

2 PETER 3

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior. Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts”

I. Peter Continues To Bring Truth to Mind

- A. This second epistle... - Peter addressing the same audience as his first epistle
 1. Believers who had experienced trials from the result of persecution and relocation
 2. Peter's Bucket List
 - a) 2 Pe. 1:12 - *“Where I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.”*
 - b) 2 Pe. 1:15 - *“Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.”*
- B. In both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance
 1. Peter addressing the mind rather than the emotions
 - a) Stir up - *diegeiro* - to wake from sleep
 - (1) Peter wrote this letter with intention that these believers wouldn't slumber about these truths
 - (2) Spiritual enemies all trying to re-direct believer from a proper perspective
 - b) Not trying to get them “all fired up!” - soul
 - (1) Peter did not attempt to work up an emotional response
 - (2) The mind is where the Christian life is won and lost
 2. Remembrance - bringing back to mind (over and over)
- C. That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before....
 1. May be mindful - *mnesthenai* (Aor. Pas.) - Peter wanted them to be made to recall these truths
 2. Which were spoken before (Perf. Pas.) - spoken before with the continuing result that they are spoken
 - a) Holy prophets
 - (1) Could include OT prophets referencing *“the Day of the Lord”*
 - (2) Since these truths were continuing to be spoken it would seem to be a reference to NT prophets as well
 - (a) 2 Pe. 1:19 - *“we have a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed...”*
 - (b) 1 Cor. 12:28 - *“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles,...”*
 - (c) Eph. 3:5 - *“which in other ages was not made know unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”*
 - b) Apostles - prophesied of God's coming judgment on the lost world
 - (1) Peter - 2 Peter 3
 - (2) Paul
 - (a) 1 Th. 5:1 - *“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night”*
 - (b) 2 Th. 2:1 - *“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.”*
 3. That there shall come in the last days scoffers...
 - a) Scoffers - those that deride, or ridicule a person or an idea

- b) Peter is not referring to unbelievers scoffing at Christ's return but that the scoffers would actually be in the church
 - (1) Jude 17-18 - *"But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts."*
 - (2) 2 Ti. 3:1 - *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy..."*
- c) These