



December 27, 2009

End Of Ages

Another year is winding down and now that the Christmas season is over, except for returns and bargain hunting, preparations are under way for a new year. Each year at this time there is an air of expectation as folks look forward to the prospect of things being better or different. But the change is only in the mind. We may think that midnight on January first brings with it some magic, but the fact is, it is just the turn of another page of the calendar. The stream of time moves on and the forces that were set in motion or in process on December 31st will continue on New Years day. As the day approaches there are things that happen. Folks begin to plan for parties and joyous celebrations that will ring in the new year. Much effort and energy is put into planning and executing the various parties and extravaganzas. Worldwide there will be celebrating as the calendar advances one more year. There is a broader concern that needs to be addressed as we approach the end of the year. It is nice to think of a new year and a feeling of freshness bringing with it the possibility of success in ventures that have been planned but stalled in the past. Psychologically there is a newness that has an effect on us and it is good to feel that spirit of being regenerated. God has done the same thing for the world. The entire world was lost in sin until God sent his son to provide the way for us to be saved. Paul indicates that sin was an unrelieved burden that weighed down the mind and culture of mankind. ***“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”*** (Rom 8.19-22). Until the sacrifice of Christ sin was only set aside for one year. Each year the sins of the people were remembered, confessed and sacrifices offered for them. When Christ came he offered the sacrifice that would be the final

atonement for all time. The writer of Hebrews tells us that the blood of Christ was for the sins of the past as well as those of the future. Having done those things we realize that the scriptures tell us that we have entered the last days. Peter states, ***“Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...”*** (1 Pet 1.20). Seeing that this is the final age of the world we realize that the end will come when God sends Christ once more to judge the world. ***“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ ...”*** (2 Thess 1.7-8). The question is whether we are ready for the Lord to return or not. Will this be a joyous meeting or will it end in tragedy as we find that we have not obeyed the truth. Christ stated, ***“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*** (Matt 7.22-23). Christ told his disciples, ***“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”*** (John 14.15). Many think that they are keeping the commandments of the Lord, but, as Christ stated above, they are in error. How do we prepare for the end of ages? We must first come to a knowledge of what God’s word says. We need to study it to find out what God wants us to do. We need to accept what it says. This is the kind of belief that will save us. To accept the reality and authority of the scriptures. We need to determine to alter the course of our lives to conform to what God would have us to do. We must acknowledge that openly and we must come into contact with the blood of Christ through baptism. We must then continue in these things being faithful to the teachings of the Bible. Doing these things will indeed prepare us for the end of the world and judgment.

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