



“WHEN THE END COMES!”

Introduction:

A. (Slide #2) Today We Come To The “END” Of 2017.

1. What kind of feeling goes through you?
2. What kind of thoughts do you have about that?

B. “End” Can Bring Many Emotions!

1. Questions.
2. Relief.
3. Joy.
4. Determination.
5. Uncertainty.
6. Despair.
7. Terror!

C. What Will Be The Result When The End Comes?

I. (Slide #3) Many Times An End Bring LOTS OF Questions!

A. “What Am I Going To Do Now?”

1. When you finish semesters in school or different educational levels -- grade school, middle school, high school, university!
 - a. “How will I do as I take the next step in life?”
 - b. “Will I find a job?”
 - c. “Can I do it?”
2. What will happen in my life next year?

3. A mate dies -- “WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?”
 4. We face death -- “How am I going to die? Is it going to be terribly painful? What is going to happen to me eternally?”
 5. Job 14:14 “If a man dies, shall he live *again*?”
- B. Lots Of Those Questions Do Not Seem To Have Immediate Answers.
- C. Sometimes An End Provides A Time Of Reflection -- How Did I Do?
1. Where did I fail pretty miserably?
 2. What could and should I have done better?
- D. How To Deal With Lots Of Questions:
1. Job -- “In all this Job did not sin with his lips. Job 2:10
 2. Paul’s Attitude Give Us A Great Pattern To Follow -- Phil. 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

II. (Slide #4) Sometimes An End Provides Relief.

- A. When A Pregnant Woman Delivers A Healthy Child, She Feels Relief!
1. **(Slide #5)** Sarah and Marc Huther recently had Everly.
 2. After 9 months of pregnancy, women are like, “Let’s get this pregnancy over! I want relief!”
 3. Ah, but what a precious end!
- B. A Hard Task Is Finished; You Are Like “Whew!”
- C. When A Loved One Is Going Downhill Every Day, Pain Is Increasing, And Nothing Can Deliver Them From Pain, Loved Ones Sometimes Feel Relief That They Are Out Of Their Misery.
- D. An End Of A Career Can Bring Relief From The Everyday Grind And Hustle And Bustle.
1. Greg Porter just retired recently.

2. Some retire from everyday life and then talk about how they are busier than ever before!
 3. Some retire and do some things that they really WANT to do!
- E. “Count Your Many Blessings, See What God Has Done!”
- F. Scriptures:
1. I Pe. 5:6,7 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
 2. Col. 3:17 “And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

III. (Slide #6) Sometimes An End Brings Joy!

- A. You Finish A Test And Excel -- Thrill!
- B. You Graduate From School -- HURRAY!!!
- C. Ps. 118:24 “This *is* the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.”
- D. Phil. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”
- E. Imagine Hearing Jesus Say, “Well Done!”
 1. Mt. 25:21 “His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” [To the 5 Talent Man]
 2. Mt. 25:23 “His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” [To the 2 Talent Man]

IV. (Slide #7) Sometimes An End Provides A Determination For Improvement!

- A. At The End Of A Task, You Can Determine To Do Better In The Future!
 1. School

2. Work
 3. Bible class or sermon
 4. End of a year!
- B. John Mark Left The First Missionary Journey; Paul Was Frustrated With Him And Would Not Take Him On The Second Missionary Journey; Later, Paul Realized That John Mark Was Now Profitable For Him.
1. Ac. 13:13 He returned home.
 - a. Why?
 - b. Fear of persecution or attacks, demands too much effort, sick?
 - c. I wonder John Mark's thoughts after he got home! At the end of that year!
 2. Paul adamantly refused to take him on the Second Journey. Ac. 15:36-41
 3. II Tim. 4:11 "Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry."
- C. The End Of A Year Can Challenge Us "I Need To Improve!"
1. "I need to study the Bible more!"
 2. "I need to pray more!"
 3. "I need to be in Sun. AM Bible Class!"
 4. "I need to be at Sun PM worship!"
 5. "I need to go to Wed PM Bible Class!"
 6. "I need to be more holy in my thinking!"

V. (Slide #8) Sometimes An End Brings Uncertainty!

- A. Some Of You Have Lost Jobs And Faced Terrible Uncertainty!
1. "How are we going to make it?"
 2. "What will be next?"
- B. Hopefully You Do Not Feel Uncertainty As You Think About Death And Eternity!

