Introduction

Do we really believe that the end is near?

What did Peter mean when he said the end is near?

How should that affect the way we live today?

There are four instructions Peter gives to the church.

I. Be sober minded. Verse 7

A thoughtful Christian understands the times in which we live.

When Peter says the end of all things is near he isn’t giving us an exact date.

Peter is telling us the next big event in God’s plan of salvation history is the return of Christ.

What should we do when it looks like the world is falling apart? Pray!

II. Love one another. Verse 8

The words “above all” stress how important this command is.

Love is the mark of the Christian. “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

We are to love each other deeply – fervently – not just with words, but with actions.

III. Practice hospitality. Verse 9

Hospitality has to do with taking in believers and providing them with food and lodging.

Hospitality is one of the qualifications for being a pastor and elder in the church. I Timothy 3:2

It is costly. So Peter adds the phrase “without grumbling”.

That is what the early church did in Acts 2:42-47

In Acts 16:15, Lydia of Thyatira opened her home to Paul and Silas and to the believers in Philippi.
There is a difference between hospitality and entertaining.

- Entertaining wants to impress you. Hospitality wants to serve.
- Entertaining puts things before people. Hospitality puts people first.
- Entertaining declares, “This home is mine.” Hospitality says, “What’s mine is yours.”
  From Karen Mains in Open Heart, Open Home.

IV. Use your gifts to glorify God. Verses 10-11

We each have been given a gift by God.

We are not all given the same gift, but all are necessary.

We are to use our gifts to serve others.

When we work together, with each one doing their part, the church grows and God is glorified.

If your gifts are verbal (teaching, preaching, evangelism and encouragement) do it as speaking the very words of God.

If your gifts are in serving (helping, giving, hospitality, mercy, administration, working on the building and grounds) do it with the strength God provides.

Conclusion

Life in this world isn’t going to be easy.

The answer isn’t to circle the wagons and stay at home. The answer is to live for Christ with wisdom and passion.

- Be sober minded and pray.
- Love one another deeply.
- Practice hospitality – open your heart and your home.
- Use your gifts to serve one another and glorify Christ.