

Closer Than It Has Ever Been

By: Dan Jenkins

In Paul's letter to Rome, he uses an interesting phrase. He said, "Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand" (**Rom. 13:11-12**). Contextually, he may have not been talking about their salvation when they became Christians, nor salvation when Jesus returns. This was a salvation that was at hand when he penned these words. It was one they knew was at hand because the hour had come and that day was at hand. This article is not to fully discuss this concept, but to encourage us to look to see what we can know about things at hand in our lives. These are things that are "....nearer to us now than when we first believed."

The end of this world is closer than it ever has been. There will be the day when this earth will come under the judgment of the fire from heaven. In the first century, there were those who questioned if this would ever happen and Peter reminded them of how long God waited while Noah preached and prepared the ark. He told them then, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (**2 Pet. 3:10**). He will come as a unannounced thief, but He will come! Every day we live brings us one day nearer the day when this earth will be destroyed.

The end of our life on this earth is closer than it has ever been. The fact that as we age our bodies begin to wear down should be a constant reminder that death awaits us. Jesus told about that rich farmer whose life's philosophy was to eat, drink and to enjoy his daily life to the fullest because he thought his future was guaranteed for many years. God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you" (**Luke 12:20**). We should never be so foolish that we forget that our death is nearer today.

The end of the time we have to repent, to get our lives straightened out, is closer than it has ever been. Jesus described a false prophetess in the church at Thyatira who had many followers. He said, "I gave her time to repent" (**Rev. 2:21**). God could have brought the flood, but He waited. He could have brought judgment on this false prophetess, but He waited. He is waiting for you to repent, but the time will certainly come when He stops waiting for you. The day of your opportunity to repent is closer now than it has ever been, but the day is coming when it will be too late to change.

We do not know what this day or tomorrow will bring to us, but we must never forget that each day we are one day closer to heaven or hell. Which day is closer for you?

Don't Be Afraid of Bible Verses

By: Selected

Have you ever been afraid of Bible verses? Maybe you weren't afraid of the verses BUT afraid that someone would bring them up? When I was a kid, I attended a religious school that did not teach what the Bible teaches about salvation from sins. I was *that kid* in the back of the room, who frequently raised my hand to say, "What about this verse?" When the subject that was being taught was salvation from sins, I often asked, "What about this Bible verse on the necessity of baptism for salvation?"

Of course, as a kid, I had "my verses" on baptism, and they had "their verses" on faith. (At least, that is sometimes the way we think about it—"my verses vs. their verses.") I knew "my verses" and was ready with them, and I knew some of "their verses" and was usually ready with a Bible answer to their arguments. However, I remember being nervous that they might bring up certain verses. What a weird feeling—to be nervous about Bible verses.

As I grew (and still growing), I began to realize—"Wait a minute! These verses are not *'my verses.'* Those verses are not *'their verses.'* They are ALL GOD'S verses." Think about that for a moment. God didn't put some verses in the Bible for one group to grab as "Our verses," and then put other verses in the Bible for a different group to grab as "Our verses." Every verse in the Bible is "inspired by God" (**2 Tim. 3:16**), for it is (think about this designation) the "word OF God" (**Eph. 6:17**). It is not the "word of David"! They are not "David's verses"!

Therefore, God's verses are all going to work in harmony together! God does not have

more than one will for mankind, but there is "the [singular] will of the Lord," and He expects us to "understand" what that "is" when we "read" His inspired book (**Eph. 5:17; 3:3-4**). If we have two different understandings of the will of God, then we have too many. God makes His will plain in Scripture, especially when it comes to our salvation from sins.

Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (**Mark 16:16**). There is not a single verse that someone can quote which is going to contradict or negate the fact that "He who believes and is baptized will be saved." Every verse of God works in harmony with every other verse of God!

Don't be afraid of Bible verses! Study them all! Love them all! Welcome them all! See how they all work together! All of God's Word is going to lead to the same plan of redemption—God's verses will explain each other, supplement each other and maybe even repeat each other, but they will never contradict each other. All Bible verses are God's verses!



Upcoming Events

Summer Series Wednesdays: Adults will be in the main auditorium for the theme “It’s Who You Know” and the youth will be in the fellowship hall learning Bible stories about God’s animals.

June 27: Southwest School of Bible Studies will have their 2025 Graduation Banquet. We are so proud of Kirk FitzSimmons who will be one of the honorees. More info is on the hallway bulletin board.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Sandra Horton who had some irregular tests.

Richard Hill who is ill at home.

Eddie Serenil who will be having a procedure done next month.

Rick Bass will be getting results Tuesday from his mri he had done last week.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of June 15, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Ken Dorries
Song Leader Luke FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Barry Lehtinen
Closing Prayer..... Ron White

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Jake Jacobs
Cup..... Benny Horton
Offering..... Mike Atkinson
Assist..... Ferman Rosales
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory
Closing Prayer..... Ron White

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Benny Horton/
Steve Randle

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Trent Kennedy
Song Leader Luke FitzSimmons
Devotional Trent Kennedy

Other

Prepare Communion.....

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

James Cammock..... June 17
Emily Cammock..... June 20

Please sign up to bring snacks/drinks for our Summer Youth Series. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

And God will wipe away every tear from their
eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow,
nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the
former things have passed away.
Revelation 21:4 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of June 8, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....60
A.M. Worship.....89
P.M. Worship.....48
Wednesday Worship.....62

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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