- C. Look At Time You Have Felt Uncertainty And It Worked Out!
 - 1. I have seen people get BETTER jobs!
 - 2. I have seen people's faith grow.
 - 3. I have seen people's reliance and trust in God grow!

- D. Scriptures:
 - 1. Phil. 4:6,7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
 - 2. I Pet. 5:7 "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

VI. (Slide #9) Sometimes An End Brings Despair!

- A. Some Get To An End With Confidence; That Confidence Quickly Turns To Despair!
 - 1. "I thought I was ready for that test!"
 - 2. "I was overwhelmed!"

- B. Imagine Having Confidence About Your Spiritual Life And Having The Lord Say, "I Do Not Know you!"
 - 1. Mt. 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"
 - 2. Pr. 16:25 "There is a way *that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*" Also 14:12
 - 3. Gen. 6:5-7 "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷So the LORD said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.'"

4. End of mankind in Flood! Gen. 6:13 “And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.’”
5. Methuselah, who lived 969 years, died in the year of the Flood. Did he die IN the Flood? We do not know for sure. But imagine this thought, “I lived 969 years; the faithful are on the Ark; and I am not one of them!”

VII.(Slide #10) Sometimes An End Can Be AWFUL -- It Can Bring Terror!

- A. Imagine Dying And Being Separated From God Forever!
 1. Imagine being “away from the presence of the Lord!!!” II Thess. 1:9 “These shall be **punished with everlasting destruction FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD AND FROM THE GLORY OF HIS POWER,**
 2. Imagine living where NOTHING ASSOCIATED WITH GOD EXISTS!!!!
- B. When One Dies In Sin -- LOST!
 1. I Pet. 4:17 “For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”
 2. “Outer darkness; weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Mt. 22:13
- C. When A Christian Who Has KNOW Salvation And Hope Turns His/Her Back On Christ!
 1. How horrible -- to end up “apart from Christ!”
 2. II Pet. 2:20 “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.”
 3. Phil. 3:18,19 “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.”
- D. “Where Could I Go But To The Lord?”
 1. Many have left the Lord even when He was here on Earth.

2. As some left, Jesus asked the Apostles a question: “From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ ⁶⁸But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’” Jn. 6:66-68
3. The song, “Where Could I Go But To The Lord” Asks The Question That Every Person Who Faces Death Should Ask!

VIII. (Slide #11) Sometimes An End Brings A Sense Of Reward And Accomplishment!

- A. At Retirement -- “I Gave It My Best!”
- B. At End Of A Term In Political Office; At End Of A Job When You Take Another One -- You Feel Success And Accomplishment!
- C. You Can Smile And Say, “I Did My Best!”
- D. Jesus, As He Died, Said, “It Is Finished!” Jn. 19:30

IX. (Slide #12) Sometimes An End Bring Victory!

- A. The End For An Athlete -- The Crown, The Belt, The Trophy!
- B. **The End For Faithful Christians?**
 1. I Pet. 1:9 “receiving **the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.**”
 2. Christ will deliver the Kingdom back to God! I Cor. 15:24 “Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.”
- C. **BUT, Christians Must Remain Faithful In Order To Have That Victory!**
 1. Heb. 3:14 “For we have become partakers of Christ **if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,**”
 2. Heb. 3:6 “but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are **if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.**”

- D. Be Determined To Stay Faithful To The End!
1. As you see the end, pump up your determination; set your eyes on the prize!
 2. Heb. 6:10,11 “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹²**that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**”
 3. Ps. 119:112 “I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, **to the very end.**”
 4. Ps. 119:33 “Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And **I shall keep it to the end.**”
- E. God Calls Us To Be Faithful Unto The End; He Promises Us The Reward!
1. Mt. 24:13 “But **he who endures to the end shall be saved.**” [true of fall of Israel & Jerusalem; end of world!]
 2. Eph. 6:18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being **watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--**”
 3. I Pet. 4:7 “But **the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.**”
- F. How Can We Remain Faithful Unto The End? Heb. 12:1,2 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

(Slide #13) Conclusion:

- A. Yes, There Are Many Kinds Of “Ends” With Different Results.
- B. Sometimes An End Provides A Determination To Make A New Start!
- C. **(Slide #14)** Why Not End A Life Of Sin And Begin 2018 As A Child Of God?

D. Why Is This Serious? And Then You Think Of Things Unending!

1. We ourselves!

2. Hell!

3. Heaven!

E. Hymn: "Today Is The Day Of Salvation; Tomorrow May Be Too Late!"