

1 of Peter c. ii. v. 7th The End of
all things is at hand: be ye therefore
sober & watch unto Prayer

— — — — — none can read attentively the
writings of y^e Ap^ls. but he must
be convinced of the truthness of
those sentiments contained in them
and more especially those concerning
man's mortality. They well
considered our present state of exis-
tence how precarious & uncertain
man's Abode here below is: and that
he stood every moment upon the
Verge of an awful Eternity —
The Carelessness & Thoughtlessness &
Inconsiderateness of a man kind about
the Salvation of their souls, is one of
most of all to concern them. And
great Effect upon the mind of y^e
Ap^ls. Hence they made it their ^{constant} ~~work~~
study to awaken a ^{consciousness} of it and
sounded our Alarms in God's holy ^{law} ~~word~~

For this Purpose they made use of
every Term of human Language
as Vapours & every Representation of
their Imagination as Invent
Sometimes we find of reasoning of Right
Temperance & a Judgment to come
They forewarn us of the final Dissolution
of this present O - not only of the earth
& Sea and all of are there in shall
be burnt up - but also of the visible
Heavens shall pass away in a great
Noise; if of seen it we now behold shall
be darkened; and if moon shall with-
draw her shining; and if of Stars from
Heaven shall fall - or O on O! Revolve
at the final Consummation of all things.
The Ap. Peter dwells very much upon
this subject in both his Epistles - His
mind was pregnant to if views he
had of the governing of the Day of God
He laboured that this Congregation might
have the same sentiments of these
things as himself, knowing if if they
but they would be affected in the

same manner - it is in the Chap
before us he exhorts believers to bear
patiently their present Afflictions &
Calamities; and encourages ^{us} under ^{us}
from the consideration of ^{the} sufferings
of his entering into his glory - reminding
them if in a short time these things
would all be over and then they should
be happily crowned with glory & Honor -
The end of all things says he is at
hand be ye therefore sober & watch
unto Prayer - Two things in this
Passage offer ^{us} selves to our immediate
Consideration - 1. the threefold Duty
enjoined - 2. The Reason for it - the
end of all things is at hand -
we will take the Duty as it lays before
be ye sober - Sobriety is here recommended
by the Ap. It is obvious if nothing is more
destructive both to body & soul than Intem-
perance - when a man is given up to
Scurfing & Drunkenness how vile how
abominable does he appear even to his
fellow Creatures - how despicable must
the Drunkard be in the Eyes of an holy God

what makes Drunkenness more exceedingly
useful is of the who falls into sins against
his own body - A Drunkard labours under
many Diseases & Distempers he would
never ^{have} known had he lived in Temperance.
It also deprives a man of his Reason, and
sinks him far beneath the brute Creation.
It opens a Door to all kinds of Vice; and
excites in the human breast every
evil Propensity into exercise - How many
individuals ~~every~~ in this Colony have been
brought to Ruin & Destruction by; and
also many Families have been greatly
injured - We have seen Persons inflamed
by Drunkenness to commit Aultry, Robbery
& murder - A Drunken man & woman
are in the high Road to Ruin - Satan
has full Possession of their souls, they
are wholly guided by him - They have
quenched the Spirit of God - his godly motions
are withdrawn - and nothing can save
such Persons from the Bottomless Pit
but a Miracle of Grace - The Drunkard
despises the goodness and Bounties of
God - turns his Grace into wantonness

and abuses the very Creatures ^{of} God and ordinance
for his Good - O yet Drunkards, what if God
should in the midst of one of your Drunken
Fits arrest you by Death? has he has
many amongst us, and say unto thee
thou fool, this moment shall thy soul
be required of thee - How would thou
appear in these filthy garments before God
in whose light the heavens are not clean
how do you know but this may be
some of your lot - you have known
others removed away on such an un-
winded hour - because God hath forgiven
thee to live the ~~last~~ year in such a state
thinkest thou he will not visit thee this
It is more than probable if many of us
who see this New years Day will not live
to see the next - many of you have long
lambled the ground but this year you
may be cut down - O Drunkards beware
thou art thou shalt not escape the
righteous judgment of God - whilst thou
lives in a state of intemperance thou canst
not be prepared for Death - thou canst not
have any concern for thy soul - thou
art doing all in thy power to cause God
to swear in his wrath if thou shalt not
enter into his Rest

