

The End of All Things is Near

1 Peter 4.7-11

Christian Belief Concerning "The End"

There is a fundamental principle in Scripture which, simply stated, says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and in the end God will destroy the heavens and the earth." As surely as God, through his creative word, brought into existence the things that exist, so God, through his irrefutable command, will terminate all the things that he brought into being. God, the initiator and the sustainer of all things, also is the terminator of all things. The Bible teaches an end to human history brought about by divine intervention.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. 2 Peter 3.10-13; Mark 13.1-4

Christian Behavior Considering "The End"

The end of all things is near. Therefore...

Peter gives a list of several things that should characterize "end time" living.

First, be clear minded, (1 Peter 4.7).

*The end of all things is near. Therefore **be clear minded** and self-controlled so that you can pray.*

When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. 'Sovereign Lord,' they said, 'you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

*Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth take their stand
and the rulers gather together
against the Lord
and against his Anointed One.'* Acts 4.24-26; Psalm 2.1-2

Second, discipline yourself so you are self-controlled, (1 Peter 4.7).

*The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and **self-controlled** so that you can pray.*

Third, love each other deeply, (1 Peter 4.8).

*Above all, **love each other deeply**, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

Fourth, offer hospitality to one another, (1 Peter 4.9).

***Offer hospitality** to one another without grumbling.*

Fifth, keep a faithful attitude, (1 Peter 4.10).

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Sixth, keep a pure message by speaking the very words of God, (1 Peter 4.11).

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.

Seventh, keep a powerful witness with a servant's heart, (1 Peter 4.11).

If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever an ever. Amen.

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