

LIVING ON THE EDGE OF ETERNITY

INTRO: THE end; definite article, not merely cessation but culmination, consummation. Not just the war ended, but the war WON. Ill- Vietnam. REACHING THE GOAL.

It indicates a final goal, the result, conclusion, fulfillment.

Peter's letter is saturated with this emphasis...never out of sight, it colors all he says. This is a note struck consistently throughout the N.T.

AT HAND--The perfect...has come near...This end may occur at any moment; it is always thought of as impending.

The true Christian lives on the edge of time. He has about him a sense of crisis. He lives between the old and the new.

Something new had come into ~~the world's~~ history. The ~~end~~ end and goal of life had been revealed. So the end of the world has been pronounced. All the world's crises and tragic events only indicate its continuous ending (creation groans...) and the inevitable conclusion toward which it moves.

The Christian life should be lived in the light of the impending consummation.

THEREFORE -- When we realize the nearness of Christ's coming, we are bound to commit ourselves to a certain kind of life.

The following verses ~~explain~~ explain this THEREFORE and Peter deals with three areas to be affected by this coming consummation: Our heart, head and hands...We must have clear heads, compassionate hearts and consecrated hands.

CLEAR HEADS - *Wofford* - "Steady Then, Keep cool & pray."

1- a sound mind: soberminded, prudent - The two verses suggest a disciplined life. -

= soist imperative = urgent, strong, decisive

Peter begins w/ the mind & disposition of his readers, w/ the inner steadiness that should control them.

Plainly, he says, living in this kind of atmosphere, one must be sound.

→ Sound = means to be in control & steady - used to describe the restored dominion at Gadara (Mk 5:15)

*distinctive
mystery &
values*

this sinful & self-indulgent world is not the place
to lose our mental & moral balance.

= "to keep the mind safe" to see things in their proper proportions; see what things are important & what things are not important - ~~not~~

= Not to be swept away by sudden enthusiasms =
(Eph 4:14) → Exercise self-control

the citadel of the mind
mental stability

doesn't succumb to peer propaganda

moral stability

2. a sober mind - serious - KJV = watch - mental alertness - we must not allow our minds to become jumbled or dazed by drink or drowsiness. awake & alert.

- Doesn't mean Xian is to approach life w/ gloominess
but not be frivolous & irresponsible -

- to take things seriously in light of these spiritual truths, to be aware of eternal consequences, our accountability

- Ruled by excitement & intoxication

3. For The Purpose of Prayer = Plural = all kinds of prayer.
mental & moral discipline required for a life of prayer.

- keep our thinking clear, & our emotions controlled
so we can give ourselves to prayer -

- if we don't take this seriously, we won't pray. If we are hypnotized into carelessness, etc, we won't pray