

Living in the Last Days—3

End Times: Signs You Can't Ignore

Paul Urged the Believers to Move From ...

Sinfulness → Sanctification

Confusion → Clarity

Passivity → Readiness

1. Move from sinfulness to sanctification.

- **Justification is the moment your sins are forgiven once for all.**
- **Sanctification is the lifelong process of becoming like Jesus.**

... we instructed you how to live in order to please God ... ³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God ... ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 1 Thessalonians 4:1, 3-5, 7 NIV

2. Move from confusion to clarity.

... we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 NIV

According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 NIV

A Traditional View of End-Time Events

- **The rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)**

***harpazō:** to rescue, to snatch, to carry away suddenly*

- **The seven-year tribulation (Revelation 6-18)**
- **The second coming of Christ (Revelation 19)**
- **The millennial reign (Revelation 20:1-6)**
- **The ultimate defeat of Satan (Revelation 20:7-10)**
- **A new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21-22)**

3. Move from passivity to readiness.

... about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly ... 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 NIV

pax et securitas: peace and safety

... you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. ⁶So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 NLT

What would I change if I really believed Jesus could return at any moment?

How to Live Ready

- **Turn**
- **Serve**
- **Wait**

- **Speak Boldly**
- **Live Purely**
- **Love Deeply**
- **Endure Faithfully**

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TALK IT OVER

Read **1 Thessalonians 5:4-6**. What does it look like to live ready for Christ's return? Have you noticed a shift toward readiness in your daily rhythms since the start of this series?

Share about a time when God sanctified you, gave you clarity, or helped you become more ready. What was that process like?

What would you change if you really believed that Jesus could return at any moment?

Start the Bible Plan *Living Like Jesus in a Broken World* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/living