

“End Time Living”
“Grow in Grace and Knowledge”—Part 7
2 Peter 3:11-18

1. The when, what and how of the end of all things.

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...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, 12b-13

When will it happen? The Lord will come unexpectedly!

What will happen? The present heavens and earth will pass away. The elements will be destroyed. The earth and its works will be burned up.

How will it happen—Peter pictures the obliteration of the world by fire to make way for something new!

2. The Christ-follower’s personal response to the end of all things.

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. *2 Peter 3:11-12a*

Be diligent!

Our task is not to speculate but to serve!

Question: How do we maintain this eager expectancy that leads to holy living?
Inventory your life for areas that need to be cleaned up.

Confess your sin.

Seek God’s forgiveness.

Ask for God’s strength to overcome sin.

Seek out accountability to stay on track.

Live your life in constant expectation of Christ’s return.

Test your perspective by examining your time and money.

Take a close look at your donations to God’s work.

Take a close look at your calendar.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:2-3

3. The Christ-follower's outward response to the end of all things.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2 Peter 3:14-16

Be confident that Christ's delay is purposeful!

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:11-14

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

1 John 2:28

I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

Luke 16:9

4. Peter's final appeal to Christ-followers in light of his end.

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3:17-18

Continue to Grow!

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to

perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-8

Application: How will you live to give glory to God? We glorify God when we grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. That means we know more than His Word we know Him. False teachers are at work seeking to steal your firm foundation, if you fail to live in the reality of Christ's return.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4

"End Time Living" is seventh in a series titled, "Growing in Spiritual Knowledge."
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Grace

Keeps you loving
Gives you mercy and compassion
Helps you believe in and accept others
Results in vulnerability

Knowledge

Keeps you confident
Gives you discernment and discrimination
Helps you question and critique
Results in stability