

How to Live with the End in View

1 Peter 4:7-11



1 Peter: Holy Living in a Hostile Land

Peter is picking up the **theme of judgment** by saying that *the end of all things is near*, which is a biblical way of understanding the **direction** of human history.

All human history is moving towards a **God-directed goal** of Jesus' second coming **and** earth's final judgment.

Near has the idea of **imminent**—drawing near, approaching, coming soon, at any moment.

Peter wants his Christian readers to adopt a **heavenly anticipation**, a **biblically-informed expectation** about living in the last days.

You and I need a **biblically-balanced view** of what's coming and why it's coming.

Peter's instructions in **1 Peter 4:7-11** are built around **four spiritually purposeful priorities** that help you **focus your spiritual efforts** to live for Jesus with the end drawing near.

“The end of all things is near, therefore...”

I. Be Purposed in Prayer (1 Peter 4:7)

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Sound judgment: *sophronesate*; to be sensible

Sober-minded: *nepsate*; to be self-restrained or self-controlled

Living in the last days requires us to be sensible and self-controlled in our prayerful responses to God.

I. Be Purposed in Prayer

II. Be Faithful in Forgiving (1 Peter 4:8)

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To *cover a multitude of sins* means practicing **biblical forgiveness**.

The strain of life and our sinful responses are overcome by our love straining to forgive each other.

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II. Be Faithful in Forgiving

III. Be Humble in Hospitality (1 Peter 4:9)

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- IV. Be Stewards in Serving (1 Peter 4:10-11)**

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“Employ it in serving” (verb form of *diakonos* - **deacon**)

Deacon means **servant**. Peter is emphasizing that you should serve (minister to) the body of Jesus with what you have received from Jesus.

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IV. Be Stewards in Serving (1 Peter 4:10-11)

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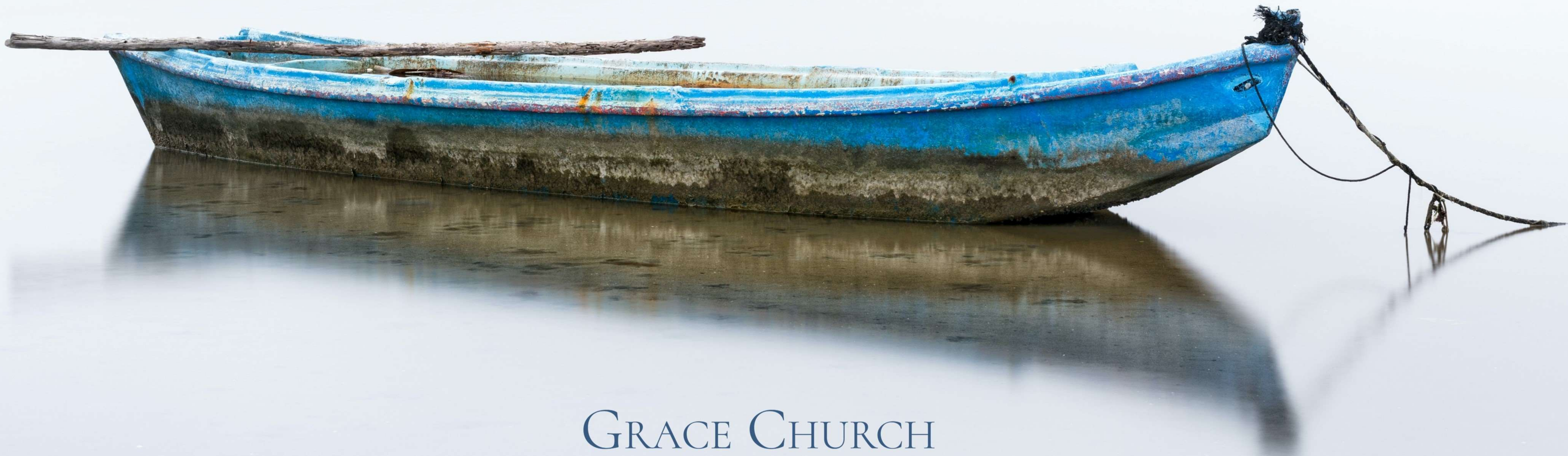
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- **Speaking gifts** include preaching, teaching, and counseling, which would involve wisdom, knowledge, and discernment.
- **Gifts of service** such as administration, prayer, mercy, and helps.

Notice how we are to use these gifts of service—by the strength which God supplies.

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