

I Corinthians 7:29-35

End-times life-style

- The Apostle's teachings indicate that they understood the "end times" were upon them and that Christians should live as though God's timetable for history was coming to a close.
- This passage is the clearest indication of this fact.

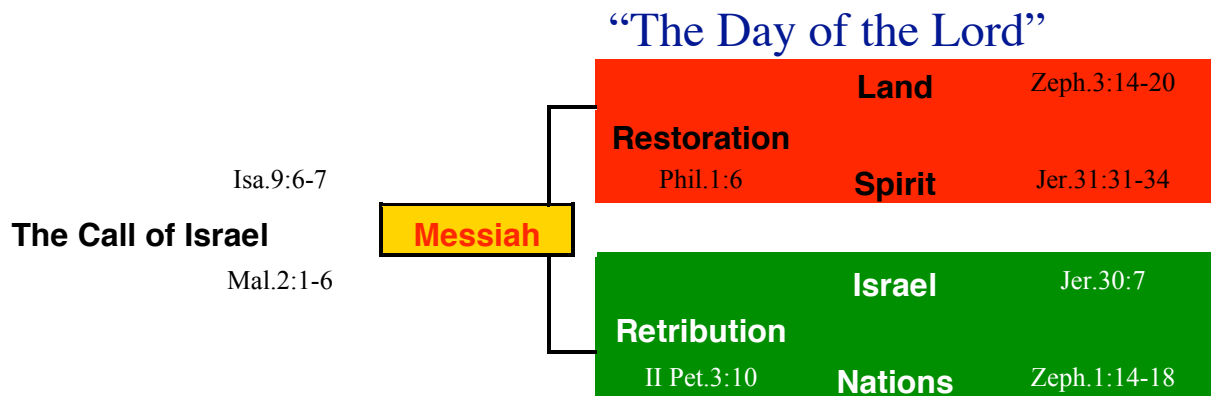
A. Christian should not invest in an obsolete (world) system.

"²⁹ But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; ³⁰ and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; ³¹ and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away."

B. To put this teaching in perspective we need to review the Biblical teaching on "end time" expectations.

The Day of the Lord

1. The OT prophets speak most often of the "Day of the Lord" - Isa.2:2-21, 13:6-13; Joel 1:4-15; 2:10-11, 28-29; 3:11-21; Amos 7:4; 8:8-9; 9:5-15; Obadiah 15; Hosea 2:18-23; 3:5; Micah 4:6-8; Zeph.1:2-18; 2:3-15; 3:9-20.
2. The NT mentions it in Rom.2:5; I Cor.1:8; 5:5; II Cor.1:14; Phil.1:6,10; 2:16; I Thess.5:2; II Thess.2:2; II Pet.3:7-12; Rev.16:14.
3. The "Day of the Lord" is the intervention of God in human history to:
 - a. Judge evil or deliver God's promise of wrath. This is the most common association.
 - b. Reward good or deliver God's promised blessings.
4. The "Day of the Lord" could refer to the intervention of God in:
 - a. The past history of Israel. Note: OT prophets often commingled the near and end time significance of the "day of the Lord."
 - b. The culmination of history.



The Kingdom of God

1. The Kingdom is a puzzle.

- a. It is a present reality - Rom.14:17; Matt.12:28; yet it is to follow Christ's second coming - Matt.25:34; I Cor.15:50.
- b. It is physical - Matt.13:41,43; Rev.11:15; yet it is spiritual - Lk.17:20-21.
- c. It is something we have now entered - Matt.21:31; Col.1:13; Lk.16:16; yet it is something we will enter at Christ's return - Matt.8:11; II Pet.1:11.
- d. It is at work in the world today - Matt.13; yet it is not of this world - Jn.18:36.
- e. It is God's reign - Ps.145:11; yet it is God's realm - Lk.16:16.

2. A solution.

- a. **Two ages are mentioned** ("this age" and 'the age to come") Matt.12:32; Eph.1:21; Mk.10:29-30.
- b. **These ages are separated by:**
 - 1. The second coming of Christ - Matt.24:3. Christ's second coming is preceded by a period of "great tribulation" - Matt.24:15-28.
 - 2. The resurrection from the dead - Lk.20:34-36.
- c. **"This age" is:**
 - 1. Characterized by evil and deliverance - Gal.1:4; Eph.2:1-2; Matt.13:22.
 - 2. The domain of Satan, "the god of this age." II Cor.4:3-4.
- d. **"The age to come" is:**
 - 1. Characterized by eternal life - Matt.19:16-24.
 - 2. Free from sin - Matt.13:49-50.
 - 3. To follow the resurrection - I Cor.15:50.
- e. **Two stages to the transition from "this age" to "the age to come."**
 - 1. First resurrection - Rev.20:4-5.
 - 2. Second resurrection - Rev.20:12-13.
- f. **The first resurrection of Rev.20:4-5 has two parts (I Cor.15:22-26).**
 - 1. Christ's resurrection - "first fruits" - I Cor.15:23a.
 - 2. Christians at Christ's second coming - I Cor.15:23b.
- g. **The three forms of the Kingdom in relation to the two ages.**

<i>The mystery form</i>	<i>The Millennial form</i>	<i>The New Heaven & Earth</i>
"The age to come"		
<i>The Church age</i>	<i>1000 years</i>	<i>Eternity</i>

Resurrection *Parousia*
Pentecost *(second coming)*

"This age"

7 year Tribulation

Chronological chart of Matt.24-25 compared to the rest of the New Testament.

Beginning of birth pangs	Great Tribulation	Second Coming of Christ	Parables	Final Judgment
<p>24:4-14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • False Christs, Wars & rumors of wars • Famine & earthquake • Believers hated • Conflict within the church • False prophets • Many will be misled • Lawlessness • Love will grow cold • World evangelism <p>I Thess.5:1-11 Rev.6-7 SEALS (Antichrist)</p>	<p>24:15-28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desecration • Tribulation • False signs <p>II Thess.2:1-12 Rev.8-18 TRUMPETS (wrath on all) BOWLS (wrath on nations)</p>	<p>24:29-31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosmic signs • Christ is seen • Trumpet sounds • Elect gathered <p>I Thess.4:13-18 Rev.19 II Pet.3:3-13</p>	<p>24:32-25:42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fig Tree • Servants • Virgins • Talents 	<p>25:31-46</p> <p>II Pet.3:3-13</p>

C. When making decisions we should reason from common sense based on Biblically grounded values.

“³² But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; ³³ but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, ³⁴ and {his interests} are divided. And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. ³⁵ And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and {to secure} undistracted devotion to the Lord.”

D. The Point of this text

**We should live our lives
as though the end is near because,
like Paul, we do not know when our time is up.**

E. Characteristics of “end-time” Christians.

1. They don't assume they will be around for a long life.
2. They have a loose hold on the things of this world.
3. They live their lives in the present.
4. They make preparations to be single-minded and not distracted.

James 4

“¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." ¹⁴ Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are {just} a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead, {you ought} to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that." ¹⁶ But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.”

Note: For more information on the subject of "end time" teaching see apptoteach.org
theology files #901-909