

In view of your imminent eternal hope, pray, love, and live in sobriety and watchfulness by God's power alone for His eternal glory in Christ Jesus.

I. **Perspective: This world is drawing to a close, and our eternal hope is in view. (V. 7a)**

We don't know exactly when Christ will return, but we are called to always be ready. We live with a steady expectation of His imminent return (Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32).

Expectation of Christ's return shapes your conduct.

II. **Practice: Pray, love, and serve with sobriety and alertness in light of the times. (Vv. 7b-10)**

Pray (V. 7b)

"Serious and watchful" – These words are closely related. The first speaks of sound judgment. The second speaks of alertness and self-control. Both call us to fix our eyes on what truly matters. (1 Peter 1:13)

Effective prayer begins with a sober and disciplined mind. There is a connection between the condition of your thinking and the quality of your prayer life.

Love (Vv. 8-9)

"Above all" – Nothing requires more of our attention and effort than loving one another.

"Fervently" – Your love must be determined, intentional, and committed.

"Love covers a multitude of sins." – (Proverbs 10:12) This means loving the unlovely at times.

Hospitality is given as a practical expression of sincere love.

One who is quick to highlight the faults of others and expose their shortcomings does not esteem the holiness of God or the weight of his own guilt apart from God's grace in Jesus Christ.

Serve (V. 10)

God has equipped each of us as unique gift-bearers. (1 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 4:16)

These gifts are not to you, but through you to bless His church and impact the world for His glory.

We are ministers and stewards of His grace, and we must not squander it or use it with selfish motives. (1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6)

Return thanks to God for His gift to us when you see the success of the ministry that your brother or sister is faithfully administering to the church.

III. **Purpose: Everything is accomplished by Him, and He alone *must* receive the Glory. (V. 11)**

Sums up all spiritual gifts into two broad categories. Those who speak and those who serve. In both cases, God must be the center and source of it.

Everything is accomplished only *through Jesus*.

Everything exists to reveal the character of God and abound in His praise. It already belongs to Him.