**August 15, 2021**

**“He Is Coming Back and That Changes Everything”**

Going deeper in 1 Peter 4:7-11

**INTRODUCTION**

Peter has just finished talking about how you and I are to respond when others are hostile to our faith in Jesus. He now goes back to discussing what our lives together in the Christian community ought to look like and how this shared life can point back to the God who is coming back.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 7 The end of all things in the world is near so keep your head in the game and stay prayerfully alert. 8 Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love overwhelms so much of our brokenness and sin. 9 Practice hospitality with others minus the behind-the-scenes negative talk. 10 Each one of you has received a gift so all of us can serve others as good stewards of the many expressions of God’s grace. 11 When you speak let your words be God’s words. When you serve do it with God’s strength. This way God’s power and presence will shine in all things through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. When you are getting ready to leave for an extended period how does that change your priorities and what you do? How might recognizing that this world and your time in it will come to an end change your perspective and actions?

2. What do you think it means to “love each other as if your life depended on it” or “to love deeply?” What does that love look like in practical terms in your relationships right now?

3. If you are part of a small group tell each other what gifts you see in each other. Share with the group what have been some of the most fulfilling experiences of serving others for you. What were you doing?

4. How is the Lord Jesus Christ currently calling you to serve others?

5. Jesus will return how will you prepare the way for His return? If you are in a small group talk about how your group is being called to serve and prepare the way for Jesus’ return.

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank God for all that He has given you. List as many things that you can think of.

\*Ask the Spirit of God to make you aware of the gifts you have been given.

\*Ask the Lord daily how He wants you to use the gifts He has given you.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

We are living on borrowed time. God’s time. He has given everyone gifts that are important in serving Him and others. Will you commit to using the gifts He has given you to serve Him and others until He returns?