



"Between a Hard Place and The Rock: Living in Light of Christ's Coming" (Part 1)

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1 Peter 4:7a



7 The end of all things has come near; therefore, be of sound and sound mind for the purpose of prayer. 8 Above all, remain fervent in your love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another, without complaint. 10 As each one has received a spiritual gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, [let him speak] as the utterances of God; if anyone serves, [let him serve] out of

the strength supplied by God; so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and power forever and ever. Amen!

– 1 Peter 4:7-11, As translated from the Greek New Testament by T. Bartolucci.

The Passage is Also Found on Page 182 of the New Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

Introduction

A mind fused on Christ's coming is focused on persevering in prayer, practicing love, and pursuing God's glory.

I. What is our Motivation? (7a)

A. To Live in Light of Christ's C

"The end of all things has come near . . . "

1. Note the Perfect Tense (usually translated w/words, "has," or "have") - The perfect tense is a past-tense with results that continue into the present

2. But . . . What does this mean?

a. Peter wasn't saying that the end was going to be immediate in the sense of the very next moment (today, or tomorrow, or this month)

(1) There are several considerations in this regard:

- (a) First - Remember that Peter was present when Jesus spoke his last words before his ascension in Acts chapter 1
 - (b) Second - Remember that Peter was one of those to whom Jesus spoke in Matthew 24 about the destruction of Jerusalem
 - (c) Third - Remember that Jesus told Peter that he would die in his old age
 - (d) We could add that Paul warns against this view that Jesus might have returned in those days at any moment
- b. But let's think about it from Peter's perspective . . . what might he have been thinking?
- c. From our perspective I believe we could say that Christ's coming is immanent
- (1) Let me give you a couple of other thoughts on this:
 - (a) All eschatology begins at the cross
 - (2) Prophetic Events Have Height and Breadth, but not Depth
 - (3) There is always the tension of the "already and not yet"
 - (4) The Bible Gives us a Theology of Watchfulness
 - (a) Matthew 24-25; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thess. 5:1-11 (cf. 2 Thess. 2:1-3)
 - (5) The other side of this is the fact that our death is always immanent

Conclusion