

Intro:

XXII. Spiritual Duty in a Hostile World

A. Our Incentive - vs 7a

1. But the end

a. **telos** - the point aimed at as a limit, the conclusion of an act or state (termination), result (immediate, ultimate or prophetic), purpose); end(-ing), finally, uttermost.

b. here refers to consummation, fulfillment, a purpose attained or goal achieved

2. of all things - in context refers to Christ's return - Ac 3:2; Col 3:4; 2 Th 1:10; 2 Tim 4:1, 8; Heb 9:26; Rev 20:11-13

3. is at hand

a. **eggizo** - to make near, approach, be at hand, come (draw) near, be (come, draw) nigh.

b. perfect tense indicating an imminent event, it could occur at any time - Mt 24:37-39; Ro 13:12; 1 Th 5:2; Rev 16:15; 22:20

c. Peter already indicated this was an expectancy that should be at the forefront of a believer's thinking - salvation ready to be revealed in the last time - 1:5

d. numerous other passages also exhort the believer to live in anticipation of the Lord's return - Mk 13:35-37; Lk 12:40; 21:36; 1 Co 1:7; 1 Tim 6:14; Tit 2:13; Jas 5:7-9

4. Living in anticipation of change is not new

a. The Jews lived under the Old Covenant looking forward to a promised New Covenant

i. when Christ came preaching the kingdom of God was at hand - they were not ready and rejected

ii. In 70 A.D., God put an end of any hope in the Old by having Rome destroy the Temple

b. Paul speaks to the suddenness of the coming change in God's program

i. **1 Co 15:51-53**

ii. **1 Th 4:15-17**

c. The Author of Heb exhorts - 10:25b so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

5. What living in anticipation of His return looks like

a. John also exhorted active participation in sanctification - **1 Jo 3:1-3**

b. know that His return brings judgment on unbelievers, Paul exhorted evangelism - 2 Co 5:11 Knowing, ..., the terror of the Lord, we persuade men

6. the 1st century Church was already in the last days, how much more so, us

a. 1st century - initiated by the Lord's coming - Heb 1:1-2; 1 Jo 2:18,

b. we are closer - falling away - 2Th 2:3; 1Ti 4:1; perilous times - 2Ti 3:1

7. Christ's comings

a. 1st coming - provided salvation - **Col 1:13-14**

b. 2nd coming - He will establish the promised kingdom - Is 65:17-25; Ez 37:24-25; Hos 3:5; Zech 14:16-21; Rev 20:1-6

8. a reward for those that look for His return - 2 Tim 4:8 crown of righteousness

B. Our Instruction - vs 7b-11a

1. section filled with commands indicating the need to count the cost to follow Jesus

2. Personal Holiness - vs 7b

- a. therefore be serious
 - i. *sophroneo* - to be of sound mind, sane, moderate, be in right mind.
 - ii. Be under control and not carried away by an errant view of oneself - Ro 12:3 or undue emotion or uncontrolled passion - Pro 4:23
 - iii. The world is constantly trying to distract, deflect, or destroy us through the appeal to self indulgence, we must keep an eternal perspective - Lu 21:34; Ro 13:12;
- b. and watchful
 - i. *nepho* - to abstain from wine (keep sober), be discreet:--be sober, watch.
 - ii. Closely related to serious
 - iii. Denotes being spiritually observant, alert - Mt 26:41; 1Pe 1:13; 5:8;
- c. in your prayers - Php 4:5
 - i. access to spiritual resources
 - ii. Holy living comes as we read and meditate on God's word regularly, learning how God thinks as we commune with Him and looking to Him for all that we need to live here according to what He has promised.

2. Mutual Love - vs 8-9

- a. above all things - Col 3:14
 - i. speaks to the supreme importance of the following statement
 - ii. this would include the above virtues
- b. have fervent love for one another,
 - i. *ektenes* - intent:--without ceasing, fervent. -
 - ii. Denotes stretching or straining like an athlete exerting maximum effort
 - iii. *agape* - also carries strong volitional significance, it is a decision to love those who are at times unlovable
 - hangs the whole Law and Prophets - Mt 22:40
 - By this all will know that you are My disciples - Jo 13:35
- c. how love is shown
 - i. for "love will cover a multitude of sins." Pr 10:12; 1Co 13:7;
 - our own forgiveness is dependent on this - Mt 6:15
 - even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do - Col 3:13
 - ii. Be hospitable - Ro 12:13; Phm 1:14; Heb 13:2
 - to one another - the idea is strangers, outside of Christians
 - without grumbling - part of being hospitable - 2Co 9:7; Php 2:14;

3. Spiritual Service - vs 10-11a

- a. As each one has received a gift,
- b. minister it to one another, - Ro 12:6;
 - i. as good stewards - 1Co 4:1-2,
 - ii. of the manifold grace of God. - 1Co 3:10;
 - *poikilos* - motley, i.e. various in character:--divers, manifold.
 - as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith - Ro 12:3
 - according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them - Ro 12:6
- c. If anyone - **Ro 12:6-8**
 - i. speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.
 - ii. ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies,

C. Our Intention - vs 11b; 1Pe 2:5

- 1. that in all things God may be glorified - the goal of every New Man
- 2. through Jesus Christ, - only accomplished as one abides in Christ - Jo 15:5
 - a. to whom belong the glory and the dominion
 - b. forever and ever. Amen. - a doxology as his closing remarks - Re 1:6