

## ***I. The Expectant Church – Part 1***

II. 1 Peter 4:7-11 - NCBC, September  
9, 2018

Main Point: **Expecting Christ's return should  
motivate us towards God-glorifying ministry**

- For sound thinking (7a)
- III.
- For prayer (7b)
- IV.
- For love (8)
- V.
- For hospitality (9)
- VI.
- For spiritual ministry (10-11)

Application: **Reject the spectator mindset, and use  
God's grace for His glory in your church.**

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### **Opening Announcements:**

- Women's Bible Study starts THIS week! Not too late to  
sign up today!!

<<Give Us Clean Hands>>



There is nothing more refreshing and cleansing to the human soul than whole-hearted submission to God in worship. So thank you for singing that prayer so sincerely this morning. I trust God's Spirit will be pleased to answer as we continue our worship now by opening our Bibles to **1 Peter chapter 4.**



If you don't have a Bible today, simply raise your hand and we'd be delighted to give you one. **1 Peter chapter 4** is on page 1206? in the giveaway Bibles today.

While you're preparing to read **1 Peter 4** I just want to encourage us all to continue to pray regularly and fervently for our search for our new Associate Pastor of Music and Worship. I can't imagine a more strategic and important hire for New Castle Bible Church right now in our history together. And as we desperately depend on God's leading of our search, we pray!

Specifically I'd covet your prayers this week as Monday through Wednesday I plan to attend the *SING!* conference in Nashville<sup>1</sup> where literally thousands of worship pastors will gather for biblical preaching and encouragement on the church's congregational singing. Please pray for God to use me as I rub shoulders with many like-minded pastors and elders – and seek to recruit for our position there. Please pray that God would guide me into the right conversations, and make this time ultimately worthwhile for His greater glory here.

This conference also provides a great opportunity to strengthen all of us here at home as well, since they will be live-streaming all of the main sessions online at [www.gettymusicworshipconference.com](http://www.gettymusicworshipconference.com). So if it helps encourage your praying, please listen to the live-stream tomorrow through Weds. I expect this conference to enrich the faith of all who are able to listen– and continue to fuel fervent prayers for the man whom God will bring to join us at New Castle in the coming months.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gettymusicworshipconference.com/>



Now today will be “part 1” of a 2-part series on **verses 7-11** in **1 Peter chapter 4**. I've titled these two messages

*The Expectant Church*, because in this paragraph Peter turns his attention from overcoming personal sin, to the mutual ministry that suffering Christians must maintain for one another in the church. **Verses 7-11** focus on our life together. Here Peter teaches that our expectation of Christ's return motivates proper relationships to others in the church. This is a very important and relevant Scripture for all of us at New Castle Bible Church right now.

So please stand in honor of the public reading of God's Word, as I now read **1 Peter 4, verses 7-11**. I am reading from the **English Standard Translation**.

*<sup>7</sup> The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. <sup>8</sup> Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of*

*God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

This is the word of our Lord. You may be seated.

### Let's Pray.

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At the risk of overstating my case, I believe **1 Peter 4:7-11** is one of the most important and essential paragraphs in this entire letter for New Castle Bible Church at this particular point in our history together.

For whenever a church grows numerically like we are, and is in the middle of significant change like we are, it can surprisingly feed a kind of consumer-mentality that starts to believe I can just sit back, and enjoy the ride.

Without a doubt growth brings an energy. But honestly, growth also brings change. And change is always hard. And for those who have carried the water for a while now, the changing winds of church growth often whispers that now is the time for someone else to step up and take care of things. Sit back. Take your ease. Someone else will pray now. Someone else will give now. Someone else will love now. Someone else will serve now. There's enough people here ... someone else can do it now.

You see loved ones, sometimes church growth actually rationalizes greater apathy among its members. And this

Scripture stands to gently confront such thinking and re-motivate each of us towards a full-on pursuit of God's greater glory in our mutual ministry to one another in this local church!

