

“LIVING LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW”

I. 1 Peter 4:7-11

A. There's been 2000 years worth of false end time predictions. More will come...

- 1) The Mayans were wrong about this past December 21, 2012...
- 2) Harold Camping predicted May 21, 2011 and then Oct. 21, 2011...
- 3) While Nostradamus favored 1999, Jonathan Edwards predicted Jesus' 1000 year reign would begin in 2000, as did Isaac Newton; Edgar Cayce, Sun Myung Moon, Jerry Falwell, Lester Sumrall, Tim LaHaye all predicted year 2000 cataclysms...
- 4) In 1914 Jehovah's Witnesses predicted 1994. Harold Camping first chose 1994. The JW's first predicted 1941. William Miller and the Seventh Day Adventists (Millerites) predicted 1843, then 1844, then 1874... (Talk about 3 strikes and you're out!)
- 5) Edgar Whisenant and Hal Lindsey originally predicted 1988...
- 6) John Wesley proposed, in writing, 1836...
- 7) The Shakers said 1792 and then later 1794...
- 8) Puritan Minister Cotton Mather predicted 1697, then 1716, then 1736...
- 9) Christopher Columbus calculated 1656, then recalculated 1658...
- 10) Martin Luther said no later than 1600...
- 11) Pope Innocent III predicted 666 years after the rise of Islam i.e. 1284.

B. In 2013 some without Christ will die and for them it will be cataclysmic. Others living for Christ will die and it will be glorious. Thus 2013 will be both great and terrible...

- 1) Today's message is not about how or when things will end...
- 2) Today's message is about how we should live, realizing the end of the world as we know it could happen anytime... Mark 13:32; Acts 1:7...

C. 1 Peter 4:7-11 is written to believers who are suffering for their faith and to us...

- 1) *V7: The end of all things is near.* (A conversation with a theology prof...)
- 2) Rom. 13:11-12; Heb. 10:25; Jas. 5:7-9; Rev. 22:12. (*Peter, Paul, author of Hebrews, James, & John wrote the end was near.*) We've been in the end times 2000 years. Jesus can return anytime. Each generation gets to look lovingly and expectantly for His appearing until finally one generation actually gets to experience it firsthand...
- 3) *V8-11: Love each other deeply; forgive again and again; demonstrate hospitality; use your unique gifts faithfully to serve others--it's God's means for dispensing His grace in its various forms; speak as though speaking the very words of God and serve one another with the strength God provides... In so doing God will be praised and glorified through the lives we live for His glory... This is our ultimate worship!*

D. Not only is this a vital form of worship, but it is also a vital form of witness. The way we suffer, the way we endure, the way we live, the way we speak, the way we serve--all these things are used by God in His apprehension of others...

- 1) While we don't know if the world's end will come tomorrow, it's very possible someone we know may meet their end tomorrow, or perhaps even today...
- 2) We're playing for keeps. Living for God is a matter of life and death, not just for us but potentially for others. As Francis Schaeffer said, *How shall we then live?!*
- 3) I say we live for God each day (Love & Serve) like there will be no tomorrow... By doing so we worship the One who holds our futures and we hold out (extend) hope to those whose eternal futures are presently not so bright...

E. Close with 2 Peter 3:8-18 and Prayer...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV)

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. 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 and ever. Amen.

Mark 13:32 (ESV)

32 "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (c/f Matthew 24:36)

Acts 1:6-8 (NIV)

6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own

authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Romans 13:11-12 (ESV)

11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

James 5:7-9 (NIV)

7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. 9 Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Revelation 22:12 (NIV)

12 “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

Psalm 90:4 (NLT)

For you, a thousand years are as a passing day, as brief as a few night hours.

2 Peter 3:8-18 (ESV)

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 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. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Some Great Videos

Theology Refresh-End Times Discussion with Sam Storms

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhvp_T-_ABA

"Left Behind" (Rapture Song) by Randy Bonifield :-)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvB3FWk8Xss>

Duck Dynasty's Willie Robertson-Testimony at Harding University

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Zf227NaFpg>

"Something More" by Nick Vujicic (Thanks Clint & Kelly Bigler!)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrV_ZvwZRvw

John Piper's Last Sermon as Pastor - "Sorrowful Yet Always Rejoicing"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lt8a041S1mQ>

Bonus Stuff

Quote by J. C. Ryle

"Live as if you thought that Christ might come at any time. Do everything, as if you did it for the last time. Say everything, as if you said it for the last time. Read every chapter in the Bible, as if you did not know whether you would be allowed to read it again."

The Fire

A Parable by Søren Kierkegaard

The Danish philosopher, Kierkegaard, tells a parable of a theater where a variety show is proceeding. Each show is more fantastic than the last, and is applauded by the audience. Suddenly the manager comes forward. He apologizes for the interruption, but the theater is on fire, and he begs his patrons to leave in an orderly fashion. The audience thinks this is the most amusing turn of the evening, and cheer thunderously. The manager again implores them to leave the burning building, and he is again applauded vigorously. At last he can do no more. The fire raced through the whole building and the fun-loving audience with it. "And so," concluded Kierkegaard, "will our age, I sometimes think, go down in fiery destruction to the applause of a crowded house of cheering spectators."

Quote by C. S. Lewis

Excerpted from The Case For Christianity

"Why is God landing in this enemy-occupied world in disguise and starting a sort of secret society to undermine the devil? Why is He not landing in force, invading it? Is it that He is not strong enough? Well, Christians think He is going to land in force; we do not know when. But we can guess why He is delaying. He wants to give us the chance of joining His side freely. I do not suppose you and I would have thought much of a Frenchman who waited till the Allies were marching into Germany and then announced he was on our side. God will invade. But I wonder whether people who ask God to interfere openly and directly in our world quite realize what it will be like when He does. When that happens, it is the end of the world. When the author walks on to the stage the play is over. God is going to invade, all right: but what is the good of saying you are on His side then, when you see the whole natural universe melting away like a dream and something else -something it never entered your head to conceive- comes crashing in; something so beautiful to some of us and so terrible to others that none of us will have any choice left? For this time it will be God without disguise; something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side. There is no use saying you choose to lie down when it has become impossible to stand up. That will not be the time for choosing: it will be the time when we discover which side we really have chosen, whether we realized it before or not. Now, today, this moment, is our chance to choose the right side. God is holding back to give us that chance. It will not last forever. We must take it or leave it."

"Our Earth is degenerate in these later days; there are signs that the world is speedily coming to an end; bribery and corruption are common; children no longer obey their parents; every man wants to write a book and the end of the world is evidently approaching." -Assyrian clay tablet, circa 2800 B.C.

Quote by Fr. Visarion Coman

"In the time of the end, monks will be like laymen, and laymen will be like demons. And, nowadays is that time." - Fr. Visarion Coman, 1921-2002

Quote by Jay Leno

"According to the Mayans, the world is supposed to end in the year 2012. Are you buying that? When's the last time you even ran into a Mayan?" - The Tonight Show, Jan. 4, 2012

