

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Can you believe that 1998 is now behind us and 1999 is before us. We are now preparing to come to the end of a millennium, that is just a little hard for me to think of. I have enough trouble just getting through each day let alone thinking about a thousand years. I sometimes wonder if the people approached the year 1000 as we are approaching the year 2000?

I wonder if people in the year 999 were writing books about how the earth was going to come to an end like is happening today? I wonder how many people were worried about the "ramifications" of the end of the millennium as we are today? Of course there was no Y2K problem for them to face as we have today. I guess I have a different outlook on things than many in our country have today.

First, we do not know when the earth is going to come to an end. And there is nothing we can do about it any way! We can, though, look at what the Bible says about the end and take heart from those words. **(Mark 13:31-37 NASB)** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. {32} "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. {33} "Take heed, **keep on the alert**; for you do not know when the appointed time is. {34} "It is like a man, away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. {35} "Therefore, **be on the alert**--for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning--{36} lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. {37} "And what I say to you I say to all, **'Be on the alert!'**" Note that in verse 33, Jesus tells us what is really important about the end of time, "**Be on the alert.**" What He is saying is we are to be prepared at all times, because we do not know when the end is coming.

Second, many today are worried about this **Y2K** problem. My question to Christians is **WHY?** Remember there is nothing that you and I can do about it anyway so why worry about something that we can do nothing about. Just let us remember the promise of the Lord, "**lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**" **Matt. 28:20** and "**And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**" **Rom. 8:28** The question for those of us who are Christians is, "Do we really believe what the Bible says?"

I want to close with this thought. If we are prepared to meet God in accordance with **HIS WORD** and we believe what **HIS WORD** says then each new year can only bring the joy of knowing that we are that much closer to meeting our Lord in Heaven. Have a happy and joyous New Year.

Ernie