

‘A Faith That Finishes’ 2 Peter 3:11-15

Series title: It was the best of times.

I. Can an entire generation have a divine calling?

A. Every generation since the time of Christ and the founding of the church has been called to help fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission; namely, to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind and to love our _____ as ourselves and to preach the gospel, to make disciples of all nations. But in *addition* to that, never *instead* of that, could it be that our generation has a unique calling, like Moses’ and Joshua’s and Haggai’s generations did?

B. In Acts 1:7, Jesus says it is not for us to know the times or dates the Father has set for the end to come. Yet, in 2 Peter 3:11-14, the apostle Peter says we can actually hasten or speed up its coming! How can these two things be? How can the time of the end be set, appointed, and yet be something that apparently we can help speed up?

C. We talk about waiting for the Lord to return, and that is very biblical, but what if, at the same time, He’s waiting for us in some way?! This idea has often been presented as a working principle this way: Pray like it all depends on God, yet work like it depends on you! We do both. We pray and work. In whatever God calls you to do, we need to do both and then we leave the results with God.

D. How can we hasten His coming? What are we to do? In what ways might He be waiting for us? Peter doesn’t actually answer this question, of how we can hasten His coming if the day is already set; but he wisely tells us what to do, and we’ll trust God to figure all these things out.

1. Waiting for us to pray. ‘May your kingdom come.’ Mt. 6:10 ‘Maranatha’
2. Waiting for us to finish the harvest. Mt. 24:14, 2 Pet.3:15
3. Waiting for us to purify ourselves. The bridegroom wants a pure bride, spotless, pure and ready, walking in holiness and at peace with Him. 2 Pet. 3:14 We are to pursue this.

E. So today, we can be conduits of _____ and instruments of compassion. The church is to be characterized by grace and truth, like Jesus was. The future is not here yet, but today is. It’s not a time to speculate but to serve. Might our generation be like a John the Baptist generation, to prepare the way for the Lord? And might He be waiting in some way for us as well?

II. Babylon- the city of man.

Throughout this series I have been saying that one way to look at the Bible is as the tale of two cities. Babylon the great is the demonic counterpart to the New Jerusalem.

III. The New Jerusalem- the city of God.

A. Babylon might be able to seduce the world with her promises of progress, but God’s people will always be as strangers to her, as we are aware of her dark agenda as the prelude to the Antichrist.

God has put a new longing in our new hearts; we’re looking for another city, like Abraham was. Our citizenship is a heavenly one and we wouldn’t trade that for anything. Jn. 14:1-3

B. The day is coming when the earth will begin a new age, under the rule of a new King, as the Creator comes and reclaims His creation. Just when it seems like _____ will prevail, a light will break through. He promised He will return and set things straight.

So do not give up hope. Do not throw away your confidence. Heb. 10:35

The people who know their God will display strength and take action! Dan. 11:32