

Beginning at the End
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Introduction: We tend to have a very limited view of life.

- A. Our perspective of history is often judged by our experience. (Ex. Vietnam War)
 - 1. Listen to someone who has gone to 3rd world country and how that changed their perspective.
 - 2. Our God will help us see if we will listen. **(Psa 90:12)**
- B. Do we understand what “the End” really is?
 - 1. Those who seek God’s wisdom will have a better end than a beginning. **(Ecc 7:8, 2)**
 - 2. What kind of life is possible without sure knowledge of eternity? **(Ecc 3:11)**
 - 3. Our God wants us to first look at the end so that we might wisely begin.

I. What will the Judgment Day will be like for me?

- A. It is hard to imagine that awesome scene. **(Rev 20:11-15)**
 - 1. The Bible indicates the immediate fear that all men experience in the presence of God. You and I will not notice the crowd.
 - 2. In that day no one will be standing in defiance of God. **(Rom 14:10-12)**
 - 3. There will be a wailing and weeping unlike anything we have ever heard.
 - 4. How will I respond to my name being called? What if I am cast away?
 - 5. Jesus wants us to start with a fear of God. **(Prov 1:7, Lk 16:24-31)**
- B. There will also be a people filled with fear but also with joy and love.
 - 1. While bowing before God they will be filled with boldness. **(1 Jn 4:15-18)**
 - 2. This kind of love was built over a lifetime of seeing eternity and knowing God.
 - 3. The true measurement of spiritual growth will be found in our knowledge of His love!
 - 4. We will see Jesus whom we have been thinking about for so long. **(1 Pt 1:7-9)**

II. I will be crucified to walk in a new life!

- A. The final judgment of all men is God’s way to appeal to men to repent and begin a new life. **(Acts 17:30-31)**
 - 1. God gives proof of the resurrection of Christ.
 - 2. If the resurrection of Christ is true then the judgment of all men is a certainty!
- B. We can see that we live an aimless life without God. **(1 Pt 1:17-19)**
 - 1. The blood of Christ has an infinite value in eternity. A fear of God helps us see.
 - 2. How can a life be “aimless?” One cannot see the end of the path they are on!
 - 3. Can you see the emptiness of what this world has to offer?
- C. The Christian life has a powerful simplicity. **(Rom 6:3-5)**
 - 1. The love of God causes me to be crucified. I surrender to God.
 - 2. My life, my thoughts, my end is now New! **(2 Cor 5:14-17)**
- D. As a Christian I do not have to figure all possibilities out by human wisdom.
 - 1. My life becomes much easier as I now simply stay within the authority of my Saviour. **(Mt 28:18-20)**
 - 2. How many of you are filled with worry today?

3. God now gives me a path that contains a load that I can bear. (**Mt 11:28-30**)

III. I will build a living faith and will not quit

A. A living faith must be maintained. (**Heb 10:23-25**)

1. We must let these assemblies constantly point us to the unseen.
2. Do you see “the day approaching?”

B. When we lose sight of the finish we can waver.

1. Notice the joy over terrible losses and social ridicule. Why did they react this way? They knew heaven as a certainty! (**Heb 10:32-34**)
2. Over time some of them began to waver. Why? (**Heb 10:35-39**)
3. Here is where funerals and timely teaching can help us “cross the finish!”
4. Some let bad experiences and bitterness take their focus off heaven.

IV. I will be a part of a local church that looks to God

A. The local church was established for this very purpose. (**Eph 4:14-17, 20-27**)

1. We need strong teaching to keep us from the craftiness of false teaching.
2. We need strong teaching to keep us from the works of the flesh.
3. You must find a local church dedicated to walking in the authority of Christ. (Jn 12:48-50)
4. Consider the new teachings by “progressive churches.”

“We have this false doctrine, this peculiar notion, that everything we do in church requires authority. We inherited this doctrine, known as the Regulative Principle, from (of all people) John Calvin.” – Jay Guin, Elder at the University church of Christ, Tuscaloosa, Al

5. I learned this teaching from Jesus! Let us look to God. (**Jn 8:28-29; 1 Pt 4:11**)

B. We need to be close to Christians and be helped by them! (**Heb 12:11-14**)

1. Our motivation to endure hardship because of God’s teaching is one day being with the Lord!
2. How many of you talk about the finish line? How often do you think about eternity and rejoice at the ridicule the world heaps on you?
3. Are we helping or hurting our children develop such a faith? Does the world see your family make the same choices that the world does? (Ex. Ball Game)

V. I will date and marry someone that will help me go to heaven

A. When Paul considered his right to marry, he would only consider marrying a Christian. (**1 Cor 9:5**)

1. How important is the finish line to you? Do you understand your need for help?
2. Why take the risk of falling in love with someone who will fight your stand?
3. Does romantic love mean the Lord has chosen this one for you?

B. It is eternal life that must be the primary consideration in my marriage. (**1 Pt 3:7**)

1. You can marry someone “in the church” and be in trouble too.
2. Marry someone who has a living faith to complement your own.
3. You would be better not to marry than to marry one who is not walking as the Lord directs.

Conclusion: The path to the finish line is very difficult. It is worth it! (**Rom 8:18**)

A. My marathon experiences gives me encouragement in the race of life. Finish!

B. Remember the exhortation “the just shall live by faith!” (**Heb 10:38-39**)