everything in thy power to destroy body & soul
for ever. The Ap. when he says be ye sober
means something more than merely
intemperance in drinking - Tho' this is
included, yet it forbids all excessive Desires
& Delights of this life, which cannot be
attended too without disempowering the
mind. It enjoins spiritual Temperance
of a Christians mind - To have the mind
free from anxious Cares to serve God in
Spirit & in Truth - to serve him in Righteous
& pure holiness without Distraction -
The Christian is called to a more Excellent
State, and higher Measure than glutting
himself wth base things of this W^{ld}.
His soul must thirst after spiritual Drink.
His Affections must delight themselves in G^d.
This is the Sobriety we are here exhorted to
by the Ap. - Watchfulness is another Part
of the Duty here enjoined - Be ye sober & watch
we are while here below surrounded with
Enemies both of great Power & wrath -
who are ever seeking our undoing - If
we are sober we shall be watchful for
our own safety constantly anxious to
avoid the malice of our foes
we are now upon the field of battle

have all ask Heaven to win or lose - All
we possess or ever can possess to all eternity
is now at stake - A short Time, a very short
Time will decide our lot - If two Armies
were to contend in battle for a Kingdom
and one of those Armies to be always living
in Recklessness & Drunkenness, careless and
unconcerned about the Enemies ^{movements}
totally unprepared for the Attack - & in diff^{erence}
event as to the Event of the Contest - The
other Army Active and vigilant, resolute
and determined, and always ready to meet
the foe - which of these would be likely
to gain the victory - The latter no Doubt.
The Application is easy - Each of us have
more than ten thousand earthly Kingdoms
to lose - we have all the Hosts of Hell
to oppose us - and most determined upon
our Destruction - always vigilant and
active - Those who watch & pray, & fight
constantly & diligently are scarcely saved -
i.e. it is very great Difficulty to win of
Victory - or in other words the most
pious and holy Christian finds it
an hard contest to obtain save his soul

of the righteous are scarcely saved where
will the sinner & if ungodly appear?
Of those who watch & are sober find it diffi-
cult to obtain the Kingdom of God - what will
become of you who neither watch nor
are sober - you who are lead captive by
Satan at his will? you who are at no
pains whatever to save your immortal
souls - who live giddy and thoughtless
think nothing of him and to consequences
can riot and sport away your lives without
ever once reflecting what the end will be
it is obvious if man who thinks little of
his soul, thinks little of God or Religion -
let me tell you ye careless sleepy souls
you will not be able to sleep much longer
An Alarm by & by will sound in your
Ears - The Judgment of God will awake you
but oh then it may be too late either to
watch or be sober. The Die may be cast -
your Doom may be unalterably fixed -
you may have sunk beneath the reach
of mercy. In the ever light you may
think of God however mean your notions
of him may be, he does not behold you
with indifference - but while you live
in sin, with holy indignation

He is angry if I wished every Day - nothing
but the interceding of his Son prevent
him from pouring the Vials of his wrath
upon you - It is difficult to persuade you
these things are so near - A thousand
Thunders would not awake you to a
sense of your Danger - you have been
so long accustomed to have the subjects
of Religion & morality treated upon, that
these things however true & important
make no impression upon your hardened
Hearts - you are equally affected with of
Joys of Heaven & the Torments of Hell
they are all like a Tale which have been
often told - how often how watchful
would you be could you be once prevailed
upon to believe these momentous truths
may God enable you so to do -
Another Part of the Duty exhorted to
is prayer - be ye sober & watch and
pray - Prayer is a Duty to which
many of you are total strangers - Who
has been Duty practiced by all Christians
from the promulgation of it. The pious
man has always found his want
of this spiritual & Divine weapon -