Now of course Peter wasn't writing to a growing church here. He was writing to a suffering church. A church on the run that had a lot of possible excuses for why they might fade away from active ministry.

So in the first half of this letter Peter reminds suffering Christians of their secure identity in Jesus Christ. God's true grace has transformed who you are, Christian! And your new "being" makes possible your new "doing." You have received God's mercy! You are now a people for God's own possession!<sup>2</sup> Therefore now you can keep doing good in this world, and witness as shining lights in the midst of this evil and wicked age.<sup>3</sup>

But living for the glory of God is not *only* about shining as witnessing lights to the surrounding unbelievers. To live for God's glory also requires your active ministry towards other believers as well. As we've taught before, a God-centered church

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<sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 2:9-10

<sup>3</sup> 1 Peter 2:11-12; c.f. Philippians 2:14-15; Matthew 5:14-16



focuses on more than just the **witness of missional faithfulness**. A God-centered church – a church that desires that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything<sup>4</sup> – equally values growth in doctrinal soundness, humble dependence, and relational wholeness.

So the Scripture before us this morning serves to boldly remind us that since *the end of all things is at hand*, we must grow deeper in faith and love.

In other words, the main point of this Scripture is that,



Expecting Christ's return should motivate each of us towards greater God-glorifying ministry in the local church!

Church membership is not a spectator sport!

I appreciate how Pastor Austin Duncan used this passage to teach that Sunday morning is not a Netflix account – where we can just subscribe to a ministry that best suits our interest, until something more compelling comes along.<sup>5</sup>

Church this Scripture helpfully reminds us that every church member is absolutely essential to this church's ministry. We must never become merely a crowded event where only 20% of the members do 80% of the ministry. The coming return of Jesus awakens us from such a self-centered stupor, and calls us to keep loving one another, in **verse 8**, show hospitality to one another in **verse 9**, and serve one another in **verse 10**. You can't miss the mutual ministry of the members to "one another" in this passage!

<sup>4</sup> 1 Peter 4:11  
Page 4a of 15

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gracechurch.org/sermons/11439>

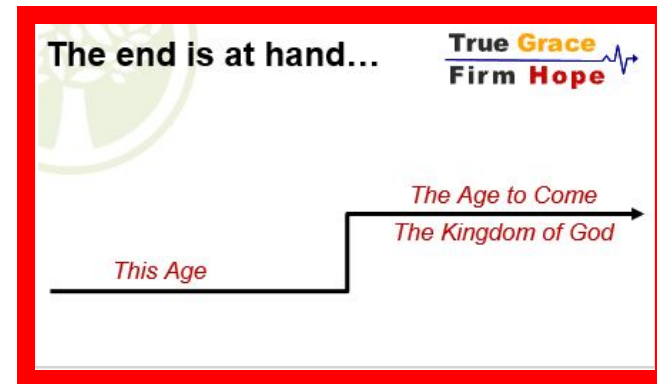
We are an assembly of God's redeemed – individuals who are loved by Christ, filled with the Spirit, and eager to minister God's grace to one another – all for the praise of God's glory and the eternal fame of His Name!

So let's begin by thinking carefully about how the second coming of Christ is a real incentive and motivation for growing deeper in love and faith within our local church.

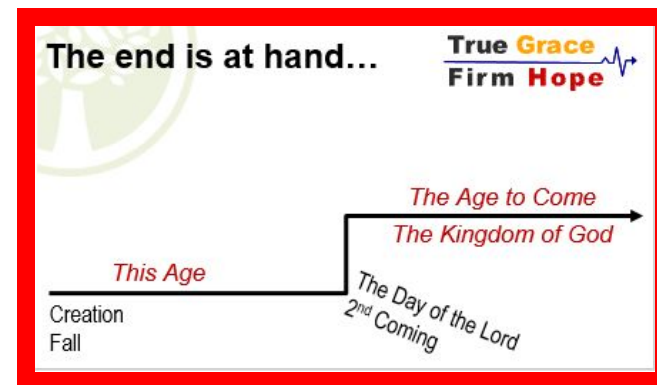
**Verse 7** begins saying, *The end of all things is at hand...*

Jesus will soon return to take home His bride. Judgment day will soon be upon us.<sup>6</sup> Peter can't get the memory of Christ's departure and promised return out of his mind!<sup>7</sup> Jesus clearly taught that He would soon return to take us to Himself.<sup>8</sup>

So what does Peter mean when he says "the end is near?"



