

True Believers Love Life – Part 1

Introduction and Review

- We are considering two categories for our study of eschatology: Personal & General.
- **Personal eschatology** is the study of last things that affects true believers, false believers & unbelievers.
- Only true believers will persevere in faith until the end of their lives & have the certainty of God's blessed promises (Jn. 10:27-29; Rom. 8:28)!
- True believers will have a blessed & glorious life after death which leads to no fear of death.
- Only true believers can truly love life & have good days in this present life & throughout all eternity.

I. Seeking and Pursuing Peace (v. 11b)

A. Peace with God

Before the new birth (born again), every sinner is an enemy of God (Rom. 5:10a; Col. 1:21 – hostile & hating). The substitutionary death of Christ saves the sinner from God's wrath (Rom. 5:8-10). Peace with God begins when a sinner is born again (1Pe. 1:3; Jn. 3:3). This is a spiritual birth by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit & the word of God (1Pe. 1:22-23; Jn. 3:5-8). The heart, mind & will of a sinner are radically changed after the new birth (Rom. 8:5-16). Peace with God is also a result of justification (Rom. 5:1). This right relationship with God enables a believer to fulfill the first great commandment (Mt. 22:37-38).

B. Peace with other believers

The ability to truly love other believers also begins when a sinner is born again (1Jn. 4:7-8, 20-21; Jn. 13:34-35). Peace with other believers has many facets or aspects: unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart & a humble mind (1Pe. 3:8). Peace with other believers involves forgiveness & blessing (1Pe. 3:9). Christ is also the basis of peace between believers (Eph. 2:14-18).

Believers have peace with God & with each other because we have a right relationship with Jesus – OUR PERSONAL ESCHATOLOGY.

II. Turning Away From Evil (v. 11a)

A. Evil deeds

Revenge & retaliation must not dominate the thinking of one who has been born again (1Pe. 3:9; Rom. 12:17a, 19). The believer must make love for God & His reputation priority when suffering unjustly (1Pe. 2:19-21). The believer must find joy & patience in suffering through prayer (Rom. 12:12). The believer must learn to bless & do good to those who bring suffering (1Pe. 3:9; Rom. 12:14). The believer must control his/her words & attitude (1Pe. 3:10; 2:1; Eph. 4:29-32).

B. Evil people

True believers must be very discerning about fellowship & long-term relationships. True believers avoid false believers that bring shame to the

1Pe. 3:8-12

name of Christ (2Tim. 3:1-5). True believers avoid wicked people attempting to entrap them in wickedness (1Co. 6:18; Tit.3:9; 1Th. 5:22).

Believers willingly turn away from evil deeds & evil people because we have a right relationship with Jesus – OUR PERSONAL EASCHATOLOGY.