7-11 the coming of Christ is closer today than ever in history. *When you see these*

*things begin to culminate…look up because your redemption draws neigh.*

*The end of all things is at hand.* How are we to live?

**I. A CALL TO PERSONAL STABILITY 4:7**

*Therefore* in light of the end of all things is at hand:

1. ***To Live Soundly...a Peaceful Mind***
2. *Sober minded* is to be clear minded…reasonable, sensible. *Keep your mind steady and clear.*
3. The word *sober minded* does not mean asleep, but intoxicated. Self controlled, which is the opposite of intoxicated. *Remain alert and under control in faculties and feelings.* **We need to see Jesus!**
4. The church today is drunk on the world. We live and act like everyone else. **Sober up!**
5. ***To Live Sacrificially...a Prayerful Mouth***

*For the purpose of prayer (NASV)*

1. It is easy to be drunk on this world and live in fear and worry. It is easy to become distracted and our prayers be hindered.
2. God is calling His people to pray.

*The end of all things is at hand.* How are we to live?

**II. A CALL TO PRACTICAL SACRIFICE 4:8-9**

(John 13:34, 35)

 ***A. Love Is Primary 8a***

*Above all things have fervent love among yourselves.*

1. *Above all or before all* Love is the summit. Love is a priority before anything

else. **Love!**

1. *Love* is a noun. It is *agape* love. There are 4 main words for love in the Greek:

*Phileo* is the love of brother. *Eros* which is sensual love. *Starga* is family love. *Agape* love is nearly foreign in extra biblical writings. God is *love.* It is a self giving, self sacrificing love as in (John 3:16). God is the Author. It is a Fruit of the Spirit. I don’t try to love. God’s love flows through me to others. **SELF must die! The controls must be turned over to the Holy Spirit.**

1. *Fervantly*  is a word used of a horse at full gallop reaching for the wire. It is an

arm wrestler who strains at all out effort. **It’s easy to get wrapped up in ourselves.**

 ***B. Love Is Powerful 8b***

*For* gives the reason love needs to be maintained, and self must die. *For love shall*

 *cover a multitude of sins.*

1. Love does not cover up sin before God. It does not look the other way with

rioters, anarchists, or those who would break the law (JUST LOVE).

1. With brothers in Christ love never exposes and humiliates.
2. *Sins* means to miss the mark or standard. Love’s action is necessary because all Christians at times miss the mark. Love forgives over and over. Love overlooks misses to see what God is producing. **Be patient. Christians will fail until Jesus comes!**

 ***C. Love Is Practical 9***

Due to persecution many Christians were scattered. Christian hospitality was

 essential.

1. *Hospitality* is “one who has an affectionate concern for strangers that expresses itself in offering food and shelter.” It is a heart that shares what God has given.
2. We in America have so much. We have a greater responsibility not to promote a welfare state, but to lend a hand to pull someone up so they can stand. How many NBA players are giving ½ or more of their $100 million salaries to help the African American??
3. *Without grudging* means to mutter or speak in a low voice of displeasure. It is the opposite of a cheerful spirit. Hospitality is seen with an open heart and open pocketbook.
4. It’s easy to be selfish unless the Spirit is in control. **It’s Mine: my home, my money, my family, my time…we are not owners. We are managers of what is His!**
5. **You can lose what is mine!**

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**III. A CALL TO POSITIVE SERVICE 4:10-11**

 ***A. The Basis of Service 10a***

*As every man has received a gift.* BLM needs this emphasis…Not ‘poor me’, but you

 are special. You are free. You are gifted. Use that gift!!If it were not for slavery

 (slavery is horrible) you would still be in Africa. Millions in Africa would love to

 have the opportunity that you have right now.

1. (Eph. 2:8-10) *We are created in Christ Jesus unto good works, that was before*

*ordained that you should walk in them.* Before you were born God had a plan and purpose for you.

*\**Grow where you are planted. A *gift* is what someone else gives to you.

**2.** *“I can’t do anything.”* Satan has deceived you. What do you like to do? What

 can you do? **Do it to the glory of God!**

 ***B. The Bond of Service 10b***

**1.** *Even so minister the same…*we have an obligation. We are stewards of the gifts

 God has given. We are responsible. We are **all** stewards. We have been

 entrusted with gifts to advance the kingdom.

1. *Of the manifold grace of God…*What we have belongs to Him. Look at what you

have. **Use it!**

**\****Manifold grace…Manifold* means, varied or many colored. You are who you are by God’s design and for God’s purpose!

**\*We make very few important decisions: where you are born…when you are born…to whom you are born…abilities…intelligence or lack of it…**

**\***Christians are the happiest when they are ministering. Negative times produce fear, worry and anxiety. **It is time for God to shine through!!!**

 ***C. The Beauty of Service 11***

**1. The Substance**

 **\*Speaking Gifts…***speaking the oracle of God* The Word of God is essential in

 dark days.

 **\*Serving Gifts** *Serve with the ability that God has given to you.*

**2. The Source** *Ability which God gives*

 *\**What about color or where you live? You are God’s design and you are where

 you are for a purpose.

 **\***As I said, we make very few decisions…**but we determine what we will do**

 **with who and with what we have.**

1. **The Substance** *that in* ***all*** *things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*

 **\***How often we launch out in our strength and our ability. The focus is then on us.

 **\*It’s not about you! Who is seen?**

 **4. The Summary** *To whom be praise and dominion forever and ever…Amen.*

**Our God reigns…give Him praise!!**

 *The end of all things is at hand.* How are we to live?

**Has SELF been crucified so that nothing but Jesus is seen?**

**IT’S TIME FOR JESUS TO SHINE THROUGH!!**