

# The End

**Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26**

## Introduction:

1. The end of the year is at hand (**2008**) and we have just three more days, after today, and this year will become history. The end can also mean the end of an well written novel, of a trip, of some heartache, of some movie, of a job, of holiday, of your spending money, of a well played football, basketball or baseball game – it means a *conclusion*, a *completion* with the very word **END** that rings out with *finality* written all over it.
2. The message that the apostle Paul provides for us, from our text, is telling us that someday there is going to be an **end of time** (*as we know it*) when **Christ will deliver up His kingdom** to the Father who is in heaven.
  - a. The beginning **of time** (*of this ending*) is recorded in the very first verse of the Bible – **Genesis 1:1** – “In the **beginning** God created the heavens and the earth.”
  - b. It is a kingdom that began on the day of Pentecost nearly 2,000 years ago when Peter preached the first life saving gospel message to a dying world in **Acts 2** (**Matthew 16:18-19** – *church/kingdom spoken as in the future (or future tense)*) with **Acts 2** speaking as the church/kingdom being in existence (*or present tense*))
  - c. It is the same kingdom that is being added to daily as the Lord Jesus Christ adds to His body in obedience to His gospel – **Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 6:3-5**
  - d. It is a kingdom In Whom Christ is the King, the Head of the Body ***The Church*** – **Ephesians 1:22, 5:23; Colossians 1:18**
  - e. It is a kingdom that has no end – **Daniel 2:44; Luke 1:33**
3. With the deliverance of His kingdom to the Father there will be some things that will end.
4. This morning we will look at some of these spiritual things that will end.
  - (1) **There will be an end of chances to hear the life saving gospel message.**
  - (2) **There will be an end of chances to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
  - (3) **There will be an end of the chance for a Christian who has fallen away to repent and return to God the Father.**

## I. It Will Be **THE END** Of ***Hearing The Life Saving Gospel Messages***

- A. No more chances to hear another gospel message
  1. It is a message that saves – **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**
  2. It is a message that a Christian’s faith is based upon – **Romans 10:17**
  3. It is a message that God wants us to hear – **Acts 13:7**
  4. It is a message that Christ died for – **Romans 5:6-10**
  5. It is a message that the apostles and those that taught in the first century lost their lives to bring to a dying world – Steven in **Acts 7**; James in **Acts 12:1,2**
  6. It is a message that will set men free today – **John 8:32**

- B. A message that was meant for all of mankind with no distinction of nationality – **Romans 1:16**
- C. A message that is meant to be obeyed by its Author Jesus Christ – **Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 4:17**
- D. For us today **THE END is not here yet** – for all those who hear this message – we all have a chance to hear the message that God wants us to hear – we cannot be lackadaisical about this, because the very salvation of our soul depends upon hearing the truth. (*Hearing the truth is **not the end** – we **must do** something about it – we **must act upon the truth** in obedience – see II below.*)

## II. It Will Be An **END** Of A *Chance To Obey The Gospel* Message (**So Tragic**)

- A. No more chance to obey the gospel message – **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 1 Peter 4:17**
- B. No more second chances – **NEVER, NEVER**
  - 1. For it is the Apostle Paul who penned the Scripture, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the following “...*now is the day of salvation*” – **2 Corinthians 6:2**
- C. This End has **NO Sequels, No reruns – IT IS FINAL.**
  - 1. Judgment will be over with and only those who have obeyed the gospel and remained faithful until death shall be in the Kingdom forever – **Matthew 25:46; 1 John 5:11-13**
  - 2. There is no buyouts, no bailouts, nothing except **In Jesus Christ** (**Romans 8:1**) and **Through Christ** (**John 14:6**) because it is **He** and **He alone** who died and shed **His blood** on the cross that we may be set free from the bondage of sin.
- D. **I cannot stress this enough** – there is coming a day when **ALL** will appear before Jesus Christ the Judge of the universe (**2 Corinthians 5:10**) and we will be handed out the last sentence any of us will ever receive – either a joyful sentence of **life eternal in obedience to Him** (**Matthew 25:34**) or the **death sentence pronounced upon us** (*this death is separation from God forever and ever throughout all eternity – so tragic*) (**Matthew 25:41**)
- E. For us today, for those who have not obeyed the gospel message **THE END is not here yet** – a person can still obey the gospel of Jesus Christ by: believing that Jesus is the Christ (**John 8:24**), repenting of your sins (**Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38**), confessing His Name before men (**Acts 8:37**), being immersed for the remission of your sins (**Acts 2:38**) and remaining steadfast until the end (**Acts 2:42**) – if you are in this category – it is YOUR decision to either **OBEY** or **NOT OBEY**.
- F. For those who have obeyed the gospel message and have fallen away **THE END is not here yet** – see III. below.

## III. It Will Be **THE END** Of *Chances To Repent* For Those Who Have Fallen Away From The Lord (**So Tragic**)

- A. No more tomorrows for the procrastinators to get themselves back into the fold of the living God.

1. The Scriptures are full of warnings alluding to the outcome of those who once were in the kingdom and have fallen away – **Isaiah 1:2-4; Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 3:12, 16-19, 4:1-3, 6:6, 10:32-39**
    - a. It is not a lovely sight – **2 Peter 2:20-22**
    - b. It is a tragic destination – **Revelation 21:8**
    - c. It is **so tragic** for one who has known and tasted of the sweetness of being in His Arms and then to remove oneself and go back into the world in which they came from.
      - 1) It is like a wayward child who has left his family to never return.
      - 2) The heartaches
      - 3) The emptiness within.
  2. No more chances to turn themselves back to God – the judgment and sentencing are final.
- B. A message for today is that as long as this earth remains and one is still alive and has fallen away from the Lord there is still a chance to repent and pray to God that He will forgive them of their error -- **Acts 8:18-24; 1 John 1:9**
- C. The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but all to come to repentance – **2 Peter 3:9**
- D. **THE END is not here yet** – a person who has fallen away from Christ can still repent and come back to God – it is **THEIR** decision. It is **God's wish that none should perish, but all come to repentance.**

## Conclusion:

1. Someday Christ will deliver up His Kingdom to the Father who is in heaven.
2. Someday there will be no more chances to hear the life saving gospel message, nor a chance to obey this message, nor a chance to repent.
  1. But, **that day is not here yet** and each and every one of us that are here today can hear the message and for those who have not obeyed the gospel have the opportunity today to be a part of that kingdom and for those who have fallen away still have the opportunity to repent and return to God.
  2. Yes, there is a day coming, the day that we do not know, but, we can be assured that it will come.
  3. It is up to us to be ready for that great day.
  4. The very destiny of our soul, throughout all of eternity, depends upon what we do here on earth before **THE END** comes.
  5. As long as a breath of air resides in our old bodies, we can still hear and obey His commands.
  6. It is His wish as well as all Christian's wishes that you (*look to your left and your right, in the front of you and back behind you*) are part of His kingdom when He delivers it up to the Father in heaven for all eternity.
  7. The greatest tragedy that a person will ever have is his or her missing the kingdom that Christ delivers up to the Father in **THE END**.
5. When one's life here upon this earth ends, **IF** he or she has not heard and obeyed the gospel, sentencing is forthcoming for all of eternity and *if heaven is a reward for those who have obeyed the gospel and have remained faithful until the end* then hell is the sentence for those who have not obeyed the gospel and for those who have fallen away and have not repented and returned to God.

**It is up to you.**

**It is your decision**

**Yes, Jesus is calling today through His Gospel**

**Won't you respond?**