

# 1 Peter 4:7-11 “The End Of All Things Is At Hand”

**7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.**

- It is interesting how many times good conduct is associated with the faithful in the “end times.”
- Distinguishing attribute of the church today? Hardly!

**2 Timothy 3:1-7** But know this, that **in the last days perilous times will come:**

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,<sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,<sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,<sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. **And from such people turn away!** 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- Our conduct must reflect the times – in opposition to nature!

**Romans 13:11-14** And do this, **knowing the time**, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. **12** The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. **13** Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

**2 Peter 3:10-15** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. **11** **Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,** **12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? **13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

**14** Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, **be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;** **15** and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

- **“Serious”**: to exercise self control; to curb one’s passions. 1

*I am afraid we modern Christians are long on talk and short on conduct. We use the language of power but our deeds are the deeds of weakness. We settle for words in religion because deeds are too costly.*

*It is easier to pray, "Lord, help me to carry my cross daily" than to pick up the cross and carry it; but since the mere request for help to do something we do not actually intend to do has a certain degree of religious comfort, we are content with the mere repetition of the words.*

**-- A. W. Tozer**

**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,23 gentleness, **self-control**. Against such there is no law.

- Some have suggested that the list of the “fruit of the Spirit” are in order of importance – that “self-control” is the least important “fruit.”

- How important is it for your children to exercise “self-control?”
- How important is it for you?

- **“Watchful”**: to be sober, to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect. 2

- Jesus commanded us to be watchful:

**Mark 13:32-37** “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.33 “Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.34 “It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.35 **“Watch therefore**, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—36 “lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.37 **“And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”**

- Apostle Paul repeated this command to his readers:

**1 Thessalonians 5:6-8** Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us **watch and be sober**. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

- It is also the calling of every Pastor to watch over his flock and tend the sheep:

1Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

2Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

**Hebrews 13:17** Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

○ **Let us pray thus:**

**Psalms 141:3-4** Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth;  
Keep watch over the door of my lips.

**4** Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works  
With men who work iniquity; And do not let me eat of their delicacies.

**8** And above all things have **fervent** love for one another, for “love will **cover** a multitude of sins.”

- **Fervent:** stretched out <sup>3</sup>
  - “Deeply” (“stretched” or “strained”) was used to describe the taut muscles of an athlete who strains to win a race. <sup>4</sup>

*“The most important thing my dad ever taught me is that there are more important things than me.”*

-- **John Ashcroft**, United States Attorney General. Men of Integrity, Vol. 1, no. 2.

*“I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we react to it.”*

-- **Charles Swindoll**. Leadership, Vol. 16, no. 2.

- **Cover:** to hide, veil; to hinder the knowledge of a thing <sup>5</sup>
  - This kind of strenuously maintained love is not blind but sees and accepts the faults of others (cf. Prov. 10:12; 1 Cor. 13:4-7). <sup>6</sup>

**Proverbs 10:12** Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

*“Where love abounds in a fellowship of Christians, many small offenses, 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 abound - to Satan's perverse delight.”* (**Grudem**)

**1 John 4:1-21** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.<sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.<sup>4</sup> You are of

<sup>3</sup>Enhanced Strong's Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

<sup>4</sup>Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

<sup>5</sup>Enhanced Strong's Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

<sup>6</sup>Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.<sup>5</sup> They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.<sup>6</sup> We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

**7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.<sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

<sup>12</sup> No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.<sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.<sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.<sup>16</sup> And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

<sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.<sup>19</sup> **We love Him because He first loved us.**

<sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?<sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

**9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.**

- Jesus' own hospitality is amazing considering the company He wants to keep for eternity!

**John 14:1-6** "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.<sup>2</sup> "In My Father's house are many mansions; **if it were not so, I would have told you.** I go to prepare a place for you.<sup>3</sup> "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.<sup>4</sup> "And where I go you know, and the way you know."<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- **Hospitable:** generous to guests <sup>7</sup>
  - philoxenia (filoxeniva , (5381)), love of strangers (,philos loving, ,xenos a stranger), is used in Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2, lit. '(be not forgetful of) hospitality.' <sup>8</sup>
- An essential part of our continued growth at CCSM – being generous to our guests.
  - Not just meeting newcomers – connecting with them.
  - Remember their names, connect with them next week, remind them of your concern and prayers for their particular situations.

**Hebrews 13:1-2** Let brotherly love continue. 2 **Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.**

- “Without grumbling”
  - goggusmos { gong-goos-mos’}**
  - AV - murmuring 3, grudging 1; 4
  - GK - 1198 { goggusmov" }
  - 1) a murmur, murmuring, muttering
    - 1a) a secret debate
    - 1b) **a secret displeasure not openly avowed** <sup>9</sup>

- You never feel as though you have worn out your welcome
- You are as comfortable with your guests as you would be with your own family
- “We better go to bed so these people can go home” - Gordonism

**Philippians 2:14-16** **Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

**Philemon 14** But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might **not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary.**

**James 5:9** Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

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*“Serve the Lord with gladness.”*

*— Psalm 100:2*

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<sup>7</sup>Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

<sup>8</sup>Vine, W. E., *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell) 1981.

