1 Peter 1:13 -9

hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought to us when He comes.

So the world may get dark, things may get bad and things may look terrible, but we know that God's plan is going to be worked out and we can hope to the end.

There are 3 possibilities as I see it in the world today. 1) There is the possibility Jesus Christ may come back very soon and we must hope, long, and look for that. He may come with the first phase very soon to take all those who believe on Him to Himself as described in 1 Thess. 4 - and so shall we ever be with the Lord, and then in the second phase we come with Him to this earth and help Him establish His kingdom upon this earth. These is that glorious first phase which may be very soon, and then the second phase which comes a few years later when he sets up His kingdom upon this earth. But that first phase may not come right away. It may be another 100 or 200 years. If so, let us hope to the end for that fact, but if it is delayed, what will happen?

One possibility is that God may give us another great victory. Premils should not be pessimists; we are not possimists. We are optomists because we know God holds the future in His hands and we can hope. We must not just step aside and think, we can begin to understand all the mysteries of the universe. We must step out and use our minds to accomplish for Christ and do His purposes. But whether He will give increase to us in a great way, or whether He will alow the darkness to settle around us, we do not know.

So there remain those other two possibilities. First that Christ may come very soon. Second that His coming may be delayed and that in the meantime He may give tremendous victory to those who stand for Him. We should not give place to evil for a moment. We should speak out against that which is wrong; we should demand the freedoms to which we are entitled as Americans, and the freedoms to which we are entitled as Christians. We should try to spread the Word of God in every conceivable way. We should try to go into the highways and byways and compell them to come in, knowing that they can only come as God chooses to give the increase. But if we don't ast as His messengers, He surely will not give the increase because He has ordained in this age it shall be through the actions of Christians that others are to come. But God can sweep away the wickedness of the present time if that should be His will. He can give a tremendous victory which will again cause the Gospel to have free course all over this world, another great outpouring of righteousness such as there was in the days of the Reformation and then there would come again a dark age. But just when Christ will come again we don't know. That could happen.

Then, of course, there is the third possibility. Hope to the end, he says, But it might be dark days ahead. It might be that the communist menace would succeed and grow. When you look at large groups of Americans going to Washington, D.C. and picketing against the Vietnam War, people saying we have no buisness over here. When you look at these demonstrations you just wonder how blind, how deaf people can be to the true situation in the world. If they should succeed in winning enough to their viewpoint, and they have a tremendous part of our press, radio, and of our means of communications at thier beck and call