It's helpful to realize that the New Testament presents a "two age" structure to time: this age, and the age to come.<sup>9</sup> We all live in this present age today,<sup>10</sup> but Jesus associates the age to come with eternal life,<sup>11</sup> or the kingdom of God.<sup>12</sup>



<sup>6</sup> 1 Peter 4:5

<sup>7</sup> Acts 1:11

<sup>8</sup> John 14:1-3

<sup>9</sup> I.e. Matthew 12:32; Luke 20:34-35; Ephesians 1:21

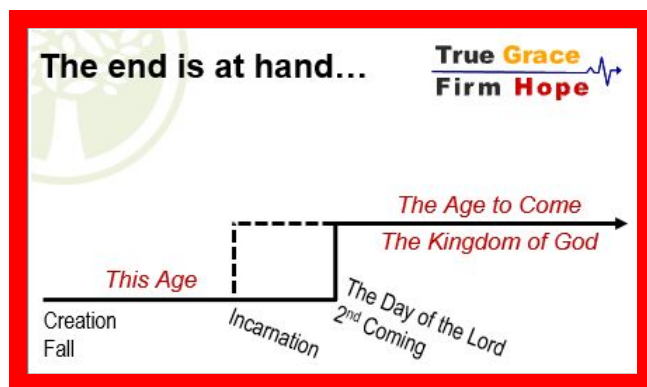
<sup>10</sup> Matthew 24:3, 28:20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-8; Galatians 1:4; 1 Timothy 6:17; Titus 2:12

<sup>11</sup> Luke 18:30

<sup>12</sup> Mark 10:23, 30; c.f. Luke 22:15-16 where the kingdom of God is yet future to the disciples observing their last supper



This present age began with creation and the fall, and is accordingly under the darkness of evil.<sup>13</sup> But harvest day is coming<sup>14</sup> --"The Day of the Lord" when Christ returns to gather His church to Himself<sup>15</sup> and bring judgment on the wicked!<sup>16</sup> It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ which ends this present age and ushers in the ultimate fulfillment of God's kingdom in the age to come!



Yet surprisingly, during Jesus' earthly ministry He clearly taught that the kingdom of God had already come,<sup>17</sup> and was in the midst of His disciples.<sup>18</sup> His preaching was marked by a call to "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at

<sup>13</sup> Ephesians 6:12

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 13:39-40, 49

<sup>15</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>16</sup> Technically speaking, the "Day of the Lord" in Scripture begins with Christ's return to rapture the church (Matthew 24:29-31 and 2 Thessalonians 1:10), and includes Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming at the end of the Tribulation Period to ultimately bind and imprison Satan, and begin His millennial reign on the earth (1 Thessalonians 5:2-4).

<sup>17</sup> Matthew 12:28; For wherever the King is, there is the real and present reality of His Kingdom!

<sup>18</sup> Luke 17:20; c.f. Hebrews 6:4-5

hand."<sup>19</sup> Therefore, we must understand that the incarnation of Jesus Christ – and His substitutionary death, resurrection, and ascension – already brought some Spiritual fulfillment from the Kingdom of God to earth – even while its final consummation has not yet been realized.<sup>20</sup>

And from Peter's perspective, both **Acts 2** and **1 Peter 1** refer to this time period between Jesus' first coming and His second coming as the "last days."<sup>21</sup>



