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THE BEREANS


ACTS 17:11

1 Peter 4:1-7
Lesson #17
End Times Ethics #1
11/29/2020

(Typical Bible Church) Annual Conferences



Spiritual life



World Missions

1

Some popular books in the 20th cent. on End Times Prophecy



Too much attention goes to explaining obscure signs and not enough to clear ethical implications.







2

Predicted dates of Christ's return and the END

70	1533 (Oct.19)	1763 (Feb.28)	1880	1954 (Dec.21)	1995
247	1534 (April 5)	1780 (May 19)	1881	1957 (Apr.23)	1996 (Dec.13)
365	1544	1789	1890	1958	1997 *8
380	1555	1790	1891	1959 (Apr.22)	1998 *15
500	1556 (July 22)	1792	1895	1960	1999 *36
793 (April 6)	1583 (April 28)	1794	1896	1962 (Feb.4)	2000 *59
800	1584	1795 (Nov.19)	1899	1966	2001 *17
806	1588	1801	1900	1967 (Aug.20)	2002 *6
848	1600	1805	1901	1969 (Aug.9)1972	2003 *6
870 (March 25)	1603	1814 (Dec.25)	1908 (April 23)	1973	2004
992	1623 1624	1820 (Oct.14)	1910 (May 18)	1974	2005 *3
995	(Feb.1)	1832	1911	1975	2006 (Feb.12)
1000	1648 1654	1836	1914 (Oct.1)	1976	2007 *4
1033	1656	1843 (April 28)	1915	1977	2008 (Mar. 21)
1184	1657	1844 (Mar.21)	1918	1978	2009
1186 (Sept.23)	1658	1845	1919 (Dec.17)	1980 (April.1)	2010
1260	1660	1846	1925 (Feb.13)	1981 (June 28)	2011 (Dec.31)
1284	1666 1673	1847 (April 7)	1928	1982 (Mar.10)	2012 (Dec.21)
1290	1668	1849	1934	1983	2017
1306	1669	1851	1935	1984 (Oct.2)	2021
1335	1684	1856	1936	1985 (Mar.25)	2022
1367	1697	1862	1938	1986	2023
1370	1700	1863	1941	1987 (Apr.29)	2025
1420 (Feb.14)	1708	1867	1943	1988 (Sep.15)	2026
1496	1716	1868	1945 (Sept.21)	1989 (Sept.30)	2033
1504	1719 (April5)	1869	1947	1990 (April 23)	2035
1524 (Feb.20)	1734	1870 (June 28)	1950	1991 (Mar.31)	2037
1525	1736 (Oct.13)	1872	1952	1992 (April 26)	2040
1528 (May 27)	1757	1874	1953 (Jan.9)	1993 (Nov.14)	2050
1532	1761 (April 5)	1878	1953	1994 (Sept.29)	

3

1 Peter 4

“¹ Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because the one who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human lusts, but for the will of God. ³ For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of indecent behavior, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and wanton idolatries. ⁴ In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* in the same excesses of debauchery, and they slander *you*; ⁵ but they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as people, they may live in the spirit according to *the will of God*.

7 **The end of all things is near;** therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer.”

4

Chronology of the End Times (Matthew 24-25)

24:4-14

“The beginning of birth pangs”

- ✓ False Christs will come
- ✓ Wars & rumors of wars
- ✓ Famine & earthquakes
- ✓ Believers hated by all
- ✓ Conflict within the ch.
- ✓ False prophets
- ✓ Many are misled
- ✓ Increased lawlessness
- ✓ Love will grow cold
- ✓ World evangelism

24:15-28

“The Great Tribulation”

- ✓ “Abomination of desolation”
- ✓ Unparalleled tribulation
- ✓ False signs

24:29-31

2nd coming of Christ

25:31-46

Judgment day

Matthew 24:3

“what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Events 30%

Ethics 70%

5

If we knew that this world would end
in our lifetime
 what would we change going forward?



1 Peter should help us
Think about it!

6

Ethics for the End of Times

1 Peter 4

"Therefore, since Christ has **suffered** in the flesh, **arm yourselves** also with the same purpose,"

#1 Suffer injustice graciously -
It's not will we suffer
but HOW will we respond to it.

