



# On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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*All Scripture presented is from the Authorized King James Version unless otherwise noted. Comments and notations by this author within Scripture text will appear in brackets.*

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## The Time Is Short

The following passage has provided the title for this article:

**I Corinthians 7:29-31**

But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

Over the years much debate has been given to the “end times.” Differing views have argued not only the time frame of end time events but also the order in which they occur.

Some groups contend that the age in which we now live will conclude

with the Lord Jesus Christ’s promised Return, ushering in a new age. Others maintain that though this may be true, there are two stages to his Return. These are but a few of the many different beliefs held by Christians around the world. This subject, known commonly as eschatology, has been a major cause of rifts in both modern and early Christianity.

As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ we must strive toward unity and condemn division.

**I Corinthians 1:10**

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

**Ephesians 4:1-3**

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Psalms 133:1**

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

**John 13:34&35**

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**Acts 4:32**

And the multitude *of them* that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Clearly God is in favor of unity and opposed to division.

It would also be good for us to consider the motives behind division as defined below:

**James 3:16**

For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

If confusion isn’t enough of a deterrent, how about EVERY EVIL WORK? That should discourage even the most stubborn among us.

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Nevertheless, the reality is that vast differences exist among many Christians. Especially regarding topics surrounding the end of this age and eternity.

For the purpose of clarity we shall consider what defines the major camps of eschatological argumentation.

**Postmillennialism:**

A rough interpretation of Revelation 20 which concludes Christ's Second Coming as occurring after the Millennium.

(The Millennium being a 1,000 year period of time important to biblical prophecy.)

**Premillennialism:**

The belief that Christ will literally and physically be on Earth for his millennial reign at his Second Coming or Return.

This view is based upon a literal interpretation of Revelation 20:1-6 which describes Christ's coming to the earth and subsequent reign at the end of a period of enormous tribulation. It views this future age as a time of fulfillment for the prophetic Hope of God's people as given in the Old Testament as well as in other places in the New Testament besides Revelation.

**Amillennialism:**

Rejects the notion that Jesus Christ will have a thousand-year long, physical reign on the earth.

Amillennialists believe the thousand years mentioned in Revelation 20 is symbolic, not literal. They believe the millennium

has already begun and is identical with the current church age, (or more rarely, that it ended with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70). Amillennialism also holds that though Christ's reign during the millennium is only spiritual, at the end of the church age, Christ will return in final judgment and establish a permanent physical reign.

**Preterism:**

This is a belief that some, if not all, biblical prophecies concerning the Last Days or End Times refer to events which already happened in the first century after Christ's birth.

It is significant to note that in each of the aforementioned "end time" theologies exists numerous divisions. In other words, they cannot seem to agree with regularity on a post-millennial, pre-millennial, a-millennial or preterist dogma!

I don't know about you but this makes my head hurt! However, it also gives me a greater appreciation for the magnificent Word of God. And a lesser acknowledgment of the credibility of man's.

Consider God's simple declaration as found in His Word:

**I Peter 1:20&21**

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but

holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

**Galatians 1:11&12**

But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

That being said, it behooves us to work at ascertaining what God has said rather than giving or considering opinions concerning what we "think" He has said.

We should take God's Word literally whenever and wherever possible. This is not to say that we do not acknowledge the presence of figures of speech and/or phrases representative of the culture regarding the land and times of the Bible. We most certainly do. However, those things which are figurative or allegorical are quite plainly represented as such. That is if we aren't prone to "spiritualizing."

God is logical (a quality most of humanity has abandoned). Thus, His Word is logical.

**John 1:1&2**

In the beginning was the Word [*logos*], and the Word [*logos*] was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

This Greek word [*logos*] is the root of the English word logical. It represents God's thoughts

especially as He would like to communicate them.

Your Bible is made up of the Words and Word [*logos*] of God. When it became possible, God communicated what He wanted mankind to know. This communication came from His Mind.

Initially, He gave His Word to holy men of God by revelation. Some were also given the directive to write it down for others to read. Others spoke it, some did both. In every case it was God's Word not theirs.

Acknowledging this simple truth is, for some, extremely difficult. They would rather "spiritualize" these straight forward declarations. They would have us to believe that the Word [*logos*] is Jesus. This they do choosing to ignore the balance of the context in which these verses are set.

