

“Working Till He Comes!”

1 Peter 4:10-11

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Home alone!
- Jesus Christ has given us work to do while He’s gone. Matthew 28
- Jesus Christ is coming again, but we do not know when.
- Peter’s teaching in light of Christ’s soon return
 - Need to be “serious”, of sound mind or right thinking—1 Peter 4:7
 - Mentally alert for effective prayer—1 Peter 4:7
 - Focused on fervently loving one another—1 Peter 4:8
 - Showing hospitality to others—1 Peter 4:9

“Working Till He Comes”

- A. A “*steward*” is in charge of his master’s household and business in the absence of the master.
- B. We are stewards of the “*manifold grace of God*”
1. We’ve been recipients of God’s grace in salvation—Eph. 2
 2. Each of us has been given a grace gift for ministry—1 Peter 4:10
 - a. The word “gift” is lit. “gift of grace”. Romans 12:6
 - b. These gifts are “spiritual” in that...
 - 1) They are “manifestations of the Spirit”—1 Cor. 12:7
 - 2) They are distributed by the Spirit—1 Cor. 12:11
 - c. Definition of “spiritual gift”—“a God-given, special ability for service”
 - d. Spiritual gifts are for ministering to others, not for private use or hidden.
 - e. “Manifold” grace of God—many different kinds of spiritual gifts.—1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 4
 3. Peter’s Two Categories: Speaking Gifts and Serving Gifts
 - a. Reflect the division of ministry roles in Acts 6:2-4
 - b. Specific ways the gifts are to be administered
 - 1) “*If anyone speaks, as the oracles of God*” -- 1 Peter 4:11a
 - a) Ministering God’s Word to God’s people
 - b) Very serious undertaking—2 Tim. 2:15; 4:1-2
 - 2) “*If anyone ministers, as with the ability that God supplies*”
 - a) Every gift is a “serving” gift
 - b) Need to rely on God’s strength and ability