

Introduction:

- A. Many People Claim that the End of the World is Right Around the Corner. Often times these claims are accompanied by specific dates
 - 1. Confused bible-teachers
 - 2. Politicians
- B. Peter taught *that* the end was near, not *when* it would come.
- C. This Eschatological hope that has animated and conditioned the church to be who they are for 2,000 years
- D. Jesus and the Question of “When” (Acts 1:7–8)
- E. Martin Luther and the “End”
- F. In light of the fact that Jesus could come back at any moment, what are we to do? Peter answers: Business as usual. Be who you are! (1 Peter 4:7)
 - 1. Live with a clear conscience, especially for the sake of your prayer life (7)
 - 2. Love earnestly, especially the stranger (8–9)
 - 3. Use your gifts for God’s glory, not your own (10–11)
- G. The Disposition of your heart and life now will be the disposition of your heart and life in the New Heavens and the New Earth

Main Idea: *Your eschatology, that is, your view of the end and of eternity, conditions your ethic in this life.*

- I. How Eschatology conditions a clear conscience, especially in our prayer life (v. 7)
 - A. *To be self-controlled means that we are constantly aligning ourselves with the will of God in our life*
 - B. *To be sober-minded means that we don’t have a higher opinion of ourselves than we ought*
 - C. *What drives the desire to be self-controlled and sober-minded? (Rom 13:11–12)*
 - D. *How do sober-mindedness and self-control connect to prayer?*

Answer: Have a clear conscience in that for which you ask. Don’t be double-minded.
 - 1. Prayer and Shooting a Basketball
- II. How eschatology conditions our love (v. 8–9)
 - A. Love is a strong verb that transcends emotion (v. 8a)
 - B. Love covers a multitude of sins (v. 8b)
 - C. How does eschatology condition how we **show and receive** hospitality? (v.9)

1. Eschatology promotes grumble-free hospitality
 - aa. Why do we grumble in showing hospitality?
 - i. We think that we have to wait until we have everything perfect before we have people over.
 - ii. We may also grumble if our “stranger-guests” don’t act the way we want them to.
2. Eschatology conditions how we engage in and receive hospitality
 - aa. Does your personal diet tend to encourage table fellowship or inhibit it?
 - bb. The Church has dealt with road blocks to table fellowship and given us ways to think about it
 - cc. How can we make fellowship a priority over personal diets?

Conclusion:

Jesus’ act of “emptying Himself” is both an example and a consolation for sinners who aren’t perfect (Phil 2:1–11)