

As the End Approaches

By: Dan Jenkins

There is an interesting paragraph in the fourth chapter of Peter's first letter. While there may be a few things in it harder to understand, there are many lessons each of us can learn and apply to help us in our growth. We tend to harshly judge Peter because of his shameless denial of Jesus at His trial, but the great spirituality of the apostle as he writes this many years later is shown in both of his letters.

The paragraph begins in verse seven where Peter states, "...the end of all things is at hand." At first glance we might assume that he was talking about the return of Jesus and the final judgment of the world. Another possibility is that he refers to the signs given for the end of the world of Judaism which the early Christians saw and knew the end was near.

Jesus shows that these signs could not refer to the final end when He answers the disciples' question about the end (Matt. 24:3) and says that end would come when the gospel was preached to every creature (Matt. 24:14) and "...all these things would happen" (Matt. 24:34-35).

The purpose of this article is not to determine what "end of all things is at hand" Peter has in mind and was at hand, but to emphasize what Peter sets forth as to our response to the realization that an end is coming. There is an end coming to each of us, as the end of our lives rushes toward us. Whatever Peter urged those Christians to do can help us focus on what really matters.

As the end of our lives approach, should we not be "... serious and watchful in your prayers" (1 Pet. 4:7)? Life in our day is so cluttered that we fail to take any time to reflect that this world is passing away—it has an end. That which clutters our lives is so often so meaningless. As the end approaches, take time for serious reflection and for spending time in praying.

Peter gives a second admonition. "Above all things have fervent love for one another." The Greek word for love is *agape*, which emphasizes actions not emotions. As the end approaches, show that you fervently love all of your brothers and sisters, and let love be the basis of dealing with each other—especially those who are hard to love. The results will be showing loving hospitality to one another without grumbling.

The final thing Peter mentions is using what we have for the right purpose. The gifts that were given were likely miraculous gifts from the apostles' hands, but the application is that whatever God has given us must be used so that "...in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and dominion forever and ever."

As your end approaches, what should you do?

Being Kind Doesn't Cost Anything

By: Selected

Some clothing is advertised as “One size fits all.” While that may or may not be factual, the concept is intriguing. As we go through life, there is a behavior that “fits all” situations.

Situation #1: Some folks have been really nice to you and you want to do something nice in return, but you cannot afford to buy them a gift. What can you give to them?

Situation #2: Folks at work (or school) have continued to make your days difficult with harsh words and hurtful treatment. What can you do?

Situation #3: You're out running errands and interacting with numerous salespeople, fellow customers and random people. Does it really matter how you treat them?

The situations are countless. But there is a “one size fits all” way to treat everyone that you encounter (i.e., people you like or don't really like or don't even know). The wise one said, “What is desired in a man is kindness” (Prov. 19:22). Consider a few thoughts about this great difference-maker.

Kindness is a command of God. “Be kind to one another” (Eph. 4:32). “As the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on... kindness” (Col. 3:12). God expects it!

Kindness is essential to our Christian growth. “Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love” (2 Pet. 1:5-7).

Kindness is at the heart of “The Golden Rule.” In summarizing our treatment of others, Jesus said, “Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise” (Luke

6:31). We all want others to be kind to us!

Kindness makes us like our Father in heaven. When others mistreat us, we are to treat them kindly in return (Rom. 12:17-21), for when we are kind to our enemies and “do good” to them (Matt. 5:44), we emulate our God, who is “kind to the unthankful and evil” (Luke 6:35; cf. Matt. 5:45).

Kindness is a universal need and a universal language. Everyone understands a kind deed, and there is not a place you will venture this week that does not need you to be kind—in your home, workplace, school, church, stores, restaurants, etc. In describing the agape love that we are to have for everyone, we are reminded that “love is... kind” (1 Cor. 13:4), and it is a “fruit” that we must cultivate (Gal. 5:22-23).

Being kind doesn't cost anything! It fits every situation that you will ever face! God desires kindness! Our world needs kindness! Kindness (in you!) is a difference-maker!



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning worship with a 12:45pm afternoon service. Please bring a friend and a covered dish.

Sunday, Nov. 9: Monthly youth devo at the White home. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Nov. 15: November and December birthdays will be celebrated at the McCoy home from 2-4p.m.

Save the Date: February 20-22, 2026: Midtown's Youth Winter Retreat. More details to come.

Area events:

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

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Jerry FitzSimmons who is out of ICU but still being treated at Citizens Hospital.

Therisa Gant on the passing of her husband George.

Janie Garcia, co-worker of Nicolette Garcia, who has stage 1 colon cancer and is having surgery next month.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of November 2, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Jeff Cannady

Song Leader..... Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries

Closing Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... James Cammock

Cup..... Ron White

Offering..... Bryant Siegel

Assist..... Blake Jacobs

Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons

Assist..... Caleb Lehtinen

Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer..... Kevin Sheeran

Closing Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Ron White/
James Cammock

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy

Song Leader..... Luke FitzSimmons

Devotional..... Benny Horton

Other

Prepare Communion for Nov.....

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Matthias Cammock..... Nov. 2

Brenden Westphall..... Nov. 2

Marva Hill..... Nov. 6

Anniversaries

David & Joy Terry..... Nov. 3

Our Library has been updated!

Please take a moment to browse through our updated library which includes more shelving, new books and videos.



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

While we do not look at the things which are
seen, but at the things which are not seen. For
the things which are seen are temporary, but the
things which are not seen are eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:18

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 October 26, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....60
A.M. Worship.....87
P.M. Worship.....51
Wednesday Worship.....54

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

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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