Different - **wk 16 – Living with the End in Sight**

**1 Peter - Letter to Christians be chased from their homes into new communities. Most had never heard of Jesus.**

**Persecution follows them everywhere they go. Peter says remember you are being watched, live a life that points to Jesus - gracious, humble, respectful lives. \*\* Be Different!!**

**Last we skipped a section we are going to return to today… an odd and interesting passage… 1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Let’s unpack this – the end is near…. Really??? \*\*Signs**

**1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is near. (NLT “end of the world is coming soon” a paraphrase not literal – lit. it means the end of everything we know is near)**

**Was Peter wrong? A heart for Jesus to return but missed it. Wishful thinking by Peter and NT writers. But that would mean they were wrong. If they were wrong how can we trust anything they say? We can’t - But they were not wrong!**

**They were literally living in the end of the age of everything they knew.**

**Everything was about to change. This was prophetic and actual. The destruction of Jerusalem – end of their entire religious system – plus a massive effort to wipe out every Christian.**

**Anytime NT says something like this, it’s most likely prophetic reference to the end of the age that they were actually living that climaxed in 70AD – with the temple destroyed. (Matt 24:14, 1 Cor 7:29,10:11, 2 Cor 4:16-18, Heb 9:26, 1 Pet 1:13, 20, Acts 2:17, 1 Jo 2:18, Jam 5:3-8, 2 Tim 3:1, 2 Pet 3:3, Jude 1:18, Rom 13:12,)**

**However – that attitude is a great principle for us now. As we are living in the potential end of all things as well. The return of Jesus.**

**Three clocks: (1 Peter 4:1-6)**

**\* Your time – Who know Jesus, your chance to make a diff is running out. Each season and age of your life is quickly and rapidly ending.**

**There are many diffstages and years of life: years in school, college, building a career, or raising a family, mid-life, empty nesters, years of retirement – you don’t get to do anyone of them twice. You get one chance to live for Christ in High school. My chance to do that is long gone. One chance to be a sold-out student for Christ in college. You get one chance in your 20’s to live to the max for Jesus. You get one chance to raise your children in a godly way and home – one chance! One run through mid-life challenges. One chance to finish strong. One chance! One chance to live the years of retirement. ONE CHANCE!**

**Peter is saying you don’t have the time to wait!! You don’t have time to mess with sin and habits – you don’t have time for it. Your clock is ticking – your days are coming to an end.**

**\* Their time – those resisting Christ, time is limited and running out You will not see the people next to you forever - their time is short. You may not see them again after today, tomorrow, this week, this year.**

**Their clock is ticking – their days are coming to an end.**

**\* Our Time – the day of the Lord’s return – we only have till that day to do what he has called us to do. When it come – our time to accomplish his work is over! He will return and take his bride home.**

**Time is ticking away. We will all stand before God and give account to life even as Christians.**

**Reality – Jesus is coming, and every day is sooner than the last**

**Live knowing it can happen any day! If you believe he could come back tomorrow, then live like he is coming back today.**

**\*\* These 3 clocks can go off and any time – or could go off in any order. We could be called home, a person near to us life could end, Christ could come. There is an urgency.**

**If you had 1 yr – what would you do? What should we do when you know our time is short? Peter tells us - don’t panic, build a bunker, sell everything, buy ammo, and rations… but**

**Living with the End in Sight**

**1. Live expectantly**

* **We are exiles, foreigners & refugee - but will be one day be home**
* **We are running a race - but the race will one day be over**
* **We are in a spiritual war- but one day the battle will come to an end**

**The wonderful glorious return of Jesus for his bride!**

**We will either be excited to see him (1 Peter 1:6-9, 4:13 – rejoice at his coming) or we will be fearful. (Wait till dad gets home)**

**1 Peter 4:7 …Therefore, (as you since this urgency) be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.**

**2. Pray vigilantly (1 Peter 4:7, Eph 6:10-18, 1 Peter 5:8-9, Mark 14:38)**

**That means attentively – wide awake!**

**No more halfhearted prayers, passive worship – no nonchalant, passive, lukewarm, tepid, apathetic, empty, powerless prayers!**

**Ain’t nobody got time for that!**

**“Be alert” - wake up! “sober minded” – clear headed / God wants us sober! Literally – be watchful! Be ready! Take it serious!**

**This is for real! Lives are at stake! Your family, friends, co-workers!**

**Every life hangs by a thread – or Christ can appear at any moment – a thin veil - Realize the urgency of those around you and pray like you mean business!**

**1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.**

**3. Love deeply (1 Cor 13:4-6, Pro 10:12, Eph 4:1-2, 15, Heb 12:6, 2 Thess. 3:10)**

**Deeply – love that. That means it is not a shallow, surface, smile & nod**

**Compassionate, action love! That means getting God’s heart for others – we love our neighbor they are not an asset or assignment.**

**We don’t just have love in our words – but love in our actions. That means we dig deep in our love.**

**Love with no strings attached. Dollar on a string.**

**…because love covers over a multitude of sins.**

**4. Forgive Quickly**

**Life is too short to hold on to grudges and bitterness!**

**Where real love is – offenses are let go of quickly.**

**Where love is lacking, every word is suspicious, every action is questioned, every motive is in doubt.**

**If we lived like our time was coming to an end – we would get things right. “But you don’t know what they did…” I know what Jesus love did and - Love covers a multitude of sin**

**As we see the frailty of life - We need each other!!!**

**1 Peter 4:9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. (chased from homes, struggling under persecution – about to get worse - open your home)**

**4. Walk generously - blessing others freely without complaining**

**(Heb 13:1-3, Rom12:13, 1 Timothy 3:2, 5:10, Titus 1:8, 3 John 5-8)**

**Aka. Hospitality – caring for and looking out for each other**

**When a need arises – or when you are asked – do it without complaining. Welcome others as Christ has welcomed you**

**Enjoy it and bless others with it – 1 Tim 6:** **7 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (Ecc 5:19)**

**If you are blessed with material possessions and finances, be a good steward (it is not yours it is the Lords) you are blessed to be a blessing.**

**God give different blessings by His grace – 1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,** **as faithful stewards of God’s grace (gifts and spiritual gifts) in its various forms. (using what God has blessed you with to bless other)**

**(1 Cor 12) God gives at his discretion gifts and spiritual gifts, for the purpose of blessing others We are each gifted by God. Time is short – use what God has given you! Stop sitting on it.**

**Then he gives an example of our gifts - 11 If anyone speaks, (public – up front) they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, (behind the scenes) they should do so with the strength God provides…**

**Whether you are in the front or in the back, on stage or setting up, speaking or facilitating, if seems important or seems less important – we are all equally important and do it with the strength God supplies.**

**Living with the End in Sight - 1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.**

**5. Speak boldly - Speak courageously**

**As we see the clocks ticking – say something. Anything!**

**Some have a great gift to preach– but we are all called to speak.**

**If you are a Christian – you may be the only voice of God they hear.**

**Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”**

**The harvest is ripe! People are dying on the vine – Jesus is commanding us to go and tell the world the good news!**

**Sit down with that friend, your mom, dad, sister, brother, co-worker –their clock is ticking.**

**Acts 4:11This Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."**

**Let’s say his name – JESUS! Did you feel that. The enemy is scared – tension. Speak his name boldly!**

**Romans 1:14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, (every ethnicity and nationality) both to the wise and the foolish. (every social, economic, and educational level) 15 That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. (I have never been there and wait to tell you) 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, (Jesus descendants) then to the Gentile. (everyone else – no one is left out)**

**Time to stop being embarrassed and ashamed – the can you use the end. Clocks are ticking…**

**6. Serve faithfully**

**1 Peter 4:11 …If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.**

**We don’t check out and hide out – we sign up and show up. We serve each other.**

**Galatians 5:13 You were chosen to be free. So, don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve one another with love.**

**We are free… to serve each other. I don’t; have to have my way or the highway. I choose to serve you.**

**Some of you - “I just want to be like Jesus, I want to look like Jesus…”**

**We reflect Jesus the greatest when we are serving each other.**

**Time is ticking away – Three clocks**

**\* Your time - \* Their time - \* Our time**

**Church it is time - to pray up, stand up and live up to the calling of God – to love passionately, serve humbly, and speak boldly… time is ticking away. Time is short can you see it!**

**Why do we do this? For God’s glory!**

**1 Peter 4:11 To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.**