

Title: End Time Values

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:11-17

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

End times values is a deep and important question.

The biblical understanding of end times values is about how God expects us to live and think as the end draws near. Our decisions should be guided by what lasts forever, not what fades away. It is not only about prophecy and signs, but **about values, attitudes, and priorities that mark faithful believers in the last days.**

A prominent Pastor shared this honest, confession. He said, 'I confess to you that it has taken years for me to live only for eternal values. I grieve when I think back of the time and money I wasted trying to build something tangible for God. I wanted something people could see. How important I thought those buildings were to God's kingdom. I convinced myself, "God deserves the best." He does-but not in bricks, mortar, and steel. He deserves the best of our time and yieldedness. Thank God for the day the Spirit revealed to me how shallow my values were! I spent 20 years planning programs, building buildings, running all over the world (conducting conferences) trying to show God how important to His kingdom I was. All the while my reputation grew as a minister of faith and vision. Yet, after each new

project, I felt a letdown. No sooner was one building finished, and I was already planning another. I was an idea-man for God. I had more ideas than any preacher in America. Ideas on how to evangelize. How to organize New Testament programs. The programs and ideas were successful enough to entrap me and keep me on the treadmill of busyness.

But all along my heart yearned for more. I knew the blessing was not in building. Not in some well-planned scheme to reach the lost. Not in bigness, and not in activity. I discovered the hard way, that the glory of God, the peace and joy of the Spirit, was in being stripped down, emptied, and made totally weak. God had to expose all my values. He turned His flaming eyes on my soul and showed me I had better reject my old way of doing things, or be lost in a maze of self-imposed activity.'

This preacher's experience reminded us clearly of King Solomon's experience. In the end King Solomon, after having done all things, achieved all things, enjoyed all things said,



'Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.' I cannot compare with this preacher and King Solomon, but in experience wise, I will say this is so true in my own life. God had to strip me down, emptied me, and made me totally weak. God had to expose all my values causing me to be totally dependent on God.

I am not saying that you stop doing everything and just wait for Christ's return. You still have to study hard, work hard in your career (because the bible says, if you don't work, you don't deserve to eat),

execute your business with competency, manage the family and have vision. But at the end of day, you must always know that you are first and foremost a child of God, everything you do, you do them with eternity in view.

God is doing a secret work in our day. He is making people who are growing more and more dissatisfied with the fleshly, worldly systems as it is in full bloom today, even in the church. We are a disillusioned people, searching for reality. We are saying in our heart: 'This is not it. There is something more. The bigness and the sensationalism have left me empty and dry. I want more.' We tried more entertainment. More big, showy buildings. Yet we continue to be dissatisfied. We want deeper values. We want to see Jesus. We want spotless robes of righteousness. We want to go back to doing things in total dependence on God.' We are crying out for more depth and more of eternal values from the pulpit.

Let us be honest. We want the real thing. In 1969, the song 'Coca-Cola - It's the real thing' is one of the most famous advertising jingles in history. It was so famous that it inspired the 1971 hit song, 'I'd like to teach the world to sing (in perfect harmony: also, for Coca-Cola. Both songs want the real thing and

the perfect harmony (peace) in this world. Let us hear the excerpt 'It's the real thing. That's the way it should be. What the world wants to see, it's the real thing.' Both songs swept the world. Because humans want the real thing. Warren Buffet, through Berkshire Hathaway, saw the human heart and made one of his most famous investments in Coca-Cola.

He invested \$1.3 billion. Now it is worth \$25 billion. Of course, Coca-Cola is not the real thing. But it exposed the cry of the heart. Only Jesus is the real thing. But we cannot deny the fact that the song hit the soft spot of the human heart and it spark such a frenzy and growth in the company, Coca-Cola.

Let us be honest, people of God. Are you satisfied with the religious system today. I was not when I was in Singapore, visiting at least 10 churches in those two months of stay. I am not satisfied even in this church. Most are not getting their needs met. I believe we have gotten off the track of true spirituality. **What I discovered is the spiritual leanness of so many people in the church.** Why? It is the direct result of getting into the flesh, being filled with worldly values and methods and becoming perverted. There is a Christian that used to be our member. He became successful when he passed his

architectural board exam. But his ways became so perverted that he is worst than an infidel. He coveted his relatives' land and manipulated the title deed in such a way that it seemed to belong to him and he built a resort over it. Of course, his relatives had to sue him. The thing I do not understand is how can a Christian become so perverted and corrupt that he is worse than a non-believer? It can also happen to us. When we get away from Jesus.

What should we take note of in this end time? What are the values?

