

Living In Light of Eternity

1 Peter 4:7-11

James 5:7-9

Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

Hebrews 10:24-25, 37

and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

1 Thessalonians 4:15, 17

We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord . . . we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air

I. The True Believers' Drive. (v. 7a)

☞ It should refresh us towards holy living....

1 John 3:1-3

See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

I. The True Believers' Drive. (v. 7a)

It should refresh us towards holy living....

It should ready us to evangelism...

It should reckon us to the spiritual atmosphere of the church...

1 Timothy 4:1

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

II. The True Believers' Directives. (vv. 7b-11a)

Cultivating our relationship with God (v. 7b)

1 John 1:3

what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

II. The True Believers' Directives. (vv. 7b-11a)

☞ Cultivating our relationship with God (v. 7b)

☞ Cultivating our love for one another (vv. 8-9)

The phrase “**above all**” refers to the fact that love is to be the virtue that has supreme importance in our lives.

1 Corinthians 13:13

But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Philippians 2:2

make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Colossians 3:14

And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

II. The True Believers' Directives. (vv. 7b-11a)

☞ Cultivating our relationship with God (v. 7b)

☞ Cultivating our love for one another (vv. 8-9)

☞ Cultivating our spiritual service to the body (vv. 10-11a)

III. The True Believers' Desire. (v. 11b)

A holy man will follow after spiritual-mindedness. He will endeavor to set his affections entirely on things above, and to hold things on earth with a very loose hand. He will not neglect the business of the life that now is; but the first place in his mind and thoughts will be given to the life to come. He will aim to live like one whose treasure is in heaven, and to pass through this world like a stranger and pilgrim traveling to his home.

J.C. Ryle

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