"The beginning of birth pangs"

"The Great Tribulation"

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ✓ False Christs will come | ✓ False prophets | ✓ "Abomination of desolation" |
| ✓ Wars & rumors of wars | ✓ Many are misled | ✓ Unparalleled tribulation |
| ✓ Famine & earthquakes | ✓ Increased lawlessness | ✓ False signs |
| ✓ Believers hated by all | ✓ Love will grow cold | |
| ✓ Conflict within the ch. | ✓ World evangelism | |

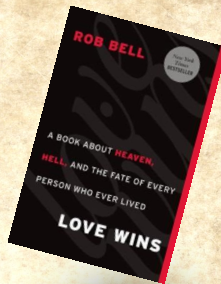
• We are not alone, Jesus shares our suffering.

7

With respect to
 our suffering:

"The cross is God taking on flesh and blood and saying, "Me too."

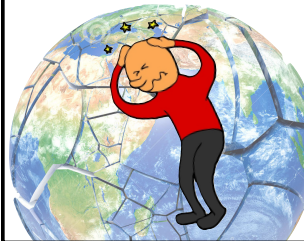
Rob Bell



8

Romans 8

"22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, **having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.**"



As broken people in a broken world we suffer and groan while waiting the promised glory that is to follow.

9

Philippians 3:10

"that I may know him and the power of his resurrection **and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death;**"

The challenge of suffering is not only with how we respond to it, but also with how we see Christ in it.

Romans 8

"16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him** in order that we may also be glorified with Him. 18 **For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**"

10

1 Peter 4

"1 . . . because the one who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh **no longer for human lusts, but for the will of God.**"

#2 Share in Christ's death willingly -
In baptism, we died to our old self to live as new persons through union with Christ's death and resurrection.

Romans 12:1

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship,"

11

“3 For the time already **past** is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the **desire** of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of indecent behavior, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and wanton idolatries.”

**We no longer seek our soul's
deepest longings from this world.**

**We have had time to experience
the emptiness of trying to find life
in all the wrong places.**

12

Romans 2

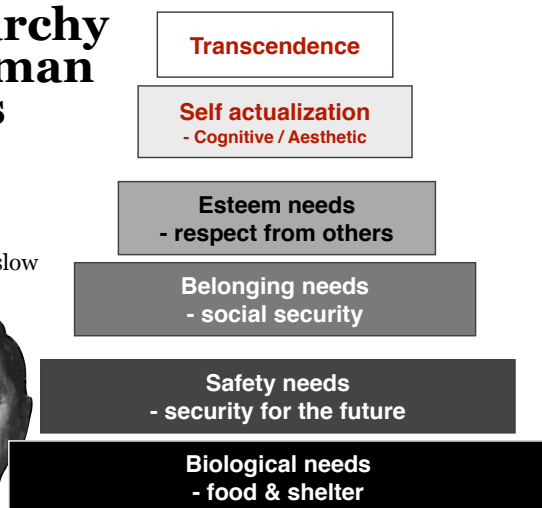
“¹⁴ For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, . . . ¹⁵ . . they show the work of **the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.**”

***The shadow of God's image
in every human soul bears witness
to a universal sense and longing for a life
that cannot be met through this world.***

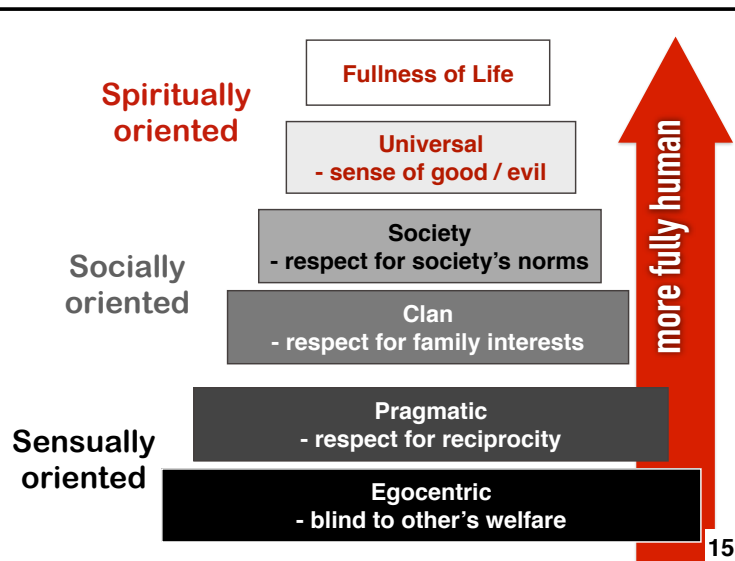
13

Hierarchy of human needs

Abraham Maslow



14



15

“There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.”