1. Foundation

The foundation of your life and the church cannot be laid on any other things except Jesus Christ. So, you have to build on the right foundation: Jesus Christ. Foundation is very important. I think the earthquakes in Cebu and Davao are the best examples. Every lasting building depends on a strong foundation. A skyscraper, a bridge (look at the Pavia and Santa Barbara flyovers), a house - if the foundation is weak, everything above will eventually collapse. The best example is the collapse of the recent 30 storey building in Thailand. Investigators

said 'use of substandard materials was reported initially. Some steel reinforcements were found to be of lower quality than ideal. Some concrete was also found to be below standard in tests.' So, if your whole life is built on the foundation of Jesus, it will last. Any foundation based on human wisdom (look at Buddhism: it teaches you the human wisdom of right living.

Very good values, I know because I was once a staunch Buddhist. But it left out God), personality (the world one day will build their foundation on the (superman) charismatic personality of the anti-Christ) or worldly success, cannot last. Daniel in the bible lived in a most difficult time in history. He was so wise that Kings consulted him and revered him. Who is busier than Daniel? I mean he had to handle state affairs, the unpredictable Nebuchadnezzar, the multitudes of enemies that tried to topple him. Yet when he went home after work, he would open his windows and prayed to God.

Foundation. It was all God to him (even as the Prime Minister of the Babylonian Empire.) His attitude was such that he was totally dependent on God. Joseph in Egypt was such a great administrator and manager, that he saved not only the whole nation of

Israel but also the most powerful empire at that time. But his attitude was 'It was God who planned everything.' Foundation. Everything must rest on Him. The same is true in our lives. Are you wiser than Daniel or more capable than Joseph? Yet both understood in their heart, their mind and their being, that it was all God. The same is true in our life.



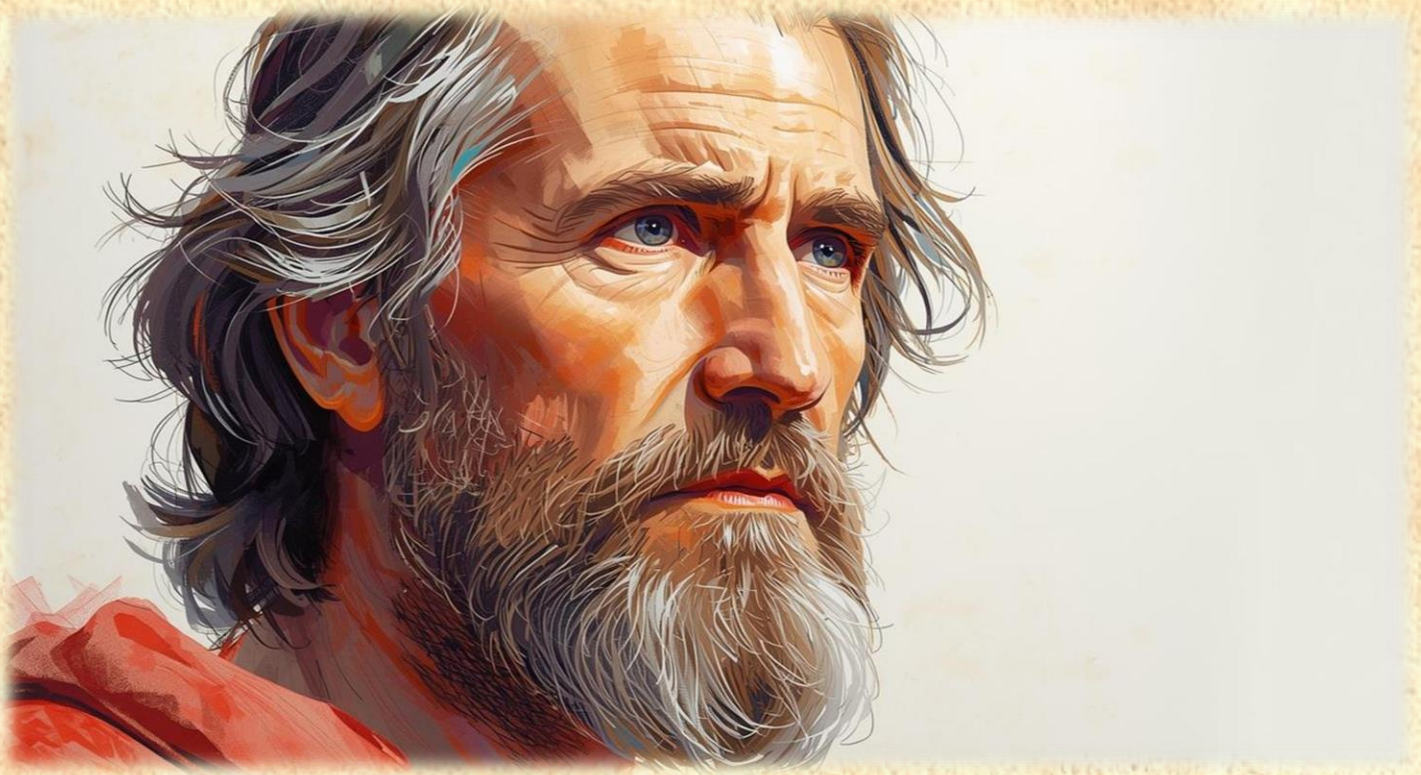
People build their lives on career, money, relationships, or success – but when the storms come, those things crumble. There is only one unshakable foundation: Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is not, you meeting Him on Sunday. You suddenly remember Him because it is Sunday. Jesus

