

THE END OF OUR STORY

July 30, 2023 • James 5:7-11 & 2 Peter 3:10-13
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INTRODUCTION:

- A. I've told you I like to know the story ends when reading a fictional book....
- B. When we “page to the back of the Bible to see how the story ends” we discover the ushering in of Eternity. Specifically, the return of Christ to the earth.

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return... You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. James 5:7-8

...the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly as a thief (to those who haven't taken the Bible seriously in their life) ... 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

I. THEN HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?

- A. We need to stay **connected** to Christ.

“The Spirit that God made us to live in us, wants us for Himself alone.”... So, give yourself completely to God...Come near to God and God will come near to you! James 4:5, 7-8

- We need to keep our **souls** cleaned up.

So, get rid of all the filth and evil habits you have learned. James 1:21

Christ is our life, and when He comes again, you will share in His glory! So, put all evil things out of your life.... Colossians 3:4

- We need **cleansing** confession:

If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9

- Admit, express, receive.

II. USE THE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU TO REACH OTHERS.

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 (cooperatively) as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:4 & 7

- B. We need to **keep** serving one another inside SCC.

God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings. 1 Peter 4:10-12

- Are we a blessing? And what kind of blessing are we?

- C. Serve others **outside** of SCC (so they might come inside the church).

And He has given us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors (spiritual tour guides); God is making His appeal through us.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

- We need to practice loving everyone.

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

CONCLUSION: