

## If Jesus Returns on Friday...

### *1 Peter 4:7-11*

#### **Introduction**

How would you like a new watch? A few years ago I ran across a watch called “Tikker.” Has anyone here this morning heard about this new watch? Well, for only \$50, you can own a watch that is programmed with an advanced algorithm that estimates how much time you have left here on this earth. That’s right. It’s a watch that tells you not only what time it is in your time zone, but approximately how many more years, months, days, hours, and seconds you have left in this life. As you can imagine, it has the sobering effect of constantly reminding you that your time as you know it is running out. The creator of the watch said this: “The occurrence of death is no surprise to anyone, but in our modern society we rarely talk about it. I think that if we were more aware of our own expiration, I’m sure we’d make better choices while we are alive.”

What I find so interesting about this watch and its creator’s comment is that the very thing that it seeks to highlight for the world is something that God’s Word has been highlighting for us for nearly two thousand years. Consider **James 4:13-14** and **Hebrews 10:27**...

Yet for whatever reason, we have this tendency to think very little “of our own expiration” and even less of the fact that we will give an account to God. My goal this morning is to bring to the foreground what we tend to want to place in the background. My goal is to consider the reality of the coming end of “all things” and explain how we ought to live in light of the coming end! My goal is to prepare you to live as if Jesus was returning this Friday...

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#### **Read 1 Peter 4:7-11**

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#### **Exposition**

- I. A Guiding Truth – The End of All Things is Near (Vs. 7a)** – This is a baseline cultural narrative regarding a coming end. So, what can be done? What hope do we have? Christians have hope in what Christ has done for them. Explain what Christ has done and how His work gives hope in the face of the end of all things.
- II. How Should We Live? (Vss. 7b-10) – Gospel-Informed/Empowered Living**
  - a. With Prayerful Self-Control and Sobriety (Vs. 7b) – “self-controlled and sober-minded”
  - b. With Intense, Forgiving Love (Vs. 8) – “love covers a multitude of sin”
  - c. With Content, Joy-filled Hospitality (Vs. 9) – “without grumbling”
  - d. With Grace-Enabled, Service toward Others (Vs. 10) – “gifts to serve others”
- III. Why Should We Live This Way? (Vs. 11)** – “So that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything.”

#### **Conclusion**

With more authority and clarity than the Tikker watch, the Word of God declares that the days are numbered, and we should make the most of them by living for the glory of God. My question this morning to you is this: Are you living for God’s glory? How are you living in consideration of the fact that the “end of all things” is near? How is Christ’s return impacting your life today?