

April 7, 2020

Crossgates – Sermon

David Jett

**Second Peter: Courageous Living in Chaotic Days
Our Hope in Christ's Return – Part 1
2 Peter 3:1-7**

We began our journey with the now aged Apostle Peter in him teaching us what he reminded all believers throughout the Church...

The walk of a believer is marked by a holy life empowered by the Holy Spirit...

→ The Walk

2 Peter 1:8 (ESV) — For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

→ The Word

2 Peter 1:21 (ESV) — For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

→ The War

2 Peter 2:1–2 (ESV) — But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.

And now we move to the last section of this letter...

Before we begin...

2 Peter 3:1 (ESV) — This is now the second letter I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I have written to you with great care, so that your sincere mind may be reminded by way of reminding you of the words that were spoken by the Holy Spirit and by the apostles of your Lord Jesus Christ.

... the second letter...

Could there have been a “lost” letter?

Possible, but unlikely...

Most plausible is that Peter is referring to the first letter.

1 Peter 1:13 (ESV) — Therefore, prepare your minds for action, and being sober-minded, seek after the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

*In this last chapter of Peter's last letter, the word **FOUR TIMES**...*

“BELOVED”

ἀγαπητός - agapetos

“the object of one's love”

This term became extremely important in the New Testament.

→ It was used by the Father at Jesus' baptism.

Matthew 3:17 (ESV) — And behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

→ It was used by the Father at Jesus' baptism.

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2 Peter 1:17 (ESV) — For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”

→ It was Jesus’ command for us towards one another...

John 13:34–35 (ESV) — A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Apostle Peter uses the term FIVE times in this final chapter...

Through Peter’s deep love he had for the followers of Christ, he encourages us to keep our hope placed firmly on the Return of Jesus!

HOPE is a huge part of the Christian life!

Proverbs 13:12 (ESV) — Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

Biblical HOPE is not simply “a wish or desire accompanied by expectation of its fulfillment.”

This leaves open the possibility of the desire or wish not being fulfilled.

Jesus, as the arrival of HOPE, moves hope from a possibility or even a probability to a certainty!

ONE THING

Hope is the CONFIDENT expectation and FAVORABLE future.

So, how do we keep our HOPE constant?

1. REMEMBER the PROMISES and Return

2 Peter 3:1–2 (ESV) — This is now the second letter I am writing to you, beloved. In both letters I have written to you your sincere mind by way of reminding you to remember the predictions of the holy and righteous commandment of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by the apostles

Remembering is more than recalling

... Your SINCERE MIND ... is your motivation for the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit

Philippians 2:5 (ESV) — Have this mind which is yours in Christ Jesus

1 Corinthians 2:16b (ESV) — ... We do not understand

Romans 12:2 (ESV) — Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God

➤ **Remembering is ACKNOWLEDGING the ACTIVATING the PROMISES and FULFILLED through Jesus**

2 Corinthians 1:20 (ESV) — For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

2 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV) — His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

WHAT PROMISES?

2 Peter 3:2 (ESV) — That you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles

The PROMISES made in the Scriptures!!!

We must become Scripture Saturated!!!

The Day of the Lord has been the constant theme throughout Scripture since the Lord spoke of it to the Serpent in the Garden of Eden...

Genesis 3:15 (ESV) — I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

Hope is the confident expectancy of a certain and favorable future.

1. REMEMBER the PROMISES of Christ

2. ANTICIPATE the PROTECTIONS of Christ's Return

2 Peter 3:3–7 (ESV) — Knowing this, that the day will come in the last days with scoffers, who will be ungodly, pursuing their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of the world. For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens and the earth were prepared by the word of God, and the earth was deluged with water by the word of God, and through water by the word of God the world that then existed perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth are reserved for fire, and the world of men that now exist are stored up for fire and destruction of the ungodly."

"Scoffers" are those who make fun of the promises of God to them

They consider themselves wise in their own eyes, who believe "fairy tales" as ignorant

→ The Current onslaught of False Prophecy

On Good Friday, the Los Angeles Times published an article titled "Why America's record godlessness is a national tragedy," the article responds to the fact that church membership has fallen below 50% in the past 50 years.

The author celebrates what he calls "the triumph of secularization," by which "members of the church have led better educated, more prosperous, more secure and more peaceful lives" and "the decline of religion. In his view, "highly secularized societies are more

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"much better job" of meeting human needs than faith-based charities. As a result, he concludes that we should celebrate the growing secularism of our day.

He will ultimately judge again, but t

ALL of his information can be totally debunked by sheer and clear statistics...

The Los Angeles Times ran an op-ed for Easter Sunday titled, "How Christians came to believe in heaven, hell and the immortal soul." Written by Bart Ehrman, one of the most notorious anti-Christian critics in contemporary culture, it is an astonishingly false portrait of Judeo-Christian faith and history. The book on which the essay is based has already been soundly debunked, but many who read Ehrman's Easter article may nonetheless be persuaded by the falsehoods it perpetrates.

Romans 1:22 (ESV) — Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

WITHIN THE CHURCH...

Fewer and fewer people are living with an expectancy of rewards in heaven...

As a result, we are seeing more and more of the secularization of the Church...

Hebrews 9:27 (ESV) —...It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment

The rise in humanism and the idea that we are "evolving" naturally leads us down false paths...

The FACTS are clear...

God judged the earth once with a universal flood...

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Hope is the _____ expectancy of a _____
and _____ future.

1. _____ the _____ of Christ's
Return

➤ Remembering is _____ and _____ the
_____ made by God and _____ through
Jesus

2. _____ the _____ against
Christ's Return