

Keeping the End In Sight, Part Three - The End Times

- To keep the end in sight, we need to be aware of the very end.**

Matthew 24:14

And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

- As Christ-followers, the end we keep in sight is a positive one.**

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

Things to Know About the End

1. It will come for all either through the grave, or through the return of Christ.

Hebrews 9:27

Everyone must die once, and after that be judged by God.

Psalm 116:15

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

2 Corinthians 5:8

...to be absent from the body (is) to be present with the Lord.

2. The return of Christ occurs in two stages.

- The rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4)

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! 52 It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. 53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

-The glorious appearing.

Revelation 1:7-8

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen.

3. Between these two events, great tribulation will come upon the earth.

Matthew 24:21

For at that time there will be great tribulation, the kind that hasn't taken place from the beginning of the world until now and never will again!

4. The glorious appearing will result in the defeat of the anti-Christ and the beginning of the Millennial Reign of Christ.**Revelation 20:4**

Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5. God will provide a new heaven and a new earth where we will spend eternity.**2 Peter 3:12-13**

On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. 13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

How to Keep the End In Sight**1. Live ready to meet God at any time.****Matthew 24:44**

You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

2. Help others to get ready.**Jude 1:22-23**

And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. 23 Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

3. Treat life as temporary.**John 9:4**

We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work.

Ephesians 5:16

Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

4. Store up treasures in heaven.

Matthew 6:20

Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

1 Thessalonians 2:19

After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you!