Clearly, the Bible is the Word [*logos*] of God. In other words, it communicates or declares God to us. Obviously, your Bible was not somewhere in the "great beyond" floating around in nothingness when God created the heavens and the Earth. His thoughts [Word-*logos*] however, were.

In time, God was able to communicate the infinite via the use of finite words to man's finite mind. Remarkable!

How else could we know Him or have faith, seeing it is by hearing His Word that faith comes?

And so, God communicated to man through the prophets of old with both the spoken and written Word [*logos*]. But, when the time was right He brought forth His Son, the ultimate communication of Himself.

Hebrews 1:1-5

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Who being the brightness of *his* glory [i.e. His reflection, not He Himself], and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

Jesus Christ reflects all that God is and would be were He a man. But God is not a man as the Scripture so plainly declares.

Numbers 23:19

God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that

he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

I Samuel 15:29

And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he *is* not a man, that he should repent.

I Timothy 2:5

For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

The above verse in Timothy brings me back to the revelation of God as declared in John regarding Jesus Christ. And further documentation regarding both he and his Father.

John 1:18

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared [has made Him known] *him*.

The first part of this verse clearly states that no man has seen God at any time.

Not even Moses could see God.

Exodus 33:12-20

And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight,

shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation *is* thy people.

And he said, My presence shall go *with thee*, and I will give thee rest.

And he said unto him, If thy presence go not *with me*, carry us not up hence.

For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? *is it* not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that *are* upon the face of the earth.

And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

Moses found grace in God's sight. Yet, God could not do for Moses what he asked because it would have killed him. So, He did the following for him:

Exodus 33:21-ff  
And the LORD said, Behold, *there is* a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cliff of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

This left Moses in such a effulgent state that the children of Israel could not look fully upon him.

Exodus 34:29-ff  
And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.

And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.

And *till* Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face.

But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel *that* which he was commanded.

And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

This brief exposure to the Lord God caused a brilliance in Moses' face that was blinding to others.

Moses was but a reflection of God's glory even as we can be when we turn our hearts to Him.

II Corinthians 3:12-ff  
Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

And not as Moses, *which* put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *vail* is done away in Christ.

Take note of this truth, the "vail" is done away in Christ. That is, God can be made known to us as

never before. How? By knowing Jesus Christ.

**Verses 15-18**

But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

Nevertheless when it [the heart] shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

Now the Lord *is* that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there is liberty.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

A reflection of the glory of the Lord! Even as by the spirit of the Lord was not fully available before Jesus Christ. Only a partial enlightenment and that through His Word to Moses, which could not fully explain God in the way His Son did and does today.

American Standard Version 1901

**Psalms 34:5**

They looked unto him, and were radiant; And their faces shall never be confounded.

As wonderful as radiant is, it does not compare to “from glory to glory.”

We know that many, many people saw Jesus Christ and we also know that no man has seen God at any time.

**John 1:18**

No man hath seen God at any time; . . .

We also know that:

the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

If you want to know God, you must know Jesus Christ. And if you want to know Jesus Christ, you must know God’s Word.

In short; the spoken or preached Word makes known the written Word. The written Word makes known Jesus Christ who in turn makes known God.

This has been a very literal, and logical rendering of God’s Word which brings me back to:

**I Corinthians 7:29-31**

But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

And they that use this world, as not abusing *it*: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

The eschatological theologians of our day (and days gone by) have a field day with this concept, “the time is short.”

If you take the extreme view of the preterist you take this phrase literally. BUT you must do so in a

grossly spiritualized manner. How extreme a view would depend on whether it was that of a Partial (Orthodox) or Full Preterist.

For example, the Full Preterist believes that ALL prophecy was fulfilled with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D.. That would include the resurrection of the dead AND our Lord Jesus Christ’s Second Coming.

Holding to a view point such as that would see the passage in I Corinthians 7 as already having happened. Therefore, they take the phrase “the time is short” literally.

As do I HOWEVER, there are some profound differences in the way I see this passage.

The Preterist (believing ALL prophecies are fulfilled) thinks the “fashion of this world” has passed away and those who use it not being able to abuse it. And those that weep as though they weep not, etc..

