

FIRST PETER

PART 116

(CONTINUED)

“ARE YOU READY?”

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September 30, 2007

Many professing believers are not very serious about their Christian life. As a result, they are not living in a state of “readiness.” They bounce around from day to day, taking life as it comes. They react to each circumstance on the spur of the moment with no purposeful strategy for their life. For sure, they would make lousy soldiers. They would not be accused of being “on the alert.”

However, as obedient believers, we must live our lives in a state of readiness. We must be focused so that the ever present trials in life will not upend us. A good soldier is always ready, and an obedient believer is always facing the challenges of life with a “ready” mindset.

THE END IS AT HAND

The End...

- The word refers to that which is **consummated**, or a goal that is **achieved**, or a completion of a **program** or goal.
- Here the best way to understand the author's **intent** is to understand that the sovereign plan of God is **complete**.
- In other words, the **coming** of Christ for His own is the “consummation” of our **time** on earth.
- Nothing stands in the way of His **return**.

Is at Hand...

- This term implies **nearness**, or at any time.
- From this word we get the doctrine of “**imminency**.”
- In other words, the return of the Lord is **imminent**!
- No prophecies need to be **fulfilled** before the Rapture of the Church.

THE RESPONSE OF BELIEVERS

A Serious Mindset...

- Serious about life **principles** and goals.
- Serious about our ministry to **one another**. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Serious about our **response** to one another. (James 5:8)
- Serious about our **heavenly** citizenship. (2:11)
- Serious about **truth**.

Watchful Daily...

- On the **alert** to the daily distractions.
- On the alert to temptations that **derail** the Christian life.
- On the alert to the **condition** of your continual communication with God.
- On the alert about your **thoughts** about Christ's return.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- A **victorious** believer is continually aware of the imminent return of Christ.
- When you live to please yourself, the thoughts of Christ's **return** are rare.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Do you believe in the doctrine of “imminency”?
2. How often do you meditate on Christ's return?
3. Why does the thought of Christ coming again alter your behavior?
4. What distractions in your life cause you to be “worldly” minded?