

Heartland Christian Center
www.heartlandchristiancenter.com
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2012 AND THE END TIMES “Part Two”

1 Peter 4:7

KJV: “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”

NKJV: “But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.”

Berkley: “The end of all things is near; so, be serious –minded and be awake to the practice of prayer.”

a literal rendering from the greek: “Now of all things the end has drawn near. Be ye sober-minded therefore, and be ye sober unto prayers.”

I. What is meant by the end times.

A. End times’ is a reference to the time **remaining** before the Lord Jesus returns to remove the christians (*his believers and followers*) out of the world before the **7 year** tribulation starts.

1. No one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows (*Matthew 24:36*).
2. *You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected ([Matthew 24:44](#)).*

II. Reasons why the topic is gaining so much attention.

- A. People are looking at **events** happening today.
- B. The Mayans did know an incredible amount about **time**
- C. People want to know the future.

“And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.” Luke 21:11 (KJV)

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.” Luke 21:25

What about signs in **society**?

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent,

fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.” 2 Timothy 3:1-4 (KJV)

III. What it all means.

A. Understand the **times** in which you live.

1. Recognize that Jesus could **return** at any moment.
2. Two major reasons people remain skeptical.
 - a. Most in our culture operate from a materialistic or naturalistic **worldview**.
 - b. Out of **sight**, out of mind.

“Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts and saying, ‘Where is the promise of his coming? Forever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.’ 2 Peter 3:2-10

B. Secondly, Peter wants to **encourage** these persecuted believers.

1. He wants to counsel them how they should **live** in light of their understanding of the times.

Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.

A. We are to live **disciplined** lives and **purposeful** lives.

1. We are intentional about **doing**.
2. We are intentional about **avoiding**.

B. Be awake to the **practice** of prayer.

1. We should live **properly** so that we can pray **powerfully**.

IV. Action points

1. Start assessing everything in your life through the lens of this **truth**.
2. Begin to live, or use our **time** intentionally.
3. Make **prayer** a part of your very existence.