one of the principal weapons of his holy warfare - Prayer is not a smooth expression or a well contrived form of words. It is the motion of the heart towards God; the pouring of holy & divine affections; constitutes prayer real and lively; and acceptable to the living G^d. to whom it is preferred. The pouring forth of the heart to him it made it heard & therefore hears it; and understands what it speaks, and how it is moved & affected in calling upon him - no prayer is acceptable to G^d. unless it proceeds from the Spirit & from understanding - no Christian can live without prayer - any more than a fish can live without water, or a man without breath - Prayer is the very breath of every creature - The primitive Christians practiced this duty both by night and by day - both in private and publically, from house to house in all their straits & difficulties they betook themselves to this remedy - Thro' the power of prayer the raging sea was calmed - the pressing doors were opened - the sick were healed - the distressed were comforted - the Dead were

raised to life again - Prayer entered the very presence of Jehovah & caused of holy Ghost to be poured out upon thousands in a day - Saul prevailed with G^d. by prayer - Moses conquered if it might be by prayer - and also turned away the wrath of the Almighty from ^{us} rebellious Israelites when he was about to consume ^{us} as the Poet observes - Let me alone if all my wrath may rise the wicked to consume ^{us} - Thro' this medium of divine appointment all the saints in every age have obtained strength in weakness - comfort in afflictions, & aid in temptations - Thro' prayer guilt has been removed from their consciences ignorance from their understandings & hardness from their hearts - by it their minds have been fortified against the savors of persecution; the ~~lures~~ wiles of Satan & of Temptors of Death - since it has always proved so beneficial to the prosperity and safety of a Christian our L^d. might well exhort us to the performance of all this Christian duty -

our Lord As: for Example of their Master
joined to their own Experience recommended
Prayer so much - pray without ceasing
says St. Paul - man was made for Communion
with his maker - it is the Excellency of his
Nature to be capable of this End and of
Happiness of it to be raised to enjoy it - The
only medium thro' which he can enjoy
Communion wth G^d is by Prayer & Divine
Contemplation - God hath established this inter-
course between himself and his rational
Creatures: and hath engaged his Truth &
goodness in it, if those who call upon him
shall be heard and answered - Man by Prayer
learns to know himself, learns to know his
Enemies, and of way of Salvation - he learns to
know some thing also of the Attributes &
Perfections of the Deity - and by this Duty
is prepared for life or Death - you who
have never seriously begun to practise
this Duty, have not yet begun to live
spiritually - you have tasted nothing of
their Pleasures of flow^{er} Communion wth G^d -
they are all unknown to you -

you have been told of there is a prayer
hearing & answering G^d - but you do not
know this blessed truth in your own
Experience - If a great King designs to attend
to a Petition of one of his poorest Subjects
it fills the Heart of the poor supplicator
to joy & Affection for his sovereign - how
much more must the mind of an humble
penitent be affected when a King of Kings
receives him into his royal Favor, and
seals his Pardon upon his conscience - This
is called a joy unspeakable & full of glory -
you who have never felt your guilt & Condemn-
nation, can form no proper Estimate of the
value of Divine mercy - you who neglect
this Duty of Prayer, are in Bondage & Captivity
however lively, and joyful you may seem - if
Freedom of soul: if liberty of if sons of God you
know nothing of - nor desire to know -
you are satisfied to carry your Chains and
Garters, and to do if Drudgery of others - his
servants you are and you obey him wth
Pleasure - The love of his spirit dwells so
powerfully with you - no Consideration
can prevail upon you to renounce of Devil
and all his works -

at the same time tho you love & service
you do not like much the wages which
are promised - viz. is death eternal - nothing
but prayer can subdue if love of evil - and
so long as you neglect this sin will have
the Dominion over you - you will live wretched
& wretched, and die ignorant & impenitent -
There is no great Difference between you who
supremely delight in carnal Pleasures, & a
man who, while he is fast bound with
his Irons, imagines himself happy and
free - Having shewn it this threefold
Duty is to us. we are exhorted in the words
of our Text - Sobriety w. & Pr. - we shall
now proceed secondly to shew the Reason
of this Exhortation - viz. - The End of all
things is at Hand - we need not entertain
ourselves at the fannments of either
ancient or modern Divines to discover
when these words will be fulfilled -
we need not examine of vain &
empty Speculations of those who have
endeavoured to ascertain the Exact
Period of Time, when X^t himself shall
come to receive his Children onto the
New Heaven & Earth - with Respect to

