

MISSION MANDATES FOR **LAST DAYS LIVING**

I Peter 4:7-11

Peter informs us about what's really important in these last days

I. PRAY DISCERNINGLY (7b)

A. THE PREPARATION

1. Be Calm: Of sound mind
2. Be Careful: Of sober spirit

B. THE PRESCRIPTION

1. For the purpose of prayer
2. Don't just be informed, be inspired to pray
3. Take it to the Lord: Recognize that the needs require divine intervention and insight
4. Application: Pray for sinners (I Peter 4:7) and saints (I Peter 1:7)

II. LOVE FERVENTLY (8)

A. PRIMARILY: "Above all"

- Above all other human interactions

B. PASSIONATELY: "Keep fervent"

1. An intense energy is required
2. This will be difficult ... a stretch
3. Don't quit, give it all you've got!
 - a. See Philippians 4:2-3
 - b. App: Only the strenuous exercise of love can avert the disaster of division

C. PERSONALLY: "Your love for one another"

- What about your particular love?

D. PURPOSEFULLY: Covering a multitude of sins

1. The idea is that of hiding faults from public view
2. It does not mean that you ignore it, but only that you don't advertise it
3. This is a disciplined discretion
4. You do this over and over again for a multitude of sins

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III. SHARE GRACIOUSLY (9)

A. ASSIST STRANGERS

1. From near: The “one another” phrase implies those in the congregation
2. From afar: Those from other cities > See III John 5-8

B. RESIST GRUMBLING

- *True Christian hospitality is making people feel at home when you wish they were!*

[Donald Coggan, former Archbishop of Canterbury, cited by Norman Hillyer, I Peter, p. 127]

1. Murmuring and whispering are forbidden
2. Entertaining is often inconvenient and can be expensive, don't have a bad attitude about it
3. Strangers can be frustrating (afterall, they are identified as “strange” right?)

IV. MINISTER FAITHFULLY (10-11)

A. REGIFT YOUR GIFT (10)

1. Know this: You have a gift > See I Corinthians 12:7
2. Do this: Use it
3. Be this: A good steward

B. REMEMBER WHAT'S IMPORTANT (11)

1. For the speaker: Speak the utterances of God
2. For the server: Work with the strength God gives
3. For the Savior: God gets the glory

CONCLUSION:

When everything in this world is over, what will have mattered?

When you cross God's dead-line, what will His evaluation reveal?

1. Did you pray discerningly?
2. Did you love fervently?
3. Did you share graciously?
4. Did you minister faithfully?

**In order to have a successful last days review you must do these things now ...
you won't have done them unless you are doing them!**

*And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence
and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. - I John 2:28*

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