

1 PETER CERTAINTY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Study 8 - 1 Peter 4:7-11

If the news broke that the world would end at 30th June, what would people be doing?

(how does it compare to 1 Peter 4:1-6)

Read **1 Peter 4:4-11** with this question in mind - **How should our lives show that the end is at hand?**

What does Peter ask people to do in 7-11? What reasons does he give to ask them to do these things? How does it give clarity of mind? How will it help our prayers?

How does Jesus and the future help us to love and forgive people now? Why is this essential for a Christian community? (See John 13:12-16, 34-35 Matthew 18:21-35)

Read verse 9

What do these passages tell us about hospitality? Who is to do it? Why?

1Peter 4:9

Leviticus 19:33; 23:22

Numbers 9:14

Deuteronomy 10:17-20

Luke 10:38-42

Romans 12:10-13

Hebrews 13:1-3

1Timothy 3:1-3

Titus 1:7-8

Why is hospitality separated from the list of speaking and serving gifts in the following verses?

How do you think 21st century Canberra would define hospitality?

How does this compare with a Biblical view of hospitality?

How does the newer version seep into your expectations of hospitality? How would you feel about going to someone's place for lunch and getting canned soup and sliced supermarket bread?

Why do you think grumbling is linked to hospitality? What stops us from being showing hospitality? How can we be hospitable without grumbling?

Where does the motivation and source of power come from for Christian service? What other ways can we look at service?

How can we find out how we can serve God and his people?

How can you be hospitable as a group to others?

In what ways could you be hospitable:

This Sunday

This month

This season

There are some very practical suggestions in this week's study. Loving one another is at the heart of the motivation. A reactive outworking of that is forgiveness and the ability to see through the sin of another person to see their eternal worth in Jesus.

Proactive application is specifically in the area of hospitality. It is more general in verses 10-11 with regard to areas word ministry and serving. There is some diversity in these areas based on gifts and it reflects the idea of the body of Christ (Romans 12 1 Cor 12) and how each Christian compliments the gifts of others so that the body grows. It is important that everyone knows that when speaking God's word it is God's word that has the power and not the speaker. It is also important to know that those who contribute to the body do so with God's strength and not our own. This emphasizes the love for other rather than the status or personal satisfaction in the task of the one serving or else it is self-serving.

Hospitality:

So, verse 9 again, hospitality it seems should be part of every Christian life. It is not a specialized area. Showing hospitality was asked of the people of Israel to show care for the sojourner and stranger among them because it reflected God's care for them. In Christ, we have a bigger picture of that.

Below are a several articles and vodcasts on the subject of hospitality that you might want to send out to your group for them to have a look at in advance.

Hospitality is a powerful force in the lives of Christians (meeting together in your group in someone's home is hospitality).

Hospitality is a powerful witness to God's love and care and him reaching out to us in Jesus. By inviting people into our lives and homes we show part of God's character. In Andrew Leigh's book *Disconnected*, he points out that in the last 20 years people on average have 2 less trusted friends and less contact with their neighbours (1984 - 8.9, 2010 - 6.7...neighbours they could borrow small things from - 1984-7.1, 2010-5.7 Share who said zero went from 11-13%... people they could casually drop in on 1984- 9.9, 2010 6.4 Share of those who said zero went form 7-12%). People living on their own in Australia went from 9%-13%. Canberra in 2003 was listed as the most transient city in Australia which is another factor in weakening community. In the discussion 'Gospel motivated hospitality' Rosaria Butterfield says 'If Christians can't interrupt a sense of perpetual loneliness, then who will?'

The art of hospitality has also become more daunting in the last couple of years. Shows like *Better Homes and Gardens* and *Masterchef* have raised the bar considerably on what people think our home should look like and what a meal for friends should be like.

Hospitality at its heart in the new and old testament was loving someone by making sure they got some nutrition and some shelter. The one other ingredient is personal contact and sharing lives. Of the visitors that come to Canberra, the ones that we certainly now know better are the ones that stayed at our house rather than a motel. Many people want to book a motel to not put us to any trouble however, the trouble is worth it relationally.

Some practical out workings of this passage would be helping people get their expectations right about hospitality - both as givers and receivers. What is a simple way to feed people so that you can share life together rather than pretend to be someone you aren't day to day? What are some small hospitality projects that people can work on in the next week, month, year? Helping people in our church show hospitality to one another will be great for our connection as God's people. It will also help us to welcome in those who do not know Jesus.

If we get the heart of hospitality, it will help us as we look at other more specialized areas of service. It will help us to trust God's power for the good of others rather than ourselves.

Articles/vodcasts about hospitality (I've pulled these off the gospel coalition (USA) website. It is a good resource. I just punched in 'hospitality' to the search window):

<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/thabitianyabwile/2007/10/16/finding-reliable-men-hospitable/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-hospitality-beats-entertaining>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-do-we-practice-biblical-hospitality>

video discussion - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/gospel-motivated-hospitality>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/when-hospitality-and-hell-fire-kiss>

<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/kevindeyoung/2013/08/16/doing-good-or-looking-good/>