Christ has to be your all in your school, your work, your home, your relationship. I remembered I had to work in the secular world during the COVID period in Singapore. Oh, it was difficult. I faced a difficult boss. I was accused of something I did not do. They even wanted to make a police report about me. I was so hurt and angry.

When things came to a head, when the pressure was at its full bloom, I remembered driving away from work: I just cried to God. I said God, 'I want to settle a score with you. I am at my brink. Are you really with me? I had a real cry, real conversation with God.' You know what happened after that? God heard. And things started to turn well.

I started to excel. I learned the system and even came up top. The boss who was difficult to work with, before I left said, 'We cherished you. You are always welcome to come back and work with us.' My whole being was on God, Jesus. Foundation.



Paul said, 'For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already did, which is Jesus Christ. Paul says there is no other foundation that will last. Religion, philosophy, even good works, or popularity all are sinking sand.

The NUS group of nurses wanted to come to Iloilo next year. I consulted Pastor Carlos because he will be in charge. After much consideration, Pastor Carlos came to my office and said, 'Pastor, we will agree to work with them, provided they opened a station, during the medical mission, for us to share the word of God. I agreed and I told the leadership of the NUS nurses, even though one was a Muslim. The leader readily agreed and another said she is a Christian.

Foundation. No compromise. Only Christ's life, death and resurrection provide forgiveness, stability, and eternal hope. Paul list two categories of materials. Gold, silver, precious stones, are durable, valuable, and tested by fire. Wood, hay, straw are temporary, easily burned.

This represents the quality of a believer's life and even his ministry. Those who build faithfully (take note; faithful, not overnight, over the years) on Christ – teaching truth and implementing them in one's life, serving and serving humbly, loving sincerely will receive heavenly rewards (crowns, honor or responsibility in God's kingdom). Some believers will see their life's work burned up because it lacks eternal value. This life's work has not lasting reward because it will all be burned up with nothing left.

2. Remember *Jesus'* eyes as a flame of fire



John the beloved, being the youngest of the 12 disciples, loved to lay his head on the bosom of Jesus. Jesus was like his elder brother, approachable, kind hearted and loving. But at the age of 92, he saw the same Jesus again at the Isle of Patmos. But this time it was different. Rev 1:14 says, 'his head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes as flame of fire.' The first Jesus represents grace and mercy on our entire life while here on earth.

The second Jesus represent a judge ready to pronounce judgment. John goes on to say, 'I fell at his feet as dead.' His eyes represent penetrating vision and judgment. Fire in Scripture often symbolizes purity and judgment. His gaze sees through every mask, every pretense. Nothing is hidden from Him. He searches hearts and motives.

Christ's eyes remind us that He sees everything – ready to expose sin before it destroys us. The eyes are called windows of the soul. John did not see gentle eyes like before when he was always with Jesus. He saw eyes of fire. These are not eyes of anger alone, but of perfect knowledge. In the end time values, believers need to live with the awareness that Christ' fiery eyes are upon us.

Nothing is hidden from God's sight. Jesus sees everything – both visible and hidden. His gaze penetrates the surface and enters the windows of the soul.

Let us ask ourselves. Will we be able to stand before those piercing eyes of flaming fire. Can one look Him in the eyes? No ego can withstand His gaze. No self-centered dreams can go unexposed. All secret sin will be exposed as a terrible abomination in His sight. All the things we have accumulated will burn. All the great works we have done for Him with such zeal and sweat, will they also burn? The most important end time values are what are you doing to God's kingdom? That is why, we always encourage the congregation to get involved in ministry.

I have made an observation. God can assist you in the desire of your heart, but send leanness to your soul. This was what the children of Israel experienced in the wilderness. They complained that they are tired of eating manna. They wanted meat. So, God gave them what they wanted.

He sent quail in abundance so much that it became nauseating. Even though they received what they craved, their souls became lean – empty,

unsatisfied, spiritually dry. They got what they wanted but lost what they needed. Many Christians wanted riches, a boyfriend that meet their expectation but they came away, lean, empty, dissatisfied, unhappy and worst they became spiritually dry. They wanted a job in the states, but they lost their soul in the states. This phrase is found in Psalm 105;15 'And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.' They finally got what they wanted. But they experienced leanness of soul. It means a loss of spiritual vitality. A dryness of heart. A lack of true joy and peace. It is when God, in His mercy, allows us to have our earthly desires but not His heavenly presence.

