

The Coming of the Lord

Part 5

2 Peter 3

1 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them **as reminders** to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. 2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

1. God reminds us with his Word

- God's Word is something we need to be reminded of...
- The Apostle Peter says here "I have written both of them **as reminders** to stimulate you to wholesome thinking."
- It is good to be reminded of things that are very important...

- It's the fundamentals of football that win football games...
- It's rarely new play calls or new formations that continually win football games, what keeps a team winning is a good reminder and practice of the basic fundamentals of the game...
- There is a story of Vince Lombardi once walking into a locker room full of professional football players and he began his speech by holding up a pigskin and he said, "I want to introduce you to a football". That may have seemed a little odd to some, but he was on to something.

The word of God is like that for us, no matter how familiar we are with it, we should open our Bibles and say, this is God's Word.

May it always bring life and inspiration and fire to our hearts.

One of our speakers at District Council shared a thought, that a 66 yr old driver who has been driving for 40 yrs can become very relaxed and comfortable in the drivers seat. Even though he is very familiar with how to drive, he still has to remind himself of the same rules of driving that a new, young 16 yr old driver does.

Just because a driver has been driving for years doesn't mean he can close his eyes and disregard the signs and warnings and conditions around him. That would lead to a wreck. Experience doesn't exempt us from the basic rules of driving.

The same is true of spiritual things, we must be reminded of these things in God's Word.

2. There will be scoffers

Vs. 3-7

3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days **scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.** **4** They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." **5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water.** **6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.** **7** By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

Vs. 3

...scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

- It's important to know that there will be scoffers.
- There will be people who say "there is no God"
- Our Young People have to be prepared to face this in the educational systems of our world...
- When they go to College there will be very smart, highly educated people who will have their own intellectual reasons for not believing in God.
- It's important to also note that part of their persuasion is said right here in vs. 3 **"and following their own evil desires"**
- It's not just a difference of opinion but one that many embrace because if there is a God then there is a Judge. If there is a Judge then there is an accountability for my life and actions.
- Many scoff because they want to live their lives the way they want without any conscience of God's existence.

3. God gave a Promise

Vs. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. **9** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

- The Lord is patient
- When it comes to the Rapture of the Church and the 2nd Coming of the Lord this was something preached often in the 80's.
- There was even a book published "88 Reason's why Jesus is coming back in 1988"
- When it comes to the Rapture, people might be tempted to say "I've heard this before."
- Just remember, God is patient, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.
- How many are glad he didn't come in the 80's or 90's because if he had, they wouldn't have been ready...

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives **12** as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. **13** But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation...

4. God gives this Calling:

10 The day of the Lord will come like a thief....

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.

14 make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

5. God makes all things New:

13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

- This is what John saw in Revelation 21 and 22

Here we are at the end of Peters writing to the Church He speaks of the Coming of the Lord and and a New Heaven and New Earth; and this sounds similar to what he said to the onlookers on the Day of Pentecost.

1. God reminds us with his Word

2 Peter 3

Vs. 2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

On the Day of Pentecost Peter was reminded of the Prophet Joel:

Acts 2:16 “No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel”

2. There will be Scoffers

2 Peter 3

Vs. 3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days **scoffers will come...**

On the Day of Pentecost there were Scoffers:

Acts 2:13 “Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

— — —

3. God gave a Promise

2 Peter 3:4

They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised?”

Just before Pentecost Jesus spoke of a Promise from the Father:

Acts 1:4,5

Jesus said, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

— — —

4. God gives this Calling:

2 Peter 3

You ought to live holy and godly lives.

14 make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

On the Day of Pentecost Peter preached these words:

Acts 2

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

5. God makes all things New:

2 Peter 3

13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Acts 2

17

“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

18

Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

19

I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,

38 Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Closing:

People say on it's going to be difficult in the last days
Yes that may be true

But this is also true:

'In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters

your young men

your old men

Even on my servants, both men and women,

God will show wonders in the heavens and signs on the earth below

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The last days will be difficult and I believe we are living in them to some degree.

But I also believe God has not left us and He will continue to Save Souls and fill people with the Holy Spirit that are Hungry for Him.

I believe we are living in a unique time of God's Grace and Power because he is patient and not wanting any to perish.

I believe we will see a harvest of souls and Miracles from God as we continue to contend for the Kingdom of God right now in our day.