

# *Living with the End in View*

## **1 Peter 4:7-11**

### PART FIVE

#### **Introduction**

**Jesus came to this earth for one purpose – to serve.**

“the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28 ).

#### **Beware of a *Grumbling* Heart**

*“Show hospitality to one another without grumbling”* (v9).

“whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” (v11).

“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: .... the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:6, 8).

#### **Love – The Spirit’s power, our strength and motivation.**

“Here is a superior principle to move you: love for God, and for your brother in and for God. This will make your giving cheerful and pleasant for yourself, and well pleasing to God for whom you do it. We lose much in actions that in themselves are good, but our hearts are not in them” (Leighton).

#### **Serving must be done, not only in the name of Christ, but in the *Spirit of Christ* if it is to honor God.**

“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality” (Romans 12:10-13).

“All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you. They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever. Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart” (Deuteronomy 28:45-47).

“We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer” (1 Corinthians 10:9-10).

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” (Psalm 100:2).

#### **An attitude of the heart that expresses itself with *gladness* to serve shows the King is in residence.**

“Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door” (James 5:9).

#### **Every complaint of the heart reveals a love of self.**

"Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: You said, 'Woe is me! For the Lord has added sorrow to my pain. I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.' ... Thus says the Lord: Behold, what I have built I am breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up—that is, the whole land. And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the Lord" (Jeremiah 45:2-5).

**Every dissatisfaction, every discontent in the heart, every complaint of the mouth, is a criticism against God.**

**Baruch was focusing exclusively on himself. Self-focused self-pity is a rebel's judgment against God.**

"But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go" (Jeremiah 45:5b).

**All that God does, He does for our benefit and His glory.**

"And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not."

"A little thing is just a little thing, but faithfulness in a little thing is a great thing" (Hudson Taylor).

"From the desire of being great, good Lord, deliver us" (prayer of the Moravian liturgy).

**The Christian who works in service to the King possesses a quiet, peaceful soul and a joyful heart.**

"O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me" (Psalm 131:1-2).

**Divine love has power and the need to express itself openly, outwardly, sacrificially, and selflessly.**

"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

"What we love we become; the lover of self becomes selfish" (Rousselot).

"through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

"Let love be genuine.... Love one another with brotherly affection.... Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality" (Romans 12:9).

"So often our giving is done in a grudging and formal way. But if we are gripped by love, our giving is different: it becomes a joyful privilege. God's love transforms us, so that we are eager to help other people with our gifts" (Morris).

**Salvation doesn't just secure a place for us in heaven when we die. Salvation calls us to a whole new life while we live.**

Salvation is not just atonement, it is regeneration. Salvation is being made alive in Christ. It is a rebirth.

**God works, Jesus works, and we are called to a life of good works.**

"Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2:4-5).

**Where you have genuine living, active *faith*, you necessarily have its most visible evidence, *works*.**

James 2:18-26

Saving faith, “is a powerful life-altering force” (Luther).

“We must see salvation as a transformation of life that makes meaningful and desirable all the commandments of the Word of God” (MacArthur).

“teach[] them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20).

“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” (v11).