

THE END OF OUR FAITH

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ ...Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls”. (1 Peter 1:3-9 NKJ)

Possible introduction: Ideas about what is the end of faith for those of other religions. Buddhists, Islam, etc. What about atheists? The end of faith for Christians is a defining moment. End does not mean conclusion, but the purpose being fulfilled, the consummation.

What are some historical Christian ideas?

SPS - to explain ideas about the end of our faith.

I. Starting thought

- a. We see through a glass darkly – only hints of ideas – we don’t have the whole story (1 Corinthians 13:12). We are growing into the image of Christ, but even our image of Christ is obscured, but then face to face.
- b. Physical descriptions fail us...eye has not seen, etc (1 Corinthians 2:9).

II. We do know a little bit, at least we think we do...

- a. Earth being filled with His glory (Psalm 72:19), we have been created for His glory (Isaiah 43:7), vessels of mercy (Romans 9:23).
- b. Our current afflictions are nothing compared to this glory (2 Corinthians 4:17; Romans 8:18).
- c. Although we cannot define that glory we know it is the fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11) to which we look in faith.

III. Salvation as entering the fellowship of God

- a. Having escaped we become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), God who is above all, through all and in us all (Ephesians 4:6).
- b. Bearing the image of the heavenly man, Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:46-49).
- c. The children of God (Romans 8:16-17).
- d. Thus we shall always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17; John 17:24)

IV. Let this concept of fellowship with God – the end of our faith – motivate us now in this life.

- a. Knowing our fellowship is with the Father and His Son (1 John 1:3).
- b. That we are called to the fellowship of His Son (1 Corinthians 1:9).
- c. Letting the fellowship of the Spirit motivate us (Philippians 2:1).

Conclusion

So the end of our faith is our purpose for living now.

Could read Ephesians 3:8-15 or to 21, using pauses, emphases, etc.