

Title: The End and the Beginning

Text: 1 Cor 15: 24-28

Date: Dec 30, 2018

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

This is the last service before the years end. This is the time when we look back over the year—we thank God for all the blessings he gave us. We thank him for the blessings that we deem good and we thank him for those blessings that brought us great sorrow. We know that God is working all things together for the good of his people according to his eternal purpose. Therefore, *“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thess 5: 18).*

At the same time, we look ahead to the New Year—we set new goals. I do not make New Year’s Resolutions but one of my continuous resolutions is the same as the apostle Paul, *“I determined [resolved] not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor 2: 2).* I am resolute in knowing Christ more and preaching only him.

But each year, when we come to the year’s end, I begin thinking of *THE end*—the end after the end. No man knows the time when the end shall come. It could be 1000 years from now or it could be today. But this we know, as surely as this year has come to its end—so too this world and God’s eternal purpose will come to its end.

1 Corinthians 15: 19: If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20: But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21: For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. 22: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23: But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. 24: THEN COMETH THE END, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25: For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26: The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. 27: For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28: And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all

When Christ has finished everything God determined from the beginning then cometh the end. When all the saints are called, when Christ has returned, when the resurrection is complete, when judgment is over then cometh the end.

The end is what Acts 3: 21 calls *“the times of the restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21).*

In Ephesians 1: 10 *the end* is called *“the dispensation of the fulness of times,”* in which the Lord God will *“gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, even in him.”*

Proposition: The end is when our Lord Jesus Christ shall have put all his enemies under his feet and delivered up the kingdom to the Father.

Divisions: 1) The Lord Jesus *must* reign until the end—**v25: For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.** 2) The end will come, when Christ has delivered up the kingdom unto the Father—**v24: Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father;** 3) Then every believer will behold the end for which God made and accomplished all things—**v28: And when all**

things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

HE MUST REIGN

1 Corinthians 15: 25: For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26: The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

The Lord Jesus Christ must reign until the end comes. Christ Jesus—the GodMan—our Mediator—MUST REIGN!

One, our Lord Jesus Christ is God and GOD MUST REIGN!

Psalms 115:3: But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."

Psalms 135:6: Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

Two, Christ *must reign* because his dominion is the reward of his obedience. He accomplished everything he promised the Father in eternity. Our faithful Savior fulfilled the prophets and the law. He lived and died as the servant of God, glorifying his Father—declaring him just and the Justifier. Our Substitute lived and died as the Mediator, Surety, and Head, of all the elect the Father gave him in eternity by which he purged our sins and made us righteous by his blood. Therefore, God our Father exalted his Son, Christ Jesus, the GodMan, to sovereign dominion overall as the reward of his obedience

Psalms 2:8: Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Romans 14:9: For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

Ephesians 1: 20...he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Three, our Lord and Savior must reign because the salvation of God's elect and the glory of God depend upon it—and these are connected.

John 17:2: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3: And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Right now all rule is under his power—*“for he hath put all under his feet.”* And very soon our all-powerful Head *“shall put down all rule, and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”*

The end will only come when Christ has graciously, effectually conquered the hearts of all his elect: he will make us bow to him as our Lord and our Savior: in faith, hope and love. Also, all who refuse to walk in the

light God has given them, shall be conquered by his wrath. *“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Php 2: 10-11).*

Brethren, by conquering his enemies, he conquers ours: our flesh, satan, sin, the world, and *“the last enemy that shall be destroyed is Death!”* He destroyed our judicial death by making us righteous. Christ destroyed our spiritual death by making us holy! At last he shall destroy physical death by resurrecting us. Then cometh the end. Each time we come to the end of a year like this, it should remind us that one day soon, the end is coming. Christ shall return!

HE SHALL DELIVER UP THE KINGDOM

1 Corinthians 15: 24: Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power....28: And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him,...

Christ shall deliver up the kingdom to God the Father. When it says *“then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him”* it does not mean that Christ is not God.

John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

It does not mean that the Son of God is in any way inferior to the Father.

1 John 5: 7: For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Nor does it mean that Christ will cease to be Prophet, Priest, and King over his Church and Kingdom.

Hebrews 1:8: But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Verse 24 explains it. Christ shall deliver up the kingdom unto God, even the Father as he promised. This will be his final work as Jehovah's Servant, as Surety and Mediator of the covenant. The Shepherd will present his sheep; the Savior will present his Church; the Son will present his brethren; the King will present his Kingdom to God the Father.

Ephesians 5:25:...Christ...loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26: That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Christ will say to the Father, *“Behold I and the children which God hath given me” (Heb 2:13).* He will say, *“Of all thou hast given me, I have lost none! I have redeemed, regenerated, resurrected and glorified each one. Here they are righteous and holy, unblamable, unreprouvable in your sight. All the law and the prophets are fulfilled as I promised. Every covenant promise is fulfilled. The counsel of peace is accomplished. All your purpose is finished. Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life!”*

Christ's high priestly prayer is, *“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world” (Jn 17:24).*

God the Father will say to his Son and to all his people conformed to his image, "*Well done my good and faithful servant!*" (Mt 25: 23)

THE END PURPOSE FOR ALL THINGS

1 Corinthians 15: 28:...that God may be all in all

This is the end purpose for which God made all things. This is the end determined from the beginning. It is the end for which God the Father sent forth his Son into this world.

When the end comes, the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—shall be seen in the everlasting Person of the God-Man—and he shall be "ALL IN ALL." It is only in the glorified GodMan that we will see and know the invisible triune God. "*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*" (Col 2: 9). Then "*in the ages to come he [shall] show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus*" (Eph 2:7).

Brethren, he has bestowed so many riches of his grace on us that he will be ages and ages and ages showing it to us.

Then our triune God in Christ shall be all in all: all our Food, Clothing and Shelter; all our Life, Joy, Peace, Glory, and Satisfaction; all our Sun and Moon and Light Forever! God shall be all in all things, in all his people. Then God's predestinating purpose shall be accomplished—"we shall praise his glory who first trusted in Christ" (Eph 1:12).

Sinner, would you enjoy all this with God's people? Repent and believe on Christ now! Every year that comes to an end is a witness to you that the end is coming! Prepare to meet God—believe on Christ! Seek him while he may be found!

Psalm 90: 1: Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. 2: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God. 3: Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men. 4: For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night. 5: Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are *as* a sleep: in the morning *they are* like grass *which* groweth up. 6: In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth. 7: For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled. 8: Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret *sins* in the light of thy countenance. 9: For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale *that is told*. 10: The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. 11: Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, *so is* thy wrath. 12: So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom. 13: Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants. 14: O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. 15: Make us glad according to the days *wherein* thou hast afflicted us, *and* the years *wherein* we have seen evil. 16: Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. 17: And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

For you and I who believe, remember, the time is short.

1 Corinthians 7:29: But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; 30: And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as

though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; 31: And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."

As surely as this year is ending and will be no more, everything in this world shall come to an end. It is all temporary. Time will soon end. This world will soon end. God made us for the purpose of finding in him our all in all and glorifying him both now and forever.

Tuesday will be a new year—but really everything will be the same. But after THE end, then all things will truly be new:

Revelation 21: 1: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2: And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3: And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. 4: And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5: And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6: And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7: He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8: But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Amen!