

## **Living in Faith During the End Times**

Jude 20-25

The Church and the world seem to be spending more time on end time teaching lately

The “Mayan Calendar,” the election, economy, and global politics are partly responsible, but is this anything new?

The people of God should be concerned about what He teaches about the end.

We should also be concerned with false teachings that can badly impact the Gospel.

- I. We recognize two different attitudes about the end.
  - A. The world, if it notices at all, responds with scoffing or with fear and apprehension
  - B. Christ calls us to a different response – a response of faithful joy
  - C. Why are these responses so different? As an example, what are your feelings about the quick approach of Christmas? Are you dreading it or rejoicing in it? Why?
  - D. Remembering what we are looking forward to will help orient our attitudes.
- II. Living in faithful anticipation
  - A. We are anticipating and preparing for Jesus our Bridegroom
    1. He who first came to redeem us will come again to bring us home.
    2. He is with us now in the Gospel and Sacraments
    3. He is with us in this body
    4. We wait for that great day even as we enjoy his presence.
  - B. Faithful anticipation includes joyful preparation

- C. Christ's apostle Jude teaches us how to be prepared

**“But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.”  
(Jude 20-21)**

1. Building yourselves up in your most holy faith
2. Praying in the Holy Spirit
3. Keep yourselves in the love of God
4. Waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life

- D. But we miss something if our only concern is for ourselves. Jude also teaches us to help others to be prepared.

**“have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.” Jude 22-23**

1. Have mercy on those who doubt.
2. Snatching them out of the fire
3. Show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. In other words, show mercy to sinners as you have received mercy, but do not follow in their sin.

### III. Keeping perspective as we wait.

- A. Why does time seem to go so slowly for children and so quickly for adults?
- B. Stay appropriately occupied and you won't be “watching the clock,” but looking for the Savior
- C. Anticipate the right thing. Not “is it here yet?” but “is He here yet?”

D. Remember to listen to His answer. He is here now. He's given us things to do. He is coming again.

**“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)**