This is viewed in a totally “spiritual” way of course. Or, more properly, a “spiritualized” way.

All that aside, let’s consider this verse in a literal sense without spiritualizing it, beginning with the time being short.

To do so we must then ask of ourselves a simple question.

How much longer do you think you will live? How much longer will

anyone who uses or abuses this age live?

Obviously, none of us can honestly answer that. I can say this however, settling into my 60's I've noticed the time spent in my life has indeed been short. Frankly, I don't know where the years have gone! But then, neither do you. Or anyone else for that matter.

We do know that the time for physical life is limited for each and every one of us. Can you say life-span?

James 4:14

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

At "the end of the day" that's all our lives are, i.e., a vapor. As they say, "Here today, gone tomorrow."

So then, we can safely say that the phrase, "the time is short" is just as relevant to each of us today as it was to those to whom Paul spoke in his day.

You and I have no guarantee that we will be here tomorrow. And we've no idea what will be on tomorrow's menu should we be around to participate. Simply put, we are but one heart beat removed from falling asleep.

I say this not to be negative nor to promote fear. But rather to instill a sense of urgency.

You and I have only today with which to garnish our eternities. We live in the present moment having

no idea of what the next has in store. Truly the time is short and we dare not waste any of it!

The various "view points" as set forth by eschatological theology offer little more than confusion. In the final analysis it is the Word of God and ONLY the Word of God that has any authority. What men have to say about it is of no consequence.

Man has long worked at building reputation and wealth by torturing the Scripture. But at "the end of the day" it is God who will have the final Word.

It is enough to know THAT Jesus Christ is coming back and we are well advised to leave WHEN up to God Himself. After all, we are seriously handicapped in our ability to comprehend as acknowledged in the Scripture.

I Corinthians 13:9-12

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Subsequently, when it comes to a full disclosure of "end times," all we can expect to know currently is

that the time is short. What remains then is not how long or when but how shall we use this day? After all, today may be the only day we have.

Truly, the time is short. Don't waste it!

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## Sue's News

Well, another year has come and gone and God continues to bless us here in the Great White North. We had some pretty cold weather here in January with temperatures dipping to 30 below zero. We like the cold, but enough is enough! Only our Malamutes enjoyed the cold. To them, it's like a cool spell during a hot summer. They stretch out on the ice, roll in the snow and bury their heads in it. They are very tough dogs!

Spring is threatening here now. Temperatures are heading into the 40's. But here in Alaska, what season it's supposed to be really doesn't count.

It snowed on Easter Sunday! We were coated with a couple of inches of snow overnight. At least the new snow made things look clean!

Linus continues to serve up the Word every Sunday at the Teaching Center. People who attend seem to be very blessed. I know I am. God has blessed us with wonderful people to fellowship with. We have a meal together at least once a month and that is always a good time.

NOTES

We got together for a holiday dinner at a local Italian restaurant the week before Christmas. We ate very well and had great fellowship and conversation. Our holiday dinner has become a tradition that we all look forward to.

I've had the privilege to be back in contact with some very old friends. Catching up with them has been fun. Seeing photos of their kids and grand kids has blessed me a lot. Some of the children I knew when they were little are now grown up with little ones of their own. I am also blessed to share photos of my grandsons, Malachi and Arin with my "newly reconnected" old time friends .

Malachi has been attending a Spanish Immersion school this year and can count and say the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish. He is pretty good with numbers and letters and can write his name legibly. He is also very good with his hands. I can easily see an engineering future for him.

Arin is cute and mischievous. The boy is busy!

Linus and I have been married 36 years as of January. The years have been wonderful and God has blessed us with health and happiness. It seems like yesterday that we were making wedding plans, and now all these years later we are still going strong and doing our best to serve God and his people.

On a somewhat lamentable note, Lydia slipped down the stairs the day after her 23rd birthday and

dislocated her ankle and broke her leg.

She had surgery a week later to repair the damage and is on the mend. She is doing well with physical therapy and we should see her back up and walking pretty soon. Currently she is off the crutches and enjoying more mobility with the use of a "walking boot."

I pray that all of you are happy, healthy and blessed.

If you want to contact me via email:

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I always reply to email.

God bless you!  
Sue

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