**1 Peter: The End of All Things is Near**

1 Peter 4:7

**Context**

**1 Peter 4:7-11**—The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. **8**Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. **9**Be hospitable to one another without complaint. **10**As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **11**Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

As Christians, our joy and delight is living for the Lord Jesus. He is our Savior, our King, and our Master. As we mature in our Christian walk, there is a growing sense of how we can please Him in greater measure day by day. We have an increased appetite for the truth and a greater desire to live in a way that reflects the calling by which we have been called. In many ways, when Christians respond in ways to honor and obey Him, the Lord blesses. His blessing comes with a greater spiritual awakening—with “revival”. It is only when the church genuinely longs to think, speak, and live in the ways that are consistent with the Scriptures will there ever be a church that is impactful and fruitful.

In so many ways, the American church has become apathetic and desensitized to the sin around us. When it loses its hatred for sin in the culture, we become far too accepting of it in our own lives.

Peter in this text helps us to see why we must live differently.

**3 Aspects to our Duty/Privilege to Honor Christ**

1. **Because the End is near**

**7a** The end of all things is near…

1. This “end” becomes our incentive
	1. End (telos)—the end to which all things relate, the aim, purpose[[1]](#footnote-1)
	2. Not related so much to cessation or termination but rather the “consummation, fulfillment, purpose attained, or goal achieved.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
2. The fulfillment of all things has in mind the return of Christ
	1. We ought to be longing for the return of our savior
	2. To bring a consummation of the present age

**Acts 3:20-21**—…and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, **21** whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

**Colossians 3:4**—When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

**2 Thessalonians 1:10**—when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

**2 Timothy 4:1,8**—I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:… **8**in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

**Hebrews 9:28**—so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

1. The end is near
	1. Jesus is coming, literally “approaching”
	2. He is imminently coming
	3. The time could be today

**Matthew 24:37-39**—For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. **38**For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **39**and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

**Romans 13:12**—The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

**1 Thessalonians 5:2**—For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

**Revelation 16:15**—(“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”)

* 1. We live in eager expectation
		1. This is a mark of faithfulness
		2. It identifies our true affections

**1 Peter 1:5, 7**—who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time… **7**so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ

* + 1. Scripture repeatedly speaks of His coming and the believer’s eager expectation

**Mark 13:35-37**—Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—**36**in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. **37**What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’”

**Luke 12:40**—You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”

**21:36**—But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**1 Corinthians 1:7**—so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**1 Timothy 6:14**—that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Titus 2:13**—looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus

**James 5:7-9**—Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. **8**You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. **9**Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

* 1. The inauguration of the New Covenant has come
		1. The OT sacrificial system had ended at Christ’s death
		2. The rituals, sacrifices, priests, and limited access to the Holy of Holies had ended
		3. Access to a Holy God is now possible for all who by faith believe

**Matthew 27:51**—And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

**John 19:30**—Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Cf. **Hebrews 10:14-22**

* + 1. God allowed the Jerusalem temple to be destroyed as a dramatic emphasis to this fact

**Matthew 24:1-2**—Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. **2**And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”

* 1. His coming will be unannounced and unexpected

**1 Corinthians 15:51-53**—Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52**in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53**For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

* 1. He will clothe His children in immortality

**4**And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

**Philippians 3:21**—who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

**2 Timothy 4:8**—in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

* 1. It will also be mysterious

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-17**—For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16**For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17**Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

* + 1. Paul thought it could happen in his lifetime
		2. The church 2000 years later should have a greater expectancy
		3. We are closer today than when these prophecies were given
	1. We meet together to encourage one another as the day gets closer

**Hebrews 10:25**—not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

* + 1. John thought it could occur very soon
		2. Those who read the words of the prophecy and believe living in daily anticipation of it

**Revelation 1:3**—Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

**22:20**—He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

* 1. Jesus told the disciples that it was not for them to know the details

**Acts 1:7**—He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority

**Matthew 24:36**—“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

* + - 1. God does want believers to focus on Christ’s return
			2. But He has not disclosed when exactly it will occur
			3. Why?
				1. If they thought it was far off, they would become complacent
				2. If they knew it was near, they would become panicked as the day approached
				3. Instead, we are to live with balanced expectancy[[3]](#footnote-3)
	1. We will be like Him

**1 John 3:1-2**—See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2**Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

* 1. In the last days, difficult times will come

**2 Timothy 3:1-5**—But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. **2**For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3**unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good **4**treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5**holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

* + 1. They were in the last days/we are in the last days

**1 John 2:18**—Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

* + 1. They began with Christ’s appearing/first coming

**Hebrews 1:1-2**—God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2**in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

* 1. Further details on the consummation

**Hebrews 9:26-28**—Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. **27**And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, **28**so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

* 1. How then should we live in light of these truths
		1. We ought not to: set dates; have an undue preoccupation with unrevealed details; speculating about current events and end time events; or even a “do nothing and wait” attitude
		2. We ought to do: be dressed and ready

**Luke 12:35-37**—Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. **36**Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. **37**Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them.

* + 1. Because we do not know the exact hour, we need to remain vigilant and prepared

**2 Peter 3:10**—But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

1. **With Clear Directives**

**7b**…therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. **8**Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. **9**Be hospitable to one another without complaint. **10**As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **11a**Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies;

1. **For the Glory of God**

**11b**so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Conclusion**

The goal of every Christian is to please the Lord. Part of that desire includes a longing for His return, a clear sense of the directives to accomplish the goal, and an overarching aim to glorify Him in all things. He is worthy of all praise!

**I Corinthians 10:31**—Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

A holy man will follow spiritual-mindedness. He will endeavor to set his affections entirely on things above, and to hold things on earth with a very loose hand. He will not neglect the business of the life that now is; but the first place in his mind and thoughts will be given to the life to come. He will aim to live like one whose treasure is in heaven, and to pass through this world like a stranger and pilgrim travelling to his home.[[4]](#footnote-4)

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter

R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, The Christian’s Duty in a Hostile World, Pt 1, 1 Peter 4:a, Nov 26, 1989, gty.org

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[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Strong’s G5056 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. MacArthur, 235. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. MacArthur, 236. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. JC Ryle, 37. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)