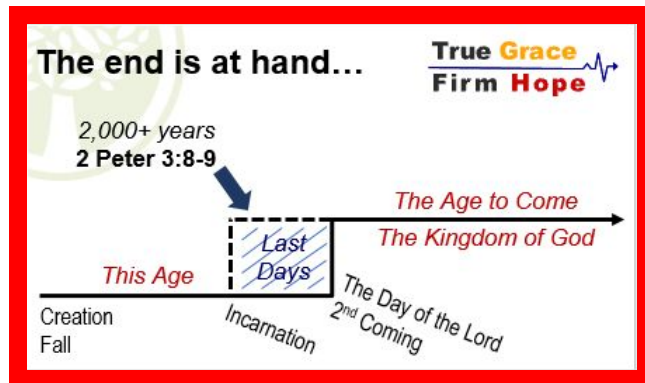
The time between Jesus' first and second comings are the last days in which we now live.

<sup>19</sup> Matthew 4:17

<sup>20</sup> During these last days, believers have positionally been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light (Colossians 1:13), so already they experience the decisive freedom of their position by faith in Christ...but they still do not yet enjoy the ultimate freedom from the presence of sin.

<sup>21</sup> Acts 2:16-17; 1 Peter 1:20; c.f. 1 John 2:18 "last hour"

Now Peter knows that scoffers will say, “Dude – it’s been 2,000 years!”<sup>22</sup>



How am I supposed to understand this as being the very last days...when the end is near...when it’s already been 2,000 years since Jesus ascended back into the heavens?

*Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*<sup>23</sup>

So yes, God has been very patient for the sake of your repentance, but from His perspective it’s only been two days since the Spirit of Jesus entered into the hearts of the redeemed!<sup>24</sup>

So the end, or the fulfillment, or the consummation of all of God’s kingdom promises – it’s just around the corner! Glory is about to be revealed!<sup>25</sup>

*The end of all things is at hand!*

And when you realize that you’re living right on the cusp of the revelation of the glory of God and His kingdom, it motivates you to live for that glory! Especially in your relationships with your fellow members in God’s church!

“Last-Day” living is always motivated by God’s glory, for it is eager to have God’s kingdom come, and His will done on earth – just as it is in heaven.<sup>26</sup>

So now pause for just a moment. Does the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ bring you joy, or fear? Have you repented of your sin, and submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ? Then your soul will long for the revealing of Christ!

But if you still stubbornly resist God’s grace, and cling to your sin – dear friend – the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ will not be a good day for you. Please repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ today. Please come and surrender.

*The end of all things is at hand!*

Now one more exhortation for the church before we move along this morning. Please note that Peter believes your “eschatology”<sup>27</sup> – what you believe about Jesus’ second coming – is very important and relevant

<sup>22</sup> 2 Peter 3:3-10

<sup>23</sup> 1 Peter 3:8

<sup>24</sup> Acts 2

<sup>25</sup> 1 Peter 1:5, 13, 20; 4:13

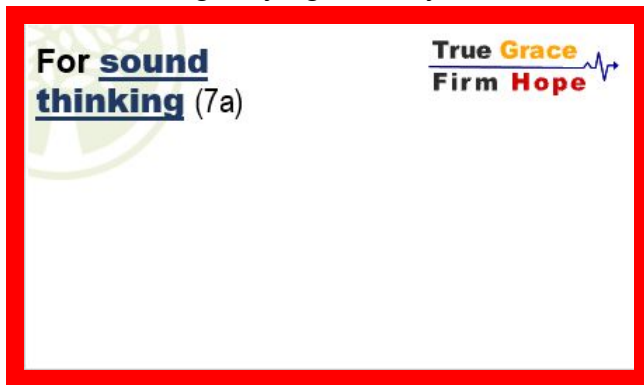
<sup>26</sup> Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2

<sup>27</sup> Literally means, “Study of Last Things”. Eschatology is that category of biblical teaching or doctrine related to end times.

for your practical relationships with other people. Do you believe this?

