

Tend the Garden

People often wonder if we are living in the last days and if we are what should we do. First, are we living in the last days? Yes. In Acts 2:17 it says, "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people." This statement is made by Peter as he is explaining to a crowd what happened at Pentecost. He was quoting prophecy from Joel. Also, Hebrews 1:1-2 says, "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe."

So, if we are living in the last days what should we do? One of the best reminders I have heard comes from Thru The Bible with J. Vernon McGee. "A gardener for a large estate in northern Italy was conducting a visitor through the castle and the beautiful, well-groomed grounds. As the visitor had lunch with the gardener and his wife, he commended them for the beautiful way they were keeping the gardens. He asked, "By the way, when was the last time the owner was here?" "It was about ten years ago," the gardener said. The visitor asked, "Then why do you keep up the gardens in such an immaculate, lovely manner?" The gardener answered, "Because I'm expecting him to return." He persisted, "Is he coming next week?" The gardener replied, "I don't know when he is coming, but I am expecting him today." What would happen if Christians lived the way the gardener and his wife lived, expecting the Master to return today? Let's not think about that, let's just do it. Live that way! Let's be about the Lord's work of trimming, cutting, planting, watering and reaping every day until He returns. Paul in Colossians 3 gives some basic rules for Christian households. One of them is "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Don't let anybody influence us to live any other way. If you are a school teacher, plumber, waiter, welder, bank teller, bank executive, stay at home mom, janitor, stocker or engineer. It doesn't matter where God has put us, we are to be about his work until Jesus returns. Then we will hear those same words Jesus used in the parable in Matthew 25, "Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" May we never forget who we work for and may we be about His work every day, every minute expecting Him to return at any time.

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