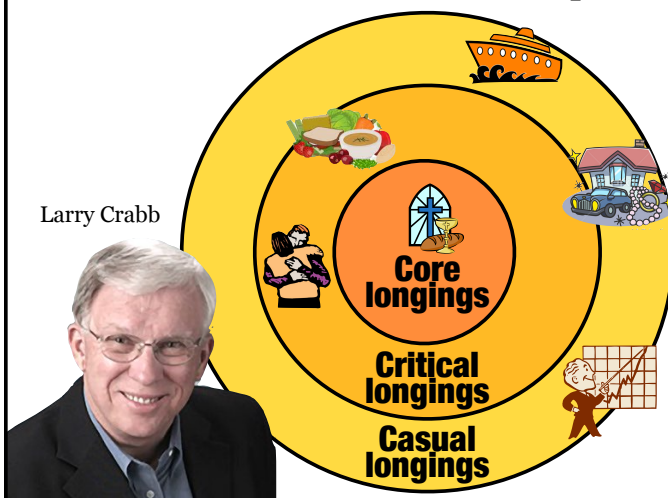
Blaise Pascal



16

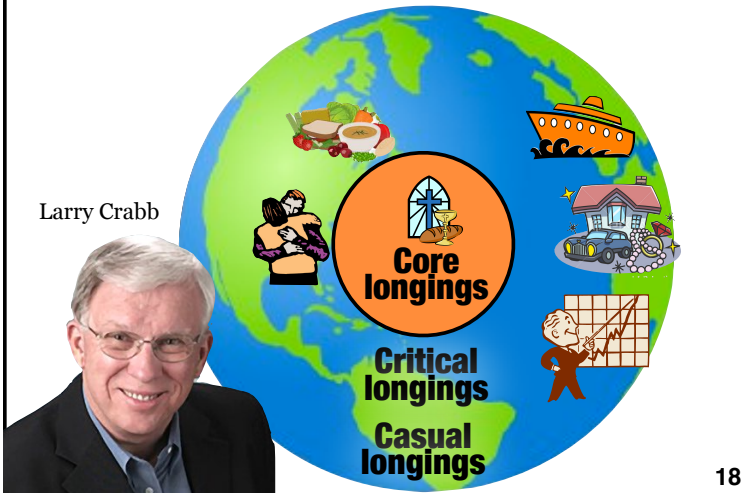
Levels of human hope

Larry Crabb

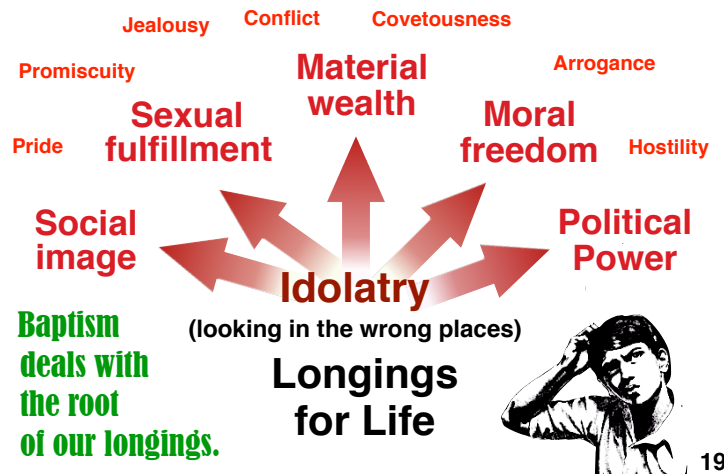


17

The Empty Hopes of the Flesh



The seedbed of sin



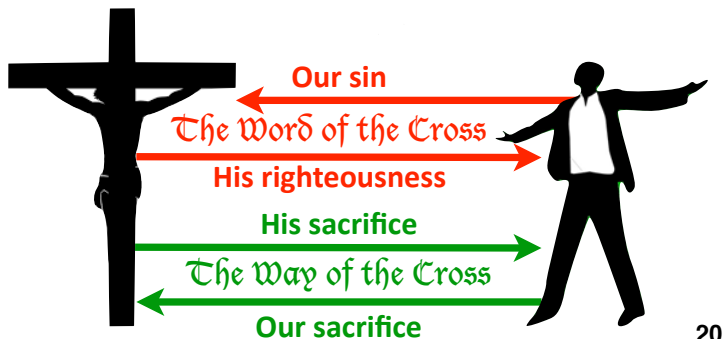
Two great exchanges

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,



so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."