God's glorious future for you and His church, and His judgment of the wicked, and His future kingdom reign has been revealed to you through Scripture for the purposes of your comfort,<sup>28</sup> your holiness,<sup>29</sup> your worship,<sup>30</sup> your hope,<sup>31</sup> and your love<sup>32</sup> and ministry.<sup>33</sup>

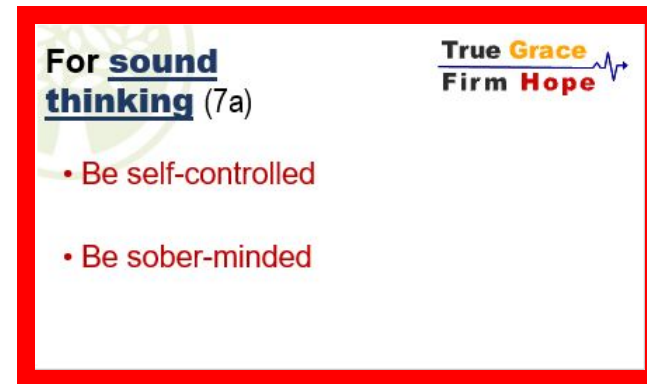
So let's not despise or discount the study of what God teaches us in His Word about the soon-coming revelation of His glory! Of course there will be mystery, but **verse 7** goes on to teach that the expectant church is motivated towards God-glorifying ministry,



For sound thinking (7a)

The word *therefore* in **verse 7** connects all of the next 5 commands in this paragraph to the motivation that comes from the realization that God's glory will soon be revealed in His second coming.

*The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober minded...*



Now both of these words are really synonyms—meaning the same thing. Peter is saying that living expectantly of Christ's return motivates you to fully use your mind to live in a controlled alignment with reality.

When you're motivated by the glory of God, you're not whipped into a frenzy with charts, news-paper clippings, and/or debates about the identity of the beast in Revelation.<sup>34</sup> I appreciate so much how Warren Wiersbe says, "The test of our commitment to the doctrine of

<sup>28</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14; John 14:1-3

<sup>29</sup> Colossians 3:4-5; Titus 2:12-13; 2 Peter 3:13-14; 1 John 3:2-3

<sup>30</sup> Hebrews 10:25

<sup>31</sup> 1 John 2:28; Revelation 3:11; James 5:7-8

<sup>32</sup> 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; James 5:9; 1 Peter 4:8-9

<sup>33</sup> 2 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 58

<sup>34</sup> Not to say there's never a place for some discussions about these things, but these favorite pastimes of many who love biblical prophecy in this present age simply miss the biblical emphasis and purposes of God's revelation (and sometimes even go directly against God's warnings in Matthew 25:13; c.f. Acts 1:6-7).



Christ's return is not our ability to draw charts or discern signs, but our thinking and praying."<sup>35</sup>

Church there is a mindset that will help you glorify God in the church, and there is another way of thinking that will cripple your ministry for God's glory.

For those who know me well, you know I can be pretty intense and intentional when I'm working. But my mindset is completely different when I'm on vacation. When I'm on vacation I'm easy come, easy go, no plans... live and let live for the day. Two completely different frames of mind.

You see, Peter is urging you to have sound thinking in these last days. The kind of thinking that isn't carried away by impulse during difficulty,<sup>36</sup> but rather rationally fixes your hope on the glory which shall be revealed,<sup>37</sup> so that you can have the proper alertness of mind,



<sup>35</sup> Wiersbe, 1 Peter Commentary

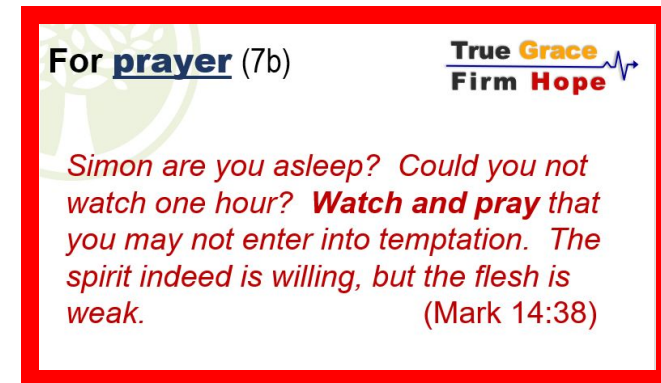
<sup>36</sup> 2 Timothy 3:1

<sup>37</sup> 1 Peter 1:13

### For prayer (7b)

*Be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.*

Remember Jesus' words to Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane right before the cross,



