

## Living on the Edge of Eternity

There are signs all around us, like the autumn winds of November, the devastating fires in our State wiping out communities, violence, that remind us that we live in the shadow of eternity.

We live on the edge of eternity. With every experience of loss, with every sign of illness, with every hint of age creeping upon us, we become more and more aware of our mortality.

*It shall be a time unsurpassed in **distress** since nations began until that time (Daniel 12: 1).*

*In those days after that **tribulation** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be **shaken** (Mark 13:25).*

The Gospel confronts us with the reality that the things we give our lives to-our careers, our portfolios, our bodies, our celebrity-will one day be no more. Christ calls us to embrace not the things of the world but the things of God.

*Learn a lesson from the fig tree... (Mark 13:28). Heaven and earth will pass away... (Mark 13: 31).*

In everyone's life, the "fig tree" grows and flowers, reaps its precious harvest, and then withers. Life is a journey of change, sometimes frightening, often traumatic, and always difficult.

The Gospel calls us to have eyes of faith and to see God in the change. To understand that the "passing away" of our own "heaven and earth" is part of our journey to God's dwelling place.

*But of that day or hour, no one knows (Mark 13: 31),* reminding us that the important thing is not when Jesus will come but our readiness to meet him. So how do we ready ourselves to meet him?

### **Faith questions for the coming week:**

- How have I prepared myself for death?
- How have I lived my days knowing that nothing I accumulate on earth will be taken with me when I pass from this life?
- What “signs” around you remind you of the brevity of life and the preciousness of time?
- What “heaven” and “earth” do you sense “passing away” in your life?
- Do you need to rethink your priorities?
- Reflect on those areas in your life where you see that the old way of doing things is no longer working and ask Jesus for the courage to make the necessary changes.

### **In the meantime:**

*At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, **guardian** of your people (Daniel 12: 1).* Michael, whose name means “who is like God” is the guardian angel of Israel. He is our protector, and our defender. Michael represents those whom God has sent to protect and defend us. Have you known an “angel” in your life who has “brought” you to God? Give thanks to God as we enter into Thanksgiving Day. Thank God for the protections in your life.

*I set the Lord ever before me: with him at my **right hand** I shall not be disturbed (Psalm 16: 5).* Right Hand: presence, protector, deliverer, rock, strength, refuge, fortress.

*My words will **not** pass away (Mark 13: 31).* In times of distress we can cling to and rely on God’s word and the awareness that Jesus is among us.