

Saint Pauls Cathedral, Melbourne
Bible Study, Sunday 13th September 2020

We studied 1 Peter 4:1-6

The theme of suffering for righteousness' sake continues from Chapter 3 verse 8 to the whole of Chapter 4. Just as Christ was willing to suffer for us in the flesh, we should have the same attitude and strive to live for the will of God instead of the lusts of men. When we give up sins like lewdness, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, etc., those in the world think you are strange and criticize and abuse and ridicule you and make fun of your values. Yet they themselves will give an account to Him who will judge both the living and the dead by the gospel preached to those who are dead.

This week's passage: 1 Peter 4:7-11

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

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

⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

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.

Summary of 1 Peter 4:7-11

Living in the end times, Peter admonishes Christians to be serious and watchful in their prayers, fervent in their love for one another, and hospitable to one another without grumbling. They are to make use of their gifts as good stewards of God's manifold grace, whether it be in speaking or serving, using such abilities to glorify God through Christ who has all authority and power

Outline of 1 Peter 4:7-11

To Pray, Love, And Serve (v.7-11)

The reason: Because the end of all things is near...

- i) Be of sound mind and sober so that you may pray
- ii) Above all, have fervent love for one another, which covers a multitude of sins

- iii) Be hospitable to one another without grumbling
- iv) Serve with your gifts as faithful stewards of God's manifold
 - Those who speak should do so as the utterances of God
 - Those who serve should do so with the ability God provides
 - That in all things God may be glorified through Jesus, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

v.7 - The end of all things is near.

- What does this mean?

Therefore:

1. Pray (v.7)

be of sound judgment and of sober spirit so that you may pray

- 2 Timothy 3:1-4 describes people of the last days...
- What is sound judgment (7)?
- What is a sober spirit (7)?
- How is your prayer life? (7) Is it improving? Are you spending more time in group and individual prayer than before? Are you satisfied with your prayer life? What is one specific, simple step you could take to improve it in the coming week?

Therefore:

2. Love (v.8)

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

- How do we action this verse?

Therefore:

3. Hospitable (v.9)

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

- In what ways can we (in our current situation) offer hospitality?
- Why would someone complain after offering hospitality?

4. Serve (v.10-11)

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.

- Have you received a gift?
- How could you find out your gift?
- What are gifts for?
- What is the aim of serving one another?

NEW TESTAMENT LISTS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Romans 12:6-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 28-30
- Ephesians 4:11

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE...

- **S**upernatural abilities
- **S**overeignly given to
- **S**trengthen His
- **S**aints who are to
- **S**erve (minister) one another being good
- **S**tewards of the manifold grace of God

EXPLANATION POINTS

1. The end of all things is near. Near is clearly a relative term. Jesus' first coming ushered in the last days, which last from His first to His second coming. So we are in the end times. To God though, a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as a day. Therefore, the last days could last quite a while. One thing is certain though. We are almost 2000 years closer than Peter and his readers were!

2. This knowledge should motivate us to:

a) Be self-controlled. Don't fall into temptation. Don't stray from the narrow path. We don't want to be caught with our hand in the cookie jar when Christ returns.

b) Be sober-minded. Take things seriously. Take life seriously. Our time here is limited so we should make the most of it.

c) For the sake of prayer. Be men and women of prayer. Pray for Christ's second coming. Pray for revival. Pray for God's kingdom. Pray, pray, pray without ceasing.

3. Be fervent in our love for one another. Don't allow it to grow cold. Don't just love others out of habit. Don't be complacent showing the same kindnesses to others. Always be thinking what more you can do and how you can improve. It should be exciting for us when we have opportunities to share Christ's love to the people around us.

4. This allow applies to showing hospitality to the people around us. This is an opportunity to spread Christ's love. As a result, we should not hold back or complain about. Do not have a house guest and then complain to your wife or friends about how long they stayed, how much they ate, or the mess that they made. Instead be a servant to really make them feel at home. Everyone can show hospitality to others, even if you don't have your own home. List out some ways that you can show hospitality to others in your current situation.

5. Use our gifts. Are you involved in a local church or fellowship? Are you seek out opportunities to serve others? I believe it is not important to spend a lot of time trying to figure out our gift. Instead start serving. As you serve (and submit to your church's leadership), over time you will naturally slide into the kind of ministry that best suits your needs. Also, gifts are to be developed. For example, although you might be a good teacher you still need to prepare and practice. Although you might be good at singing, you also need to practice. This is the same as natural talents. No matter how talented someone is, practice and discipline can make them better.