*Simon are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*<sup>38</sup>

So there's a watchful mindset that prays for God's glory to be revealed in God's church – and there's a lazy mindset that believes prayer is pointless. What kind of thinking is foundational to your prayers?

There's a mindset that is so drunk on this world's comforts and earthly pleasures, that it is ignorant of God's truth, and indifferent to God's eternal purposes. But there is a watchful mindset that prays our weak flesh

<sup>38</sup> Mark 14:38; c.f. Luke 21:36

into alignment with God's will, and unleashes the sovereign power of God upon human hearts for His greater glory!

Listen loved ones – when you see life correctly from God's perspective – in light of the soon-coming end of the age – you will understand that praying together with other believers is far more important than the nightly news, sports, or other mind-numbing hobbies.

I wonder how God would be pleased to bring His Name glory through a church like New Castle Bible Church if every member fully engaged their mind not on 401Ks and career ladders and sports stats...but on the coming glory of God? How would an expectancy for God's glory, and a joy in God's future plans for His people increase and inform our prayers...even while we might suffer together here and now?

Thoughtful fervent prayer is always aimed at the glory of God,<sup>39</sup> as we call upon His all-sufficient resources to help us continue doing good,



For our greater love of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Verse 8** reads, *Above all* – meaning this is the most important quality of the expectant church – *above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.*

The language is picturesque – *keep loving* – don't stop too soon – keep going at full force – *earnestly* – stretching and straining – exerting maximum effort – to sacrifice for the eternal good of your other brothers and sisters.

Remember, biblical love is much deeper than an emotion or a feeling. It's a commitment of the will.

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<sup>39</sup> Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2



To love other members in God's church is to **sacrificially lay down your own life for the other's eternal good.**<sup>40</sup>

And Peter is clear – keep doing this earnestly. Be real, not fake. Be intentional – exert maximum effort – be sacrificial, not sentimental.

*Since love covers a multitude of sins.*<sup>41</sup>

Not every sin needs to be confronted. Sometimes grace just passes over a wrong instead of continuing in dispute.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> C.f. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

<sup>41</sup> Here Peter quotes from **Proverbs 10:12** which says Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

<sup>42</sup> Mark 11:25. However, it must be said that if you are unable to “let go” of an offence, the Scripture clearly teaches you to go directly to the one who offended you and seek to make it right with them directly (Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-20). In such cases Luke 17:3-4 indicate that repentance is the grounds for the transaction of horizontal forgiveness that leads to reconciliation of relationship between you both.

Let me ask you honestly, do you love your brothers and sisters with a real fervent and persevering love? Because love's very nature is forgiving – it seeks to minimize wrongs and offenses. Love would rather be taken advantage of, than demand revenge.<sup>43</sup> Love refuses to keep a record of wrongs done, bears all things, believes the best, and endures all things.<sup>44</sup>

When we understand evil people around us are going from bad to worse in their increased hatred of all Christ-followers,<sup>45</sup> and when we think soberly about how our relational wholeness takes God's glory public<sup>46</sup> – then we will willingly sacrifice ourselves to help our brother or sister's eternal joy!<sup>47</sup>

We won't gossip or slander another Christian who falls in the midst of difficulty. Rather, as **James 5** says, we will race after our wandering brother or sister to bring them back under the shelter of Christ's cross – where all sins are eternally covered by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ!<sup>48</sup>

So review quickly. When we fully set our minds on the hope of God's coming glory, we pray. And our watchful prayers align our hearts with the love of God – so that we earnestly care for each other – even after offenses and

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<sup>43</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:7

<sup>44</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:5-7; c.f. Colossians 3:12-13

<sup>45</sup> 2 Timothy 3:12-13

<sup>46</sup> John 17:21-23

<sup>47</sup> 1 Peter 2:17, c.f. 1 Peter 1:22

<sup>48</sup> James 5:19-20; c.f. Galatians 6:1-2

sin – so that Satan is defeated<sup>49</sup> and our loving unity shows the beauty of God and His grace.