1 Peter 4

"4 In *all* this, they are **surprised** that you do not run with *them* in the same excesses of debauchery, and they **slander** you;"

#3 Separate from the world wisely - As aliens, we should expect to be out of place and misunderstood in this world.

- Take your baptism seriously.
- We should resist the world's false "messiahs".
- We should not be surprised or resentful if misunderstood or left out.
- We should not be misfits for the wrong reasons.

21

Misfit index

- **Hypocrisy** - Double minded - trying to find life and hope in both this world and the kingdom.
- **Majoring on minors** - Confusing Christianity with worldly nationalism, politics, racism, etc.
- **Disrespect** - Ignoring the "image of God" in others through pride, insensitivity, bitterness. etc.
- **Failing to Prepare** - Caring for the future of those under our care, preparing for but not counting on life and ministry for an indefinite period of time.



22

"5 but they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead."

We know that our choices come with consequences.

6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are (now) dead, that though they are judged in the flesh (having died physically) as (mortal) people, they may live in the spirit according to *the will of God*."

Be assured that **those who have already died** will not miss out on the promises of God for those who follow Him (and those who do not).

23

1 Peter 4

“⁷ **The end of all things is near**; therefore, be of sound **judgment** and **sober spirit** for the purpose of prayer.”

**#4 Sense the times prudently -
We should recognize
that our time is short on this earth.**

Every generation is challenged
to live like they are at the end of history
(but only in certain respects).

24

2 Peter 3

“³ Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue just as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”. . . ⁸ But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.”

**Fact #1
Don't put God “on the clock.”**

25

Matthew 25 (Parable of Ten Virgins)

“¹ Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² And five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. ³ **For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,** ⁴ **but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.** ⁵ **Now while the bridegroom was delaying,** they all got drowsy and began to sleep. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, “Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” ⁷ Then all those virgins rose, and trimmed their lamps.”

**Fact #2
Be prepared to wait.**

26

Matthew 24 (Parable of Attentive Servant)

“⁴⁶ Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly I say to you, that he will **put him in charge of all his possessions.** ⁴⁸ But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘**My master is not coming for a long time,**’ ⁴⁹ **and shall begin to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;** ⁵⁰ the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, ⁵¹ and shall cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; weeping shall be there and the gnashing of teeth.”

**Fact #3
Focus on our calling not God's calling.**

27

Our calling

#1 Be attentive, active, & accountable.

#2 Be prepared to wait and endure.

#3 Know our calling and live it out.

**The letters of Paul and Peter
outline our calling and responsibilities.**

Our message “The Word of the Cross”

Our mission “The Way of the Cross”

28

**If I knew that this world would end
in my lifetime
what would I change going forward?**

This is not a hypothetical question

**We do not know when THE world will end,
but we know OUR world will end when we die.**



**These are the last days
for each of us!**

29

**If I knew that this world would end
in my lifetime
what would I change going forward?**

- I would listen more, speak less, forgive freely, bless generously, and empathize deeply.
- I would care more about the cares of other's, and less about how others think about me.
- I would laugh more often, be more thankful and less busy, worship more and worry less.
- I would take my baptism more seriously and myself less seriously.
- I would pray more passionately, live more courageously, and love more deeply.

I would be a better alien ambassador

30



**The end of OUR world
is near.**

#1 Suffer injustice graciously

#2 Share in Christ's death willingly

#3 Separate from the world wisely

#4 Sense the times prudently

**#5 Serve others lovingly
(Next week) 4:8-11**

31

Romans 12
Taking your baptism seriously

vs 1a I am united with Christ

1.
Grace of God must be deeply sensed

vs 1b-2 I have died to my old life

2.
Cross of Christ must be willingly carried

The Word of the Cross

vs 14-21 I face suffering with grace

6.
Response to the world must be graciously given



vs 3-5 I am a member of Christ's body

3.
Body of Christ must be rightly discerned

It is from Grace to Grace

vs 9-13 I love all those who God loves

5.
Love for the brethren must be openly shown

vs 6-8 I have a role in ministry

4.
Gifts of the Spirit must be properly used

The Way of the Cross

32