

Living with the End in View

1 Peter 4:7-11

Introduction

Honor, duty, dignity, loyalty, discipline, perseverance, respect, service, love, family, friendship, humility.

“The reference to Christ as judge suggests a final motive for a life of suppression of the lower nature, -- the near approach of the end of all things” (Maclaren).

“So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil” (2 Corinthians 5:9-10).

Perspective is everything when it comes to motivation for Christian living.

Peter is calling all Christians to live with a constant, conscious expectation of our Lord’s glorious return.

“inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you” (1:4);

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”;

“as obedient children,” (1:14),

“as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct” (1:15).

“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation,” (2:12).

“And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory” (1 Peter 5:4).

Did he make a mistake, a miscalculation?

Peter continues to call us to holy living in view of the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

“The end of all things is at hand” (v7).

“be self-controlled and sober-minded” (v7).

“**self-controlled**” Gk *sophroneo*; ‘clear-minded’; ‘in one’s right mind.’

“**sober-minded**” Gk *nepho*; ‘watchful’; ‘circumspect.’

The brevity of time remaining provides strong motivation to live for and in service to Jesus Christ.

The two strongest motivators to repentance and the pursuit of holy living is: *Godly Fear* and *Love*.

“**The end**” Gk *telos*; ‘conclusion, completion of a goal’ a *consummation*.

“**of all things**”

“at hand” Gk *eggizo*; ‘to bring near.’

We are to live with the expectancy of the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

So when is He coming back?

“It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority” (Acts 1:7).

“Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.... So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, 6).

No one knows *that day and hour*

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only” (Matthew 24:36).

Romans 13:8, 11-14

As Christians we are to live every day as though Jesus could come at any moment – *because He can.*

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:15-17).

“time” Gk *kairos*; ‘time, opportunity, a season, a while.’

“Know thy opportunity.”

“Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

One of the most effective, most destructive lies ever to permeate the mind of the believer is this: *You’ve got plenty of time.*

“Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour” (1 John 2:18).

“You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:8).

“not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:25).

“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near” (Revelation 1:3).

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed” (2 Peter 3:10).

Final Words

“And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming” (1 John 2:28).

“He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen” (Rev 22:20-21).

Christians are to be watchful, vigilant, alert at all times as we await our Lord’s appearing.

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast” (Luke 12:35).

“Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake” (Mark 13:33-37).

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour” (Matthew 25:13).

Christians are to remain awake, alert, *sober-minded*, and *self-controlled* for the benefit of *prayer*.

“**for the sake of your prayers**” (v7).

“Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure” (1 John 3:2-3).

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18).

“Prayer is to the Christian the very life and health of his soul” (G.S. Noel).