So what about you? Do you long for the appearing of the glory of God?<sup>50</sup> If so, you will prioritize any sacrifice you can personally make for the eternal good of your fellow Christian.

And **verse 9** goes on to give one particularly sacrificial expression of love during last-days living. The expectant church is motivated,



For the practical love of hospitality (9)

*Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.*

Now this practical expression of sacrificial love makes a lot of sense for suffering exiles who see themselves clearly as sojourners and pilgrims on their way to the glory of God's soon-coming kingdom!

<sup>49</sup> 1 Peter 5:8-9

<sup>50</sup> 2 Timothy 4:8



You glorify God as you open your heart and your home to your brothers and sisters who need help. Even if you don't know them. Even at great personal cost and inconvenience to yourself. This is what earnest love looks like. This is likely one of the good deeds that Peter has been stressing through this entire letter.<sup>51</sup>

Can you imagine how New Castle Bible Church would be a shining light of God's hospitality for sinners if every member was quick to invite other believers into their home and hearts for the purpose of eating, resting, playing, sheltering, encouraging, etc? All without grumbling!

For it's the cheerful attitude of the sacrificing Christian,<sup>52</sup> it's the glad rejoicing of the sacrificial heart,<sup>53</sup> that serves the glory of God by shining brightly as a light in this crooked generation!

<sup>51</sup> 1 Peter 2:12, 15, 20; 3:6, 11, 17; 4:19

<sup>52</sup> 2 Corinthians 9:7

<sup>53</sup> Matthew 5:12, Philippians 2:14-15

The reward of coming glory is strong enough to motivate you sacrificially showing hospitality to strangers,<sup>54</sup> and inviting into your life those who will never be able to repay you in this life.<sup>55</sup> For you are expecting Christ to soon return – and therefore you aren't living for your own comfort and security – but for the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!

Now next week we'll take an entire message to teach through **verses 10-11**, which describe how expecting Christ's return motivates us,



For spiritual ministry (10-11)

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

<sup>54</sup> Hebrews 13:2

<sup>55</sup> Luke 14:13-14

I can't wait to unpack these verses more with you next week! It's all about God! It's God who gives every member a gift. It's God's grace that we steward. It's God's words that we speak. It's God's strength that He supplies. All so that in everything God may be glorified, because God deserves all the glory and all the dominion of the coming kingdom ....and the coming kingdom will soon reveal it!

So is your ministry in your local church properly motivated by your eager expectation of God's future glory?



Expecting Christ's return should motivate us towards greater God-glorifying ministry to one another in the church.





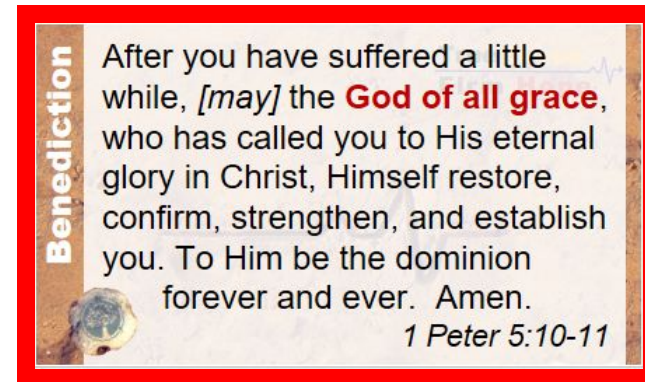
God desires for us all to **Reject the spectator mindset**. Repent of any apathy that you've justified in this season of our church's history. God has given each one of us an unique capacity for stewarding His grace, and He desires that we **would use His grace for His glory in our church**.

