

**CP – 1/14/24**

**1 Peter 4:7-11 – Good Stewards of God's Grace**

**Two phrases set up the lens of the text:**

1. "The end of all things is at hand"
2. "as good stewards of God's varied grace"

**This passage does two things:**

1. How we should respond in the realization of "the end of all things"?
2. How we can be good stewards of God's varied grace?

Or it could be said like this:

"The understanding that God is bringing history to an end should motivate believers to be good stewards of God's grace"

**These two work together and teach us:**

**1. We are to depend on God. (4:7)**

- With the knowledge of the end of all things, believers respond sensibly.
- We should be self-controlled and sober-minded.
- This realization should lead us to pray for God to move in whatever time is left.
- This realization should lead us to depend on God, which manifests in prayer.
- This realization should lead us to spend our time in prayer, loving one another, and serving one another.
- What about the outsider?
  - A church that loves one another naturally loves others outside.
- I also believe we see that this realization should provoke us to be good stewards of the grace we've been given and the time we've been given.
- Which leads to verses 8-11, where Peter tells us that we are stewards of God's grace by loving and serving one another.

**2. We are to love one another. (4:8-9)**

- "Above all"
  - John 13:34-35; John 15:12; 1 John 4:7-8, 11, 21; Romans 12:10
- "Keep loving one another earnestly"
  - Earnestly = stretched
  - Loving isn't necessarily easy, but it is necessary.
  - We've missed this somewhere along the way.
  - We tend to shoot our own injured.
- "Love covers a multitude of sins"
  - Not in atoning for sin
  - But dealing with and accepting people even when they sin
  - We become agents of God's grace to a brother who has fallen in sin.

### **3. We are to serve one another (4:10–11)**

- Our gifting comes from God.
- Our gifting is for serving.
- We must be good stewards of God's grace.
  - Spiritual gifts fundamentally are not a privilege but a responsibility. It's a call to be faithful with what has been given.
- "Varied grace" = of many colors
  - 1:6 — "grieved by various trials" (all shapes, shades, and sizes)
  - 4:10 — "varied grace" (all shapes, shades, and sizes)
  - There is no trial that we face that God's grace cannot fit.
    - **God uses his people to be instruments of grace to one another by loving and serving.**
    - **That's the gift of God's people to God's people.**
- All for his purpose and glory
  - Speaking and serving

\*\*\*When we are loving and serving one another, we will be good stewards of the grace that God has given us.

### **Application**

**We exist for God's glory by committing ourselves to God's Truth, God's People, and God's Mission.**

**Committing to a church in 2024 is counter-cultural.**

### **Who (not what) do we commit to?**

- The church is all people from all time who have been saved by God's grace.
- We commit to a local body of born-again believers.
- We commit ourselves to a people.

### **Why do we commit?**

- For instruction of God's Word
- To serve and edify one another through the proper use of spiritual gifts
- To participate in the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Baptism
- For the Great Commission
- It gives us a context to obey the "one another" commands in the NT.

### **How do we commit?**

- We are a people in place. (Sunday morning gathering)
- We are a people in places. (Weekly small groups)