every one of us who are assembled here to
say the End of all things is at Hand - Some
of us within a very few years, & perhaps
some of us within a few Days will see
the Curtain Drop, and shut out every
Scene of Temporal Things from our View
Death & Judgment Heaven & Hell will then
be realized to our souls - This mortal life
careless living will terminate the Season
of Divine Grace to thee - Thy Hopes or
Fears, thy Happiness or misery will
be confirmed everlastingly confirmed
by thy last expiring Breath - I hear
the voice of God's Word this Day, and let the
Sound sink deep into thine Heart, the
End of all things is at Hand - we have all
seen another year give up the Ghost -
Every passing year deprives us of some
portion of Beliefs, or stamps upon us some
indelible mark of Age and Infirmary upon
us. Every year Death preys upon
thousands - those who escaped his deadly
Arrows the last year - have not ^{many} ~~not~~
wholly uninjured by Time - Some have
the last year lost their beauty, others
their Strength - Some have been

Deprived of a friend: others of one or
more of their lives - upon the Heads
of time it hath scattered the hoary
Hairs, and marked them for its future
Pray - many thousands since ye last
year ye have experienced y^e great
Reverse of Fortune - have run from
wealth & Honor into Poverty and Shame -
from Happiness & Prosperity, into wretched-
ness and misery - This year we are now
entered upon, is pregnant to lamentation
& mourning to sore to many who are
at ease in their Possessions, and promising
to themselves a long succession of continued
Felicity - The King of Terrors will this
year knock at the Door of thousands
when the master of the House will not
be prepared for his awful visit - Sh^d he
knock at your Doors or mine, wd. he
be an welcome messenger? are we sober
and watching unto prayer - Youth &
vigour, Health & Strength are no more
Protection against Death: than y^e Age &
Infirmity - we see more cut off either
in their Infancy, or in the bloom of
Life, than what come to the Grave in

old Age - The life of the longest is but like
a Dream when one awaketh - If we read y^e
5th Chap. of Job we shall see y^e at a time
when men lived to the greatest Age, Death
at last overtook them - we read so long lived
such Persons, and yet the burden still they
died - Enos lived 905, and he died - Seth 912
& he died - Methuselah lived 969. years & he
died - Surely this one Consideration ought
constantly to affect us wth a sense of our
mortality - one tenth Part of the
time will see us all wrapped in Deaths
cold Embrace - The End of all things is just
at hand with us - The End of our youth
Health & beauty is at hand - the End of all
 sensual pleasures and Delights is at hand -
The end of all the means of Grace is at
hand: all opportunities to prepare for
Death & Eternity - This View ought
to cast a Damp upon all thy carnal
joys - ought to awaken thy Conscience
and wake thee from thy Slumber -
God hath favoured you to see the beginning
of a new year - His goodness and mercy
forbearance are waiting to lead thee
to Repentance -

What is your Determination this new
year - Have you made any for a New
Life? will your Transactions the last year
bear Examination and Reflection? Remem-
ber your most secret Thoughts as well
as Actions are recorded in God's book of
Remembrance. Do you expect to hear
any more of these things? whether you
do or no you most assuredly will, for God
will bring every work into Judgment
whether it be good or bad - Ask yourselves
this Day, if you have not been all your
lives playing the madman's part - what
real solid Advantage have you derived from
the Pleasures of Sin? what better are you
this Day, for all the sinful Gratifications
you have indulged yourselves in? be
assured that nothing but Divine Compassion
hath preserved you from Hell so long.
The End of all things is now at hand &
you - the little time you may have yet
remaining, redeem - It does not become
you now to be thoughtless and fool-
hardy, desperate and wicked - before this
present year has run its hasty

Round, the 1st and all it contains all its
joys & sorrows, its gratifications & mortifi-
cations may be as insignificant to you
as the grandeur of Caesar - while you
are gay and merry, all things are serious
against you - If. is serious in exercising
Patience towards you so long - It is serious
who shed his blood to redeem you from
Death - the Holy Ghost is serious who
strives to the chastening of your flesh -
and God's word is serious in all its
Calls, Invitations, and threatenings -
Let me then interest you now to be
sober and watch unto prayer - begin
this new year with holy Resolutions
and Determinations to become new men
to turn your backs upon an earthly
world - and to seek after permanent
and substantial Happiness - ever
bearing in mind if the End of all things
is at hand -