

# 1 Peter 4:7-11

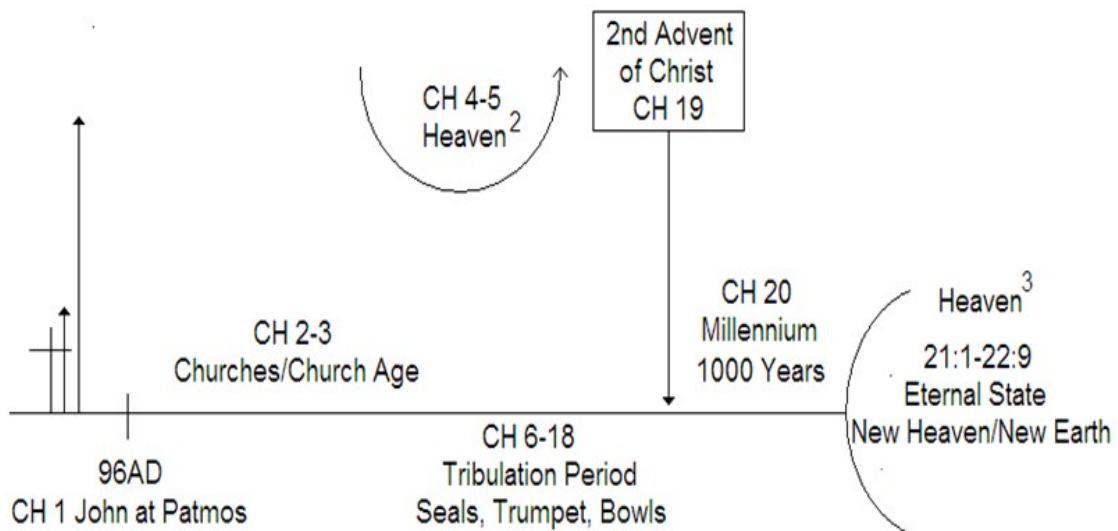
## The Perspective Christians Need to Persevere In the Face of Even Our Most Perplexing Problems

**In View of the Strategic Times in Which We Live and the Perplexing Problems We Will Inevitably Face in This World It Is Essential for Christians Everywhere (Duncan to Danfur; 1<sup>st</sup> century AD to the 21<sup>st</sup> century AD)**

### 1: To Continue to Commune with God in Prayer v7

The end of all things is near (history is on a precipice awaiting the End Times and each of us is but one heartbeat away from our Maker)

Therefore be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer



### My Working Definition of Prayer

Prayer is a grace channel of communication by which believers seek and submit to the will of God knowing that our prayers are one part of the process God designed to work out His will!

### Shocking Truth About Our Lord Jesus and Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15)

Prayer is about Communion with God and with Others > Our Personal Comfort/Convenience

## **2: To Continue to Commune with God's People in Agape Love v8-11**

Above all (in regard to horizontal relationships under God) keep fervent in your agape love for one another

because love covers (smothers) a multitude of sins/failings.

Agape Love: a PMA in which we seek other people's highest good // God's glory

Agape Love: the launching pad for a life of good-good works for others in Jesus' name

Agape Love: at a practical level is spelled "servanthood"

### **One EXAMPLE of Agape Love at Work**

Be hospitable to one another without complaint

### **Another EXAMPLE of Agape Love at Work**

As each one has received a *special* (spiritual) gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

A. whoever speaks: as one who is speaking the utterances of God

B. whoever serves: as one who is serving by the strength God supplies

so that in all things God may be glorified (not Pastor Brad o  
Deacon Mike) through Jesus Christ

to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

## **Take This To Heart**

**The Perspective Christians Need to Persevere in the Face of Even Our Most Perplexing Problems Is the Mindset That Our Calling is to Commune with God and with Others Regardless of Our Personal Situation**

Rather Than Releasing Us from t/Responsibilities of Christian Living/Ministry, Tough Times Should Refine Us as We Continue in Our Christian Living/Ministry

Agape Love Never Allows a Believer to See Him/Herself as a Spiritual "Consumer" or as a Christian "Volunteer" ...It Implores Us to Embrace the Role of a Bond-Slave of Jesus Christ Committed to His Kingdom as a Soldier in His Army of Love and Grace

**Blast From the Past:** Christians are our most Christ-like when we willingly and selflessly serve others precisely because it is rooted in and an expression of submission.

Submission is expressed in/through "Servanthood" giving away our time, our talent/effort and our money with no expectation of return/approbation as we embrace the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ on the cross....can you say "pure motivation"?