<sup>9</sup>Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

*Delight in divine service is a token of acceptance. Those who serve God with a sad countenance, because they do what is unpleasant to them, are not serving him at all; they bring the form of homage, but the life is absent. Our God requires no slaves to grace his throne; he is the Lord of the empire of love, and would have his servants dressed in the livery of joy. The angels of God serve him with songs, not with groans; a murmur or a sigh would be a mutiny in their ranks. That obedience which is not voluntary is disobedience, for the Lord looketh at the heart, and if he seeth that we serve him from force, and not because we love him, he will reject our offering. Service coupled with cheerfulness is heart-service, and therefore true. Take away joyful willingness from the Christian, and you have removed the test of his sincerity. If a man be driven to battle, he is no patriot; but he who marches into the fray with flashing eye and beaming face, singing, "It is sweet for one's country to die," proves himself to be sincere in his patriotism. Cheerfulness is the support of our strength; in the joy of the Lord are we strong. It acts as the remover of difficulties. It is to our service what oil is to the wheels of a railway carriage. Without oil the axle soon grows hot, and accidents occur; and if there be not a holy cheerfulness to oil our wheels, our spirits will be clogged with weariness. The man who is cheerful in his service of God, proves that obedience is his element; he can sing,*

*"Make me to walk in thy commands,  
'Tis a delightful road."*

*Reader, let us put this question—do you serve the Lord with gladness? **Let us show to the people of the world, who think our religion to be slavery, that it is to us a delight and a joy! Let our gladness proclaim that we serve a good Master.** 10*

- **Now, this is hospitality! :**

*The largest single dish in the world is whole roasted camel. To celebrate a wedding or honor a visiting dignitary, Mohammedan tribes in the Arabian, Syrian and North African deserts usually give a feast whose main dish is—in size—without an equal. This is how it is "put together":*

*The eggs are stuffed in fish, the fish stuffed in chickens, the chickens stuffed in sheep, and the roasted sheep stuffed into an entire camel. 11*

**10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

- **"A gift"**

**charisma { khar'-is-mah }**

AV - gift 15, free gift 2; 17

GK - 5922 { cavarisma }

1) a favor with which one receives without any merit of his own

<sup>10</sup>Spurgeon, Charles H., Morning and Evening, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

<sup>11</sup>Tan, Paul Lee, Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations, (Garland, Texas: Bible Communications, Inc.) 1996.

- 2) the gift of divine grace
- 3) the gift of faith, knowledge, holiness, virtue
- 4) the economy of divine grace, by which the pardon of sin and eternal salvation is appointed to sinners in consideration of the merits of Christ laid hold of by faith

5) **grace or gifts denoting extraordinary powers, distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the church of Christ, the reception of which is due to the power of divine grace operating on their souls by the Holy Spirit** <sup>12</sup>

**1 Corinthians 12:1** Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

**1 Corinthians 12:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually **as He wills**.

**1 Corinthians 14:39-40** Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.<sup>40</sup> Let all things be done decently and in order.

**1 Corinthians 14:1-3** Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.<sup>2</sup> For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.<sup>3</sup> But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

- Each **gift** (*charisma*) is to be used **to serve** (*diakonountes*; cf. *diakonos*, “deacon”) or “minister to” **others**. <sup>13</sup>

- **“minister it to one another”**

**diakoneo { dee-ak-on-eh'-o }**

AV - minister unto 15, serve 10, minister 7, misc 5; 37

GK - 1354 { diakonevw }

- 1) to be a servant, attendant, domestic, to serve, wait upon <sup>14</sup>

1. Each one has received a gift
2. Minister it to one another
3. Be good stewards of that gift, grace, investment

*“Rivers gain more attention than the little streams that create them. You can name the great rivers of the world but you cannot name their tributaries. However, without the tributaries there would be no river. It must be remembered, too, that the smaller streams, while less well known, are purer and are found on a*

<sup>12</sup>Enhanced Strong's Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

<sup>13</sup>Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

<sup>14</sup>Enhanced Strong's Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

*higher elevation. Some of our lives are tributary lives. It is our role to provide the pure water from the higher elevation that enables another to be a mighty river of power and influence.”*<sup>15</sup>

**11** 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.

- Peter divided Christian service into two general categories: the one who **speaks** (*laiei*) and the one who **serves** (*diakonei*; cf. v. 10).<sup>16</sup>

**Acts 6:2-5** Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 “Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 “but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude.

1. Speakers speak as though they were speaking the very oracles of God
2. Ministers minister with the hands of God
  - Spirit inspired ability and motivation
  - Sufficiency in Christ, not yourselves
3. Everyone glorifies Jesus Christ to whom everything belongs.

*“He seems to do nothing of Himself which He can possibly delegate to His creatures. He commands us to do slowly and blunderingly what He could do perfectly and in the twinkling of an eye.*

*Creation seems to be delegation through and through. I suppose this is because He is a giver.”*

-- **C.S. Lewis**, *Leadership*, Vol. 10, no. 1.

<sup>15</sup> Robert C. Shannon, *1000 Windows*, (Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing Company, 1997).

<sup>16</sup> Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.