

The End of all Things is at Hand

May 22, 2014

1 Peter 4:7

"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers."

- In the New Testament, the primary purpose and focus of prayer is the preparation of our hearts (*self and others*) for the coming of the Lord.
- If the primary purpose and focus of your prayer life is not preparation for the Day, then your prayer life will lack fervency, life and power. You are not using prayer for its intended use.
- What Jesus, Paul and Peter emphasize and prioritize in their teachings regarding the life-focus of the believer are not typically what contemporary Christians emphasize.
- Emphasize and focus on preparation for Jesus' Coming, and that preparation will make you a better husband, wife, father, mother, employee, citizen here on earth.

Luke 21:34-36

34 **"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with DISSIPATION (drunken nausea, indulgence in sensual pleasure, useless and profitless activity, wasting time and money on physical pleasure) and DRUNKENNESS (lack of sobriety) and CARES (worry, distraction, fracturing into parts) of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.**

35 For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 **But stay awake at all times, PRAYING that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."**

1 Peter 1:13-16

13 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.**

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,

15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

2 Peter 3:1-13

1 **This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,**

2 **that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,**

3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

4 They will say, **"WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."**

5 For **they deliberately overlook this fact**, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,

6 and that by means of these **the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.**

7 But **BY THE SAME WORD** the heavens and earth that now exist **are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.**

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 **The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.**

10 **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.**

11 **Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,**

12 **waiting for and hastening (to desire earnestly) the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!**

13 **But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

Luke 12:35

35 **“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,**

36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, **so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.**

37 **Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.**

38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.

40 **You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”**