



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 6 - Day 4

Approaching God

Read John 15:15-16 - *“all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”*

Prayer: Be still and quiet yourself. Take a few minutes to focus on God and to shut out distractions. Offer a simple prayer to start your time using the truth and promises in John 15. The radical grace of the gospel chooses, cleanses, restores, appoints, and enables fruitfulness. Our work is to abide and to come to him in prayer. Take a moment and thank God for each of these blessings and to ask that they might be realized in new ways today.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - 1 Peter 4:7-11

Passage Introduction: *What if you knew the world would end in 24 hours? How would you spend your last day on earth, and with whom? Would it be a day of hopeful expectation, or of hopeless despondency, or somewhere in between? In this section Peter urges believers to embrace several different disciplines in light of the imminent return of Christ. What are they? What reasons does he give for embracing them?*

Self-controlled & Sober-Minded:

“Self-controlled literally means “sober,” and sober-minded means having a clear mind. Together they have one value above others - they equip us for prayer. Peter does not think of prayer as an effort to induce ecstasy, but rather as sober, direct, & profoundly thoughtful communication with the Lord. This is the right posture for those awaiting Christ’s return.

1 Peter 4:7-11 - **7** The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. **8** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies--in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen..

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. What words or ideas are repeated, related, compared, contrasted?

Daily Study Questions

You may find it helpful to read through the commentary in “Resources for Further Study” at the end of today’s study to answer these questions.

Questions for Study

- What are 2 or 3 things you observe about God in this passage? The Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?
- What are 2 or 3 things you observe about people, you, or your neighbor in this passage?
- What are 2 or 3 cause/effect statements that Peter gives that stand out to you in this passage? Where does Peter say, “do this” followed by an either “so that,” or because type statement.

Questions for Meditation & Application

- Peter mentions a few specific spiritual gifts here, but they remind us of some other places where Paul mentions specific spiritual gifts? (Romans 12:6-8 & 1 Cor. 12:8-10) What do you think might be your strongest spiritual gift from God? How might the body of Christ suffer if you use your gift for the wrong reason? How do they benefit when you use it for the right reasons?
- What truth has caught the attention of your heart or mind today? (a command to be obeyed, a comfort to be savored, a characteristic of God to be grasped) Think about this truth. What is it really saying? Now, try to put it into your own words. Ask yourself, why is God showing me this today? As thoughts become clear or convicting, write them down.

Close in Prayer:

After answering the second meditation question, use the remainder of your time to pray through your takeaways? What do you want to **rejoice** in today? Where is there need for **repentance**? What **requests** do you have as a result of your time today? Take 3-5 mins and talk to God about this.

Resources for Further Study

1 Peter chapter 4 notes

Commentary & Notes on 1 Peter 4:7-11

vs. 7 - “The end of all things is at hand” does not mean Peter was expecting Christ to return in a few weeks or months. It means, rather, that all the major events in God’s great salvation plan—culminating in the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost—had already occurred. Therefore Christ’s return could happen at any time: it was “at hand” in Peter’s day, and it still is today. But the imminent arrival of the end is not a call simply to look into heaven and wait for Jesus’ return. Instead, believers are to be self-controlled and sober-minded, so that they may be devoted to prayer and maximize their usefulness in God’s kingdom.

vs. 8-9 - Enduring love for others testifies that a person is living in light of the future. True **love covers a multitude** of other people’s **sins** (Prov. 10:12). Where love abounds, offenses are frequently overlooked and quickly forgotten. **Hospitality**, much admired in both Greco-Roman and Jewish sources (cf. 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8), was much needed in an era when inns could be dangerous and unpleasant. The work of a Christian is simply this: love. This is the fulfillment of all the law (Rom. 13:8–10). Yet love is hard. How do we love others? And how do we do so “earnestly”? Only the gospel generates such inside-out affection and service of others, for Jesus Christ has loved us earnestly. As our hearts are armed by the love of Christ, we are changed. We delight to love others (cf. Eph. 4:32–5:2).

vs. 10 - All believers have received at least one spiritual gift from God, and they are not to hoard these gifts but use them faithfully as stewards of God’s grace (cf. 1 Corinthians 12–14).

vs. 11 - “**whoever speaks...whoever serves** - Peter divides spiritual gifts generally into speaking and serving gifts (for more detailed lists, see Rom. 12:6–8; 1 Cor. 12:8–10, 28–30; and Eph. 4:11). Those who speak must not propound their own ideas but faithfully declare God’s words (oracles). Similarly, those who serve must not depend on their own strength but draw their strength from God, so that God alone may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Passage Summary: The aim of earnest love for the Christian is the glory of God through Jesus Christ (4:11). We glorify God by living a normal, ordinary Christian life, which is the life of a believer who knows the end is near, who keep his or her head, who prays hard, loves well, welcomes much and uses their gifts for the church. If you live like that, God is glorified in you because you display Christ’s work in and through you. As we love one another, those around us will come to realize now, or to confess on the last day, that the Father has sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world and that we belong to him. “To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”