



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – December 26, 2021

To Know Christ...

Wise King Solomon once said, “**The end of a matter is better than its beginning;**” (Ecclesiastes 7:8) Do you think the same way concerning the end of a matter? The end of a beloved saint’s life? The end of a job? (Retirement might sound nice!) The end of one King and the beginning of another King’s reign? The end of a year? As human beings we may get a little wispy about saints who have left this earthly existence to go inherit the promise to be with the Lord, or we might fondly remember the younger days when we had more physical ability to complete the tasks at hand, but the end is better than the beginning.

When the Apostle John writes to unveil Jesus in the book that begins “**The Revelation of Jesus Christ,**” it is to show us more exactly who Jesus the Christ is, and His power as King over ALL the nations, kings, and peoples of the earth. Notice these quotations from the book of Revelation concerning Jesus, the Lord:

“**And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:**” Revelation 2:8 [Jesus is the one sending this message to Smyrna via the angel. Notice who controls first & last – the context is about a coming tribulation to the saints of Smyrna.]

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:12-14 [Jesus is the one who starts a matter and ends a matter; not man. And He also renders the reward or otherwise. He also gives the right to life and entrance into the city to those who wash their robes.]

Stop and behold that Jesus stands in full control of a matter’s beginning and ending. No matter whether we are speaking in terms of a trial, spiritual life, physical life [see Psalms 139:15-16], an

era of events, or the reign of kings. He stands in control. When will my earthly days be over? When we reach the appointed number of days that God ordained before we were even born. How's that for being in control from beginning to end? How long will this trial or tribulation I am going through last? Until Jesus declares the end, just like He did its beginning. How long will the Covid-19 pandemic last? Until Jesus declares the ending and last of it. Man says when he "thinks" or "plans" of it being over via vaccines, medications, infusions, or etc., but ONLY Jesus stands in control of the end of the matter. And will the ending of this matter be better? We would imagine so. Will the ending of a Saint's earthly Life be better than its beginning? Most Certainly! Can we rest in the Reigning Almighty King Jesus who controls the First and Last, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega? We can rest completely with our souls at peace in Him. Blessed, rewarded, washed, fully alive, and secure. Happy New Year! (Another Year of Our Lord.) AMEN.

- Carey Terry