You may have success, comfort, or pleasure, but deep down, you feel empty, restless, and far from God; It is as if God is saying, If you insist on having your way, I will give it – but you will see that it cannot satisfy your soul. The principle is permissive will but not His perfect will. Sometimes, God permits what we demand, even when it's not His best for us.

That is not because He's cruel – it is because He wants to teach us the emptiness of our own desires apart from Him. This even includes the church you choose. There is a church that is in God's perfect

will for you. There is a church that is in God's permissive will for you. Very simple: which is which. One, you came away in living relationship with God. The other you feel dry, not involved, empty and lost.

I confess that I wanted a big church with a big building. And I thank God sincerely that he did not grant me the desire of my heart. Because I think I will come away as a monster in God's sight. I can even lose my soul. No one can correct me. No one can teach me. I sincerely thank God for giving Pastor Lily and I this church. And our soul is intact, in relationship with Him and even today, we can sense He still guiding us, protecting us, speaking into our heart.

I think the best is I am having a living relationship with Him. He is letting me sense what the Spirit is saying to his generation. And He fills me with a desire to depend only on Him for everything. I see now that all along the Lord is waiting for me to lay down all my plans, all my ambitions, and be given over to Him as a chosen servant of God.

3. The final shaking

Hebrews 12:26-27 says, 'Whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven. Now this, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.'

The voice (whose voice) refers to God's voice when He gave the Law to Israel. Today, God has given us the law of living. Once more means, God would intervene in world events to overthrow kingdoms and establish His glory. God's next shaking will not only be physical (earthly) but also spiritual (heavenly). The real meaning is that God will remove everything that is temporary, man-made, and corruptible. What cannot be shaken?

- **God Himself**
- **His Word**
- **His Kingdom**
- **The believer's faith when anchored in Jesus Christ.**

The spiritual implication is a warning and a comfort. God will expose and remove everything not founded on Him. Anything built on human strength or worldly values will fall. Those who belong to Christ, whose lives are built on the Rock (Jesus Christ) will stand firm, no matter how great the shaking. In Cebu, a magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck on September 30 off the coast near Bogu City, Pastor Eunice called and asked how is Pastor Lily? One week later, in Davao Oriental, another powerful magnitude 7.4 quake struck on October 10, 2025, this time, Pastor Susan Choo asked Pastor Lily, how is she? We felt both earthquakes but Iloilo City stands. In similarity, when God shakes the physical world, its economy, world events, we will feel the tremors but will stand.

What will happen when God begins to shake everything that can be shaken? All false values tumble and earthly dreams and plans lose their meaning? Sadly, many of God's children are going to end up bewildered and confused. As the world moves into the era of economic collapse - when persecution falls even upon civilized nations - when governments are convulsing and tottering on the brink of total collapse - how many Christians will survive the test?

Multitudes will be asking, "What's it all about? What's happening? What does the future hold? Where are we? Who can tell us the mind of God?"

We are now moving swiftly into what we know as the end time. We had better be in possession of a heavenly vision of holiness and humility. The testing time is coming down upon us with lightning speed. It is going to take more than a doctrine or a particular teaching to see us through. We are going to have to really know the Lord in His fullness. We had better have our eyes on eternal values. Only spiritual things are going to remain. Only spiritual people will understand what is happening and not faint. We must be linked up with the mind of the Spirit so we will not be thrown by the radical changes that are coming. We must bring ourselves, to the place we have nothing to lose. We need to walk away from all the junk in our lives - we are going to lose it all anyhow.

So, take stock of your life. God says in Malachi 3;3, 'I will purge the sons of Levi.' Blessed are you when you are purged, because it means you are a child of God. The purging is painful but it will bring forth gold. Before Jesus return he will come to purify His people. Who are the Levites. We are the Levites. But

in Malachi's time they had become corrupt and careless. So, he comes to remove sin, hypocrisy and greed so that we can once again serve Him rightly. How does He purge? He allows trials, correction, and conviction to remove pride, sin and unbelief. Sometimes, He uses sickness to get you back to spirituality. He uses loss of boyfriend and girlfriend to cause you to become spiritual.

You ask, 'Pastor, are you sure that there will be a final shaking even in our lives?

"...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ So then everyone of us shall give an account of himself to God..."(Rom. 14:10-12).

"...The end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer..." (I Pet. 4:7).

"... The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light..." (Rom. 13:12).

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build, upon this foundation gold stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest:

for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire..." (I Cor. 3: 11-15).