

**The Reality of the Last Days**  
**Sunday December 31, 2023**  
**Dr. Pete Norris**

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;  
**(Hebrews 1:1, 2 NKJV)**

Hebrews means "to crossover." I believe this is a crossover from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Paul calls this the last days.

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. **(I John 2:18 NKJV)**

John calls this the last days. Remember in Genesis it started in the Garden and in Revelation it ends in the Garden.

Making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do." **(Mark 7:13 NKJV)**

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.' **(Acts 2:14-21 NKJV)**

Peter calls this the last days.

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **(Romans 14:17 NKJV)**

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. **(Hebrews 5:12, 13 NKJV)**

Which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. **(Galatians 1:7 NKJV)**

The Gospel has been so perverted by performance, law and works.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." **(Romans 1:16, 17 NKJV)**

This should be our standard of living.

"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith. **(Habakkuk 2:4 NKJV)**

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. **(Romans 3:21-26 NKJV)**

People had a problem with Paul using the word, Law.

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus

Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. **(Romans 3:21-26 NLT)**

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." **(Galatians 3:8 NKJV)**

God set forth a propitiation by His blood.

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. **(Romans 5:9 NKJV)**

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **(Ephesians 2:13 NKJV)**

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? **(Hebrews 9:14 NKJV)**

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. **(Romans 10:2, 3 NKJV)**

Lack of knowledge.

And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I

may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. **(Philippians 3:9-12 NKJV)**

Look at perfected.

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, **(Hebrews 12:23 NKJV)**

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; **(James 2:8 NKJV)**

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. **(Galatians 6:2 NKJV)**

This is talking about Royal law. There is a Royal or Kingdom law and there is a ceremonial law of Moses.

To judge someone means you must convert to the law of Moses to be able to judge, because everything under Grace is love.

So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. **(James 2:12 NKJV)**

For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. **(Galatians 5:5 NKJV)**

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; **(Philippians 1:6 NKJV)**

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. **(Colossians 1:27-29 NKJV)**

Of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. **(Ephesians 3:7 NKJV)**

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, **(Ephesians 3:20 NKJV)**

That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. **(Ephesians 5:27 NKJV)**

In the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— **(Colossians 1:22 NKJV)**