

# “REMINDERS OF Truth”<sup>©2009</sup>

## The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



### IX- Remember to Live Each Day Like it is the Last: *1Pe 4:7-11*

Many times we are guilty of being lulled to sleep in compliancy and lose focus on just how valuable time is here on earth. Two times we are told to “Redeem” our time in this life. (*Eph 5:16; Col 4:5*)

Jesus admonished us to be busy in the work of the kingdom. He said in *Joh 9:4 ...the night cometh, when no man can work.*

In our churches we often find ourselves not wanting to change anything from time to time we hold on to the past so strong we forget to move forward.

What if we knew we had only one more year, or month, or week or day, how would that affect how we are living and what we are doing?

#### I- Nearness of the End:

***1Pe 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand...***

Heaven is just one breath, one heartbeat, one blink of an eye away at any given moment for everyone who is alive today. *The Disaster Center* figures that the US death rate is 6342 a day. Some estimated number of the world deaths is 146,000 every day.

So, we can clearly see that the end is at hand daily for a great block of humanity.

In addition to this though there is also a thought that runs throughout the Bible of the end of things also meaning the consummation of the age or the return of Jesus. Paul said in *Rom 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.* He also said the Lord is at hand in his letter to the Philippians.

James said in *Jas 5:8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

John also talked about the soon coming of the Lord. *1Jn 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

And even two times recorded Jesus said He was coming soon. *Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

***Rev 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.***

So if you would allow be to connect the dots, at least in my mind, Peter is encouragement us to remember to live each day like it is our last, which in fact it could be.

#### II- How to Live Life Like it is Our Last Day:

Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit because we are living in the last days or maybe our last day gives us some very practical advice.

1) ***1Pe 4:7 be ye therefore sober...*** HCSB says, “*be clearheaded*” and Kenneth Wuest says it literally means “Be ye of sound mind.” The same word is used in *Mar 5* of the man who was healed that was a wild man living in the tombs, ***Mar 5:5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.***

***Mar 5:15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.***

Remember they were under intense pressure from persecution and in the face of danger they needed to keep their mental ability focused.

2) ***1Pe 4:7...watch unto prayer.*** Paul exhorts in *1Th 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

Jesus told us in *Mat 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

Death is a great motivation to prayer. Let someone think they are in mortal peril and they pray. Peter exhorts us to pray. The word watch here means, “*to be sober, to abstain from wine.*” (*New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance*)

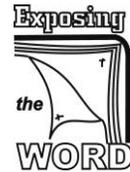
May I gently remind us that we need to keep our eyes on Jesus as we watch and pray?

One time when Michigan State was playing UCLA in football, the score was tied at 14 with only seconds to play. Duffy Daugherty, Michigan State's coach, sent in placekicker Dave Kaiser who booted a field goal that won the game.

# “REMINDERS OF Truth” ©2009

## The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



When the kicker returned to the bench, Daugherty said, 'nice going, but you didn't watch the ball after you kicked it.'

'That's right, Coach,' Kaiser replied. 'I was watching the referee instead to see how he'd signal it. I forgot my contact lenses, and I couldn't see the goal posts.'

*Bits & Pieces, September 15, 1994, pp. 7-8*

Beloved our goal is Him and He has already signaled victory.

**3)... 1Pe 4:8 above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.**

The NIV says, “...love each other deeply...”

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary* says the following:

“Deeply” (*ektene*, “stretched” or “strained”) was used to describe the taut muscles of an athlete who strains to win a race. A Christian’s unselfish love and concern for others should be exercised to the point of sacrificially giving for others’ welfare. (p 858)

We often say that love is blind. May I say that love, true godly love, see faults and loves in spite of them not in absence of them. Peter is quoting **Pro 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.**

The 1599 Geneva Bible Translation notes says, “*He commends charity towards one another, because it buries a multitude of sins, and therefore preserves and maintains peace and harmony: for they who love one another easily forgive one another their offences.*”

Love has still not gone out of style, nor will it ever. I am so glad that Christ loves me enough to cover my sins with His love...yes, I know it is by His blood but He shed it because of His love.

**4) 1Pe 4:9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.** In the days of the writing of this there were no Holiday Inns nor Microtels. Peter reminded them to entertain strangers, especially those who are of the household of faith. **Heb 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

In a negative way John spoke of a man in 3 John. **3 John 1:9-10 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. 10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth,**

**prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.**

In the period when persecution was driving the saints from their home, hospitality was a welcome sight.

**5) 1Pe 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

*The Phillips New Testament* translates this verse, **Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you, as faithful dispensers of the magnificently varied grace of God.**

What gifts have each believe been given. May I suggest that the scripture teaches that all of us have a divinely given gift from the Holy Spirit. We know these as the spiritual gifts. Let us understand one thing about spiritual gifts. Their purpose is not so that someone can boast or brag about having such and such a gift but for the purpose of God using them to serve others. Notice **Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

**Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

We should always remember that we are steward of God’s grace as well.

**6) 1Pe 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...**What if you only had one more day to speak to others about the things of God, what would you speak. Would we not want to speak the words of God.

**7) ...if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

As we live and serve each day, we must always remember that we do it with the strength that God gives us. Our lives should be therefore lived, our service given, our words spoken in such a way that they bring glory and honor to God. After all that is to whom all glory and honor is due.