

1 PETER

Lesson #15 –Serving for the Glory of God

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Introduction:

1. E.g. Waiting to the last minute doing reports in school.
2. The Lord is return is always at hand; therefore we must use our abilities God has given us.
 - a. If we view the return of the Lord as in the far future, we lose our sense of urgency
 - b. They would get caught up in the here and now -1Co 15:32
3. In this lesson we will examine two types of service we render before God...

I. THE UNIVERSAL GIFTS OF SERVICE –vs. 7-9

A. PRAYER

1. Today, all Christians have the avenue of prayer -1Pe 5:7
 - a. Jesus taught His disciples to pray –Lk 11:1
 - b. We are to pray without ceasing -1Th 5:17
2. We are all faced with the same trouble: economy trouble, terrorism, uncertain future, etc
3. We handle everything through prayer

B. LOVE

1. Love covers a multitude of sins because it forgives.
2. This is not that we overlook sins –Ga 6:1, Ja 5:19-20
3. We enjoy fellowship together –i.e. our meals together
4. It is easier to be hateful to those we are not around –E.g. Bob Dole’s letter

C. HOSPITALITY

1. This is to show kindness to strangers
2. In the first century there were traveling preachers and Christians fleeing persecution that needed hospitality
3. We are to do good to all... -Ga 6:10

II. SPECIFIC GIFTS OF SERVICE UNIQUE TO THE INDIVIDUAL –vs. 10-11

A. WE ARE STEWARDS OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US –vs. 10

1. Stewards must be found faithful -1Co 4:2
2. As stewards, we will each give an account before God –Mt 25:14-ff

B. TWO GIFTS ARE MENTIONED

1. Preaching or teaching is to be done as the “oracles of God”
 - a. The purpose of preaching and teaching is to reveal the will of God to others
 - b. The word of God should be preached
 - 1) Preached in season and out of season -2Ti 4:2
 - 2) Because the word is the power to save –Ro 1:16
 - 3) Because the word is the spring board to faith –Ro 10:17
 - 4) Woe is me if I don’t preach the gospel -1Co 9:16
2. Ministering to the needs of others
 - a. This is done with the strength God provides
 - b. All is done to glorify God, not ourselves
 - 1) We are to be humble in our service to God –Ph 2:5
 - 2) Proper attitude in charity work –Mt 6:1-4
 - c. This is to be done to lead others to Christ

C. MANY OTHER GIFTS

1. There are other gifts God gives to be used for the kingdom –Ep 4:11
2. The main purpose of all we do is to glorify God –Co 3:17

Conclusion:

1. God has given everyone talents and abilities that can be used for His glory
2. Our goal is to identify them and put them to use.