

*Christmas 2008: Tough Times Call for Radical Faith*  
***Christmas Reminds Us to Live  
with a Sense of Urgency***

*1 Corinthians 7:29-31, 35; Matthew 6:33*

**Introduction:** Christ's first coming is always prophetically connected to his second coming. As we look back and celebrate his first coming, we should also anticipate the reality of his second coming, and live consistent with its values. Paul shows us how to do this in 1 Corinthians 7:29-31.

**1. OUR OUTLOOK – Our years on this earth are incredibly short.**

*1 Corinthians 7:29a, 31b*

- A. In the larger context, Paul has been speaking about marriage.
- B. In the immediate context, Paul addresses how we should think in light of Christ's return. 7:29-31
- C. Today we know the time is short because of four key trends.

**2. OUR CHALLENGE – Live in the tension of the now and the not yet.**

*1 Corinthians 7:29b-31a*

- A. Three areas – Paul gives the Corinthians three highly specific ways to do this.
- B. First Area: Marriage – “Don't pin all your significance on your spouse.” 7:29b
- C. Second Area: Managing Emotions – “Don't expect to find ultimate happiness here.” 7:30a
- D. Third Area: Finances – “Don't find ultimate significance in money and power.” 7:30b-31a

**3. OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE – Seek first God's kingdom. 1 Corinthians**

*7:31b; Matthew 6:33*

- A. The outward appearance of this world is passing away. 7:31b
- B. What does not pass away is God's kingdom. Matthew 6:33