

A FAITH THAT KNOWS THE END OF THE STORY

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't
Rick Warren

"Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming." James 5:7
"Do not give up hope, because the Lord is coming soon." James 5:8
"Speak and act as those who are going to be judged." James 2:12
"The Judge is near, ready to appear." James 5:9

WHAT WILL THE LAST DAYS BE LIKE?

Jesus: "There will be GREAT DISTRESS in the world at that time, unparalleled since the world began." Matthews 24:21 (NJB)

Jesus' description:	Matthew 24:7-15
Paul's description:	2 Timothy 3:1-5
Peter's description:	2 Peter 3:3, 10-13

"The day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly like a thief... So, since everything we see will one day come to an end, WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE SHOULD WE BE? We should LIVE holy and godly lives, LOOK FORWARD to the coming Day of God and speed its coming! We look forward to a new heaven and new earth that Jesus has promised, a world where goodness lives." 2 Peter 3:10-13

HOW SHOULD I LIVE TO PREPARE FOR HIS COMING?

1. _____
"Getting angry at things will never help you live the righteous life God wants. So get rid of all the filth and evil habits you've learned. Then humbly accept God's Word planted in your heart, because it can save your soul." James 1:20-21

"Christ is our life, and when he comes again, you will share in his glory! So put all evil things out of your life: sexual sinning, doing evil, letting evil thoughts control you, wanting things that are evil, and greed. This is really serving a false god. These things make God angry. In your past, evil life you also did these things. But now also put these things out of your life: no anger, no bad temper, no doing or saying things to hurt others, and no using evil words when you talk."

Colossians 3:4-8 (NCV)

2. _____
"The Spirit that God gave to live in us wants us for himself alone. So, give yourself completely to God . . . Draw close to God and He will draw close to you!"
James 4:5,7-8 (NCV)

"Continue to live in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame." 1 John 2:28 (NLT)

3. _____
"You know that troubles test your faith and develop endurance. SO, let your endurance grow, for when it is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything!" James 1:3-4

"May God who makes everything holy and whole, make you HOLY AND WHOLE, put together—spirit, soul, and body—and KEEP YOU FIT for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (The Message)

4. _____
"You will always do the right thing if you obey the most important law in the Scriptures. It is the law that commands us to love EVERYONE else as much as we love ourselves." James 2:8 (CEV)

"May the Lord make your love grow more and more and multiply for each other and for ALL PEOPLE so that you will love others as much as we love you. May your hearts be made strong so that you will be holy and without fault before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes back with all who belong to him!"
1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (NCV)

5. _____
James: "God's generosity to us . . . (James 1:5, 1:12, 1:17, 1:18, 4:6) . . . should make us generous to others!" (James 1:27, 2:16)

Jesus: "Sell what you have and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! By getting your treasure into heaven, it will be safe for eternity; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it." Luke 12:33 (NLT)

"Tell people to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they are storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well." 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (TLB)

6. _____
"I can never stop thanking God for all the generous gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:4,7 (NLT)

"Remember, the reason the Lord is waiting is so that people have time to be saved."
2 Peter 3:15 (NLT)

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