

Giving Your Time To What Matters Most

1 Peter 4:7-11

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Feb 9, 2020

I. If you have God's saving grace, you have God's serving grace, too!

1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace..."

Romans 12:6 "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them..."

Saving grace and serving grace go hand-in-hand.
You don't have one without the other.

Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, **that we should walk in them.**"

No one is saved by serving, but those who are saved should be serving.

II. God gives us gifts to serve others - not to keep to ourselves!

1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, **it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.**"

(1) A steward is one who has been given, for a time, the care of something that is owned by another.

(2) Stewardship can be defined as faithful and efficient management of something belonging to another in order to achieve the owner's objectives.

(3) Stewards always act in the best interest of the owner.
Parable of the Talents - Matt. 25:14-30

III. God's grace isn't "one size fits all," but custom-made for you to serve Him and His!

1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"

The word literally describes God's grace as "many colored" or "multifaceted." We need this grace—constantly—and thankfully, there's plenty to go around, and many different types.

IV. Our gifts vary, but the Giver does not. God is the One who is working through you to bless others.

1 Peter 4:11 "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..."

The usher, the nursery worker, the preacher, the parking attendant - we're all the same in that all of us serve only God has enabled us to do so.

Col. 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. **You are serving the Lord Christ.**"

V. We serve the Lord and each other with a sense of urgency because time is literally running out.

1 Peter 4:7-9 "**The end of all things is at hand**; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling."

For however many days you live, always do so with a sense of urgency and anticipation because our time here is short, and Jesus is coming!

Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:

- (1) Pastor Peter said "Even though we're not saved by serving, if we're truly saved, we should be serving." Do you see that in Eph. 2:8-10?
- (2) Read through the Parable of the Talents in Matt. 25:14-30. What "talent" has God given you (according to your ability - Matt. 25:15) that He wants you to give to His people and invest in His Kingdom?
- (3) Pastor Peter said God's grace is not "one size fits all," but multicolored/multifaceted (1 Pet. 4:10). Why is that important to know?
- (4) 1 Peter 4:11 shows that no matter how anyone serves, all do so because God is enabling them. How does that change your opinion of the different value?
- (5) What can you do this week to show you're walking with the Lord with the sense of urgency that's implied in 1 Peter 4:7?