



Stepping Stones

I Peter 4:7-10 New Revised Standard Version

⁷The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

Notes: _____

First Impressions

I Peter 4:7-10

“You never get a second chance to make a first impression.” –Various Sources

“How would you spend the last twenty-four hours of your life?” My middle-school English teacher posed this question as a prompt for a journaling exercise one day. We were given about ten minutes to think and to put pen to paper. There was much which raced through my mind, but, when time was called, it seemed as though I had so little written before me. I will admit this was not something about which I had thought at the age of thirteen and, today, it is not something upon which I like to dwell.

In this General Epistle attributed to the Apostle Peter, we read the words “The end of all things is near, therefore...” We have heard people state, “Time is of the essence” by which they mean it is short and should be used well. That which follows Peter’s reminder is a litany of those practices which should receive careful consideration in light of the time. Some of these are quite familiar to us such as prayer and love for one another. However, there is one nestled in the middle which we can overlook if we are not careful: “be hospitable.” While the Church is not exactly in the hospitality business, we should know that a warm welcome goes a long way in determining how people respond to a congregation. It is the kind of thing we have one opportunity to get right.

- 1. We must be flexible and realize not everyone knows our “church culture.”**
- 2. We must appreciate people for who they are and not for what we can get out of them.**
- 3. We must create an atmosphere which communicates a gladness that others are here.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, help me to be a hospitable church member who sincerely cares about others being here.