

FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME TO THE END OF TIME

We are an imperfect people, living in an imperfect world in an imperfect Church. Only God is perfect because the Creator is God. We and the whole world are created by God. We are all God's creatures. We are not the Creator. In other words, we are not perfect because we are not God and the world is not perfect because it is not God.

Perfection, however, is not the same thing as goodness. All that God created is good. The creation story in Genesis tells us that "God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good."(Genesis 1:31). And, we human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. Again, Genesis tells us "God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them."(Genesis 1:27). God only creates good, not evil. We and the world are good, but not perfect. We are not perfect so that we will always depend upon God who created us. For us to remain throughout our lives in relationship to God, who is perfection, is to fulfill our destiny of returning at the end of our earthly lives to the God who created us. We need God and the wisdom of his perfection to know how to use the freedom of choice and will that we have all received from God at our creation. Though we are not perfect, our actions can be good by choosing the will of God who created us in his own image.

To save us when we make bad decisions or commit evil acts, Jesus, God in the flesh, comes to us as a double revelation: He is the perfect revelation of God the Creator as well as the perfect revelation of man the creature so that we will all know who God is and also how to live as good human beings. Not only do we need to be saved, but so does the whole created world for all is imperfect. St. Paul says: "For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God...in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now." (Romans 8:19, 21-22). Therefore, all the laws of nature are imperfect and need to be redeemed as well.

Beyond our free will to choose the good are the natural disasters of our world, tragic accidents, and incurable diseases that lead to death. These are not caused by God, but are the results of the imperfect laws of nature that still need God's redemption. In the end, everything will wind down and finally pass away: we ourselves and our world. Only then, on the Last Day when Jesus returns in glory, will all things be perfected in the Kingdom of God, and not before. When will all this happen? We do not know and no one does except God. Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew and Mark: "But of that day and [or] hour no one knows, neither the angel of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." (Matthew 24:36 and Mark 13:32) So how are we to live our lives in the meantime? The Gospels exhort all of us to be vigilant, sober, awake and alert. We are not to go anywhere, but to stay where we are. The oral and written Tradition of the Church give us the wisdom of God to guide us in living the Ordinary Days of our daily lives during times of trials and tribulations, even in the Last Days of the End Time. Here are some of the examples we receive from the Sacred Scriptures:

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| • When you are in sorrow | John 14 |
| • When you are lonely or fearful | Psalms 23 |
| • When you want rest and peace | Matthew 11:25 |
| • When you want to be fruitful | John 15 |
| • When you have sinned | Psalms 51 |
| • When you grow bitter and critical | 1 Corinthians 13 |

• When you worry	Matthew 6:19
• When you feel down and out	Romans 8:31
• When you prayers grow selfish	Psalm 67
• When your are in danger	Psalm 91
• When you feel dejected	Psalm 34
• When you need courage for your task	Joshua 1
• When you see an invitation or opportunity	Isaiah 55
• When your faith needs stirring	Hebrews 11
• When God seems far away	Psalm 139
• When others fail you	Psalm 27
• When you leave home to labor or travel	Psalm 121
• When you feel bitter or critical	1 Corinthians 13
• When you want assurance	Romans 8:1
• When you need secrets to Happiness	Colossians 3:12
• When you yearn for life in Christ	2 Corinthians 5:15
• When the world seems bigger than God	Psalm 70 or 90
• When you need confidence in God	Psalm 25
• When you sense the call to go deeper	John 1:38-39
• When you need healing in life	Matthew 4:23-24
• When you seek the mercy of God	Matthew 9:11-13
• When you are called to be a disciple	Matthew 4:18-20
• When you need courage	Matthew 14: 25-27
• When you find life is getting in the way	Mark 10:21-22
• When you are thinking of investments & returns	Mark 10:17-31
• When you feel rejected	John 6: 37-39
• When you are tempted to give up	John 6:67-69
• When you need God's saving love	John 3:16-17
• When you are challenged to take up your cross	Matthew 11:38-39
• When you need to forgive others	Matthew 6:14-15
• When you need humility to serve	Mark 10:42-45
• When you seek God's blessings	Matthew 5:1-12
• When you need conversion of heart	Matthew 6:1-6
• When you have difficulty loving the unlovable	Luke 6: 27-32
• When you want to love as God loves	Luke 6:35-36
• When you desire to depend more upon God	Matthew 6:24-25
• When you desire to love with an undivided heart	Matthew 22:36-40
• When you know that only God can save you	Luke 9:23-25
• When you want to finish what God has started	Luke 14:27-30
• When you want the complete joy of God's love	John 15:9-13
• When you desire to serve as the Master serves	John 13:12-16
• When you want to live and die for God	John 12:23-26
• When you want to be united to God forever	John 17:20-24

If we are making good choices and living a good life, we have nothing to fear. We are always ready to meet the Lord, whether at our own death or at the end of time.