

I Peter 4:7-11

A Servant's Heart that Pleases the Lord

> Peter reminds us in the beginning of verse 7 that “the end of all things is at hand.” How is the truth of Christ’s return significant regarding the topics of this book (suffering for doing right, fulfilling our calling, etc.)? Knowing the time is short helps us endure difficult days, it also motivates us to use the time we have to allow God to accomplish His purposes with our lives.

> What do **verses 7-11** say concerning how we should accomplish each of these commands?

- Prayer: Do so out of self-control and a clear mind.
- Love: Love one another earnestly.
- Hospitality: Do so without grumbling.
- Using your spiritual gift: Use it for the benefit of others.
- Speaking: Speak God’s Word with authority.
- Service: Serve with the ability God gives.

Application

As you look at your life, what impact do you have in the lives of those around you? Consider these thoughts:

- Are your prayers focused on the needs of others, particularly from an eternal perspective?
- Do you show unselfish love and concern for people, even when they are far from being perfect?
- Would people characterize you as gracious and friendly to those around you?
- Can you clearly see how well your spiritual gift is benefiting and helping others?

We get so caught up in our own world that it is easy to forget about those around us. But living for God is always coupled with living for others, for serving others is what pleasing Him! How can you be a better servant to those around you?