

LIVING AS EXILES

WORDS OF GRACE FOR TROUBLED TIMES



WHAT DO WE DO?

1 PETER 4:7-11

1

Up is down left is right
And these days seems like 2 + 2 is 5
The worlds on fire no water in sight
Everybody's just doing whatever they think is right

What do we do
What in the world do we do
When black white red yellow and brown
Everybody's feeling blue
Just trying to find a little bit of truth
So we can find out what in this world we're supposed to do

I'm on the side of everyman
For their liberty and freedom I will always stand
And to the ones who disagree
A different point of view doesn't make us enemies

Well I believe that there is Truth
That stays the same despite of the opinions held by me and you
So let that be what we're out to find
Rather than standing over our brothers trying to be right

Jeffrey Joslin, *What Do We Do?*

2

The Stark Reality (7a)

The end of all things is at hand;

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.
2 Timothy 3:1-5

3

Pray (7b)

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

"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with
dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day
come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who
dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times,
praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that
are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."
Luke 21:34-36

4

Love (8)

Above all,
keep *loving one another*
earnestly,
since love covers a multitude of sins.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or
boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist
on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it
does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with
the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
1 Corinthians 13:4-7

5

Host (9)

Show *hospitality* to one another
without grumbling.

6

Serve (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—

7

Glorify (11b)

in order that in *everything*
 God may be glorified
 through Jesus Christ.
 To him belong glory and dominion
 forever and ever.
 Amen.

8

Response: What do we do?

- Accept the reality that the end of all things is at hand and has been since the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- In one sense, there is irrelevance to the particular times and circumstances in which we live - our primary agenda is the same
- Pray, Love, Host, Serve - all deeply interpersonal
- Do so for the glory of God and in the strength He supplies
- Reject everything dehumanizing about the spirit of the age

9

Prayer

Almighty Father,
the end of all things is at hand,
therefore help us to be people of prayer
as we live self-controlled and sober-minded lives.

Above all, help us to keep loving one another
*let us do so with earnestness
as we cover a multitude of one another's sins.*

10

May our homes be places of hospitality
and may we do so without grumbling.

As we have each received a gift to serve one another
enable us to do so as good stewards of your grace.

As we do these things
*may you be glorified in us through Jesus Christ
to whom be glory and dominion forever and ever.
Amen*

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