

The End Versus The Beginning

1 Peter 4:17

The Certainty Of The End

- It is sometimes called merely "*the end.*" **1 Corinthians 15:22-24**
- It is referred to as "*the end of the world.*" **Matthew 24:3; cf. 2 Peter 3:10**
- "When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound..."

For Every Person It Will Be The
End Of Something...

For the faithful Christian.

- The end of his conflict with the flesh.
1 Corinthians 9:27; 2 Timothy 4:8
- The end of his sufferings and trials.
2 Corinthians 1:8ff; 4:17

For Every Person It Will Be The
End Of Something...

For the unfaithful Christian.

The end of God's patience. **Romans 10:21**

The day of grace has ended.

The end of God's exhortations. **cf. Romans 12:1f.; Ephesians 4:1; Hebrews 10:25ff**

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

For Every Person It Will Be The
End Of Something...

For the unbeliever and disobedient.

- The end of opportunity to be saved.
cf. Revelation 3:20
One day Christ will cease His knocking.
- The end of rejection and rebellion.
Philippians 2:10 You will bow and confess, but too late.

The Time Of The End

Not revealed.

- The future is uncertain. **cf. Weather, Stock Market, etc.**
- Death is unpredictable. **Proverbs 27:1; James 4:13-14**
- Christ's return is unknowable.
Matthew 24:36

The Time Of The End

Our attitude toward the end.

- We must not deny there will be an end. **cf. 2 Peter 3:3f**
- We must not delay the end in our thinking. **Matthew 24:48-51**
- We must recognize the end as a definite appointment. **Hebrews 9:27**
- We must realize the end is nearer than it has been. **cf. Romans 13:11-14**

The Importance Of Considering The End

The end will be the beginning....

- Time will end, but eternity begin.
- Physical existence will end, but a new spiritual existence will begin. **1 Corinthians 15:50-54; 2 Corinthians 5:1**
- Earth will end, but heaven or hell will begin. **Matthew 25:46**

The Importance Of Considering The End

For the saved it will be the beginning of...

- A new life with Christ. **Philippians 1:21-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**
- A new life of supernal joy. **Matthew 25:21; cf. Revelation 21:4**

The Importance Of Considering The End

For the lost it will be the beginning of...

- An eternity of death (separation). **Romans 6:23; cf. Luke 16:23**
- An eternity of horrible punishment. **2 Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 8:12**

The Importance Of Considering The End

Those who have lived successful lives have considered the end.

- Noah looked to the end (flood) and obeyed God. **Hebrews 11:7**
- Paul looked to the end (goal) and pressed on. **Philippians 3:13f**
- Jesus looked to the end (glory) and endured the cross. **Hebrews 12:1f**

The Importance Of Considering The End

Considering the end will result in:

- Patience in trials. **Matthew 5:11f; cf. Philippians 4:4f**
- Zeal in endeavors. **John 9:4; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:58**

The Importance Of Considering The End

The ultimate end of every person is either hell with its horrors, or heaven with its beauties.

- God has designed the means whereby we may avoid hell and gain heaven:
 - Obedience to the gospel. **2 Thess. 2:7-9**
 - A life of sacrificial service. **Mt. 16:24**
- Heaven will be worth every effort and sacrifice we are called upon to make.

Compare

Ecclesiastes 7:8, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof,"
and
2 Peter 2:20, "The latter end is worse with them than the beginning."

Whether the end is better or worse than the beginning depends on the answer to the question...

What shall the end be?