May our eager expectation of His coming kingdom motivate us towards sound thinking, watchful prayer, fervent love, and cheerful hospitality. All for God's greater glory and our greatest joy.

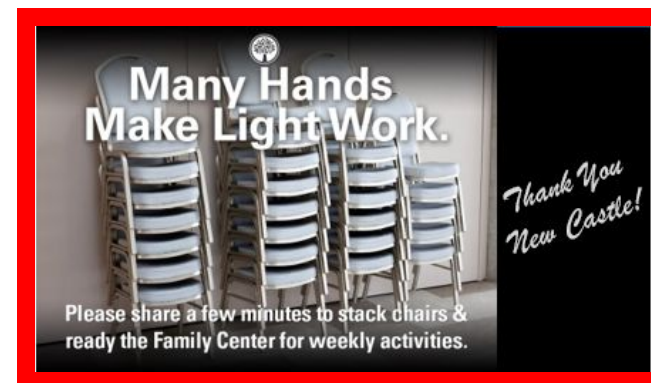


<<Love Lifted Me>>

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



*And after you have suffered a little while, [may] the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:10-11*





### **Recommended Resources on *The Expectant Church*:**

- Nehemiah 4:9
- Matthew 13:36-43
- Mark 13:33; 14:37-40
- Luke 14:13-14
- Romans 12:1-13; 14:10-23
- 1 Corinthians 12-14
- 2 Corinthians 5:1-21
- Ephesians 4:1-16; 6:18
- Philippians 2:14-15
- Colossians 3:12-13; 4:2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8
- Hebrews 13:2
- James 5:19-20
- 2 Peter 3:3-8

#### **VII.**

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/are-we-living-in-the-last-days>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/think-hard-on-your-way-to-heaven>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/only-love-can-cover-sin>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/how-to-be-more-hospitable>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/your-gifts-are-meant-for-others>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/serve-in-gods-strength-not-yours>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/do-your-gifts-glorify-you-or-god>

#### **VIII.**

- *A Praying Life*, Paul Miller
- *Life in the Father's House*, Wayne Mack
- *The Hospitality Commands*, Alexander Strauch
- *Spiritual Gifts*, Thomas Schreiner
- "Hospitality – Love in Action" Sermon on Selected Scriptures at NCBC on January 7, 2018, Pastor Kevin Sauder
- "Supernatural Church" Sermon on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 at Bethany Baptist Church on July 31, 2011  
<http://bethanycentral.org/resources/supernatural-church/>

### **Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions**

1. Read 1 Peter 4:7. Discuss together what comes to mind when you hear, "The end of all things is at hand." What is Peter thinking of here? And what difference should our beliefs about "last things" or "eschatology" make in how you live through the rest of your earthly life and ministry?
- IX.
  2. Read 1 Peter 4:8. Could you honestly say you are persevering in fervent love towards your Christian brothers and sisters? Why or why not?
  3. Read 1 Peter 4:8-9. What is one practical way you desire to obey these commands this fall in view of Christ's second coming? What does our grumbling or unforgiveness reveal about our view of Christ and His return?
  4. Read 1 Peter 4:10 and 1 Corinthians 12:7. What is God's purpose for His bestowal of an unique manifestation of grace upon every believer? Do you think of God's spiritual gifts as a privilege or a responsibility, and how come?
  5. Read 1 Peter 4:11. What is the end result of God's people living with expectancy of His return? Do you remember the 4 necessary means to the glory of God, as previously taught at NCBC? Review them together, and see where you notice Peter's emphasis upon all four of these values throughout this letter → Head: doctrinal soundness (truth); Heart: humble dependence (faith); Home: relational wholeness (love); Hands: missional faithfulness (witness).
  6. Do you believe you are as involved in the ministry of your local church as God would have you to be at this season of your life? Share together and explain your answers. Pray God will help you all make whatever adjustments are necessary in order for you all to be able to joyfully answer "yes" to this question.