

It's Time to Love with Urgency and Excellence

Strangers and Aliens

1 Peter 4:7-11

February 23, 2020

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

Peter is writing to Christians who were forced to flee Rome because of heavy persecution. They were starting to feel the pressure of living in a culture that was hostile toward them. Thus, the apostle sought to comfort them. He wanted them to thrive and be a light for Christ.

He assured them that their trials were for the purpose of growing their faith and that a great inheritance awaited them in heaven. He called them to be holy and to love each other, while proclaiming the glory of Christ, and submitting to earthly authorities. He knew that if they focused on Jesus, they could live without fear.

Now he challenges them to live with determination and urgency in light of the Lord's imminent return. We are to do the same. The best way to do that is to love each other with excellence. This sends a powerful message to the world and glorifies God.

Key Scripture -

1 Peter 4:7-11

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever 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.

3. One of the areas that Peter is concerned about is prayer. He desired that his flock pray regularly so that love would be a natural outflow of their spiritual growth. How often do you pray? Why is it so hard to pray? What are some ways that you can structure your life in order to spend more time in prayer?

4. Loving other Christians glorifies God. We love by serving and by showing patient hospitality. Is there a person that comes to mind that you're really having a hard time with? Pray right now that God will help you to love that person well.

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC

March 1, 2020 : Be Willing to Suffer for an Eternal Reward- 1 Peter 4:12-19

