

I Peter 4:1-11

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7-25-18

The Blessings of Living As Stewards of Grace (vv. 1-11)

Union With Christ in Death to Sin (v. 1)

V. 1 - "has suffered in the flesh" - i.e. Christ's suffering for sins on the cross (3:18)

- "Ceased from sin" = his death finished his _____ with our sin.
- Principle applied to us: death to sin, alive to righteousness (2:24; cf. Rom. 6:8-12)

The Liberty of Salvation (vv. 2-6)

V. 2 - 2 kinds of life: "for the _____ of men" (v. 2a) vs. "for _____ of God" (v. 2b)

V. 3 - you have lived that way enough

- "the rest of the time" spent according to the will/purposes of God and not the flesh
- V. 7 - "The end of all things is near"
 - Live all of life in light of Christ's imminent _____ according to his resurrection power at work in us.

V. 4 - your old friends will be shocked by your new lifestyle

- Live as witnesses (2:11-12; 3:1), but expect abuse, slander, persecution
 - The crisis of Christian deaths for early Christians?
 - The righteous dead have not lived for or died in him in vain! (v. 6)
- God is our defense and will vindicate (1:17; 2:23)
 - Our accusers "will give account to Him" (v. 5)
 - Our job is to be ready at all times to give an account for the hope we have (3:15)

Understanding the Time of Our Stewardship (v. 7)

The whole NT emphasizes the _____ of his return

- Peter's hope (1:5, 8-12; 4:13, 17: 5:4, 10)
- Produces _____ and _____ - _____ to our use of time
 - "sober spirit" (3x in the letter - 1:13; 4:7; 5:8)
 - Literal sobriety (cf. Eph. 5:18) + clear, watchful _____ (cf. Eph. 6:10-12)
 - "sound judgement" = wisdom that comes from _____ of the Lord
 - Cf. Mark. 5:15
 - Jesus: the faithful servant is "dressed ready for service" and busy as he waits for the returning Lord (Luke 12:35-43)

Sobriety and clear-mindedness equip us for _____

- Not ecstasy, but sober, direct, profoundly thoughtful communication with the Lord
- Prayer seeks the Lord, not a transformation of consciousness
- Prayer demands alertness (cf. Mark 14:37)

Serving in the Grace of Our Stewardship (vv. 8-11)

Vv. 8ff. flow from v. 7. New life in Christ is lived in a _____ of loving service

V. 8 - the fervency of love binds us together

- “fervent” also “_____” - something stretched or extended
 - Love grows as it is tested
- Love doesn’t delight in finding/exposing faults/sins. Rather, “love covers a multitude of sins” (cf. Proverbs 10:12)
 - If love cannot stretch to forgiveness, it ceases to be love
 - **NOT:** “My love for *others* covers a multitude of *my* sins.”
 - God’s love covers our sins. Our love covers others in that it _____ God’s mercy and forgiveness.

Vv. 9-11 - love is also _____ and _____

- Hospitality - the friendly reception and welcoming in of another
 - God has welcomed us into himself
 - We must take others into our hearts
- Service - ex: Christ’s towel and basin
 - Gifts reveal “the manifold grace of God” (v. 10)
 - Lit. “in its various forms,” often used of the colors of precious stones.
 - 2 categories: speaking and serving
 - Gifts are NOT about self-fulfillment, but serving others and bringing glory to God.
 - Gifts are discovered/employed in _____
 - Not by _____
 - Confirmed in _____
 - We are “stewards” - they come from and belong to God

v. 11b - the purpose of our stewardship

- NOT for _____ self-promotion or glory, but _____