

Bible experts from all corners of the globe agree that the **End of the World is very close. But far from being a negative thing, Judgement Day will be a glorious, wonderful time — for those who are prepared.**

That's the word from the most honored and respected evangelist who ever lived — the Reverend Billy Graham.

Rev. Graham says there are definite, easy-to-understand things we can do in our daily lives that will guarantee our souls will go to Heaven when, as the Bible puts it, "Earth shall pass away."

And if anyone is qualified to tell us what those actions are, it is certainly Billy Graham.

Over the course of his incredible half-century career, Rev. Graham has won millions of souls to Christ. He's been a friend and spiritual adviser to every American President to hold office since he met and prayed with President Harry S Truman in 1950.

He has spoken and written about Heaven, Hell, sin and redemption for most of his 81 years.

Now, as the aging man of God faces the end of his own life, as well as the end of Earth itself, he says he's not only resigned to the inevitable — he's looking forward to it!

"I anticipate it," he said in a recent interview. "I look forward to dying."

The reason is simple: He has done — and is doing — the things necessary to gain entry to Heaven.

In a review of Rev. Graham's writings, sermons and interviews, five

themes emerge — five principles that he believes every human being should strive to live by in order to join God in Heaven. They're based on the Bible and on Rev. Graham's own experience.

Here are the five ideas Billy Graham stresses over and over again in his written and spoken words. Practice them in your daily life and Heaven is definitely in your future:

† PRAY REGULARLY

Rev. Graham has often said that too many people use prayer as a last resort — praying only when they need God to get them out of a jam. But as long as people think of God as some kind of errand boy or lifeguard, Heaven will always be out of reach.

Jesus tells us God wants to be our friend. We wouldn't treat a friend that way. We want to spend time just talking and listening to our friends, enjoying their company.

God wants us to visit Him regularly — for no other reason than that we like Him and He likes us. So it's important to spend time in prayer every day, even when things are going well.

† LOVE OTHERS

This doesn't mean we have to "feel" loving toward everyone all the time. We're human and sometimes other people are going to upset us. The point is that we should act in lov-

... and offers his 5-point guide to salvation

ing ways — even to people who aren't very lovable. Remember, Jesus said if we're only kind to people who are kind to us, it means nothing. Even people who don't have God in their lives do that. The thing that sets believers apart is their willingness to try to love even difficult people.

† READ THE BIBLE

Rev. Graham says even he has not done as much Bible reading as he feels he should have. "I wish I had studied a great deal more. I wish I

knew the Bible better than I do," he said not long ago.

But he says it's never too late to start. He says that studying and reading the Bible can not only lead us toward Heaven, it can also help us get more enjoyment from our lives on Earth.

† RESIST TEMPTATION

The charismatic evangelist admits that in the past he's spent too much time railing about hellfire and damnation. "I was too emotional in my early years," he says.

Nevertheless, yielding to temptations of the flesh can give the Devil a grip on your life and pull you away from Heaven.

When asked how he has managed to avoid the indiscretions that have brought down other, weaker evangelists, Rev. Graham says one prayer always works: "Lord, help me **RIGHT NOW!**"

God will help us resist temptation if we ask Him.

† BE HUMBLE

Always remember, if there's good in your life, it's God who put it there. Taking credit for God's kindness will only separate you from Him and His Kingdom. To be humble is to be teachable.

We all have a lot to learn. And an openness to learning more about God is consistent with citizenship in Heaven.

Of course, no one can practice these five things perfectly. Rev. Graham freely admits that even he has fallen short of the mark many times.

But doing your best to practice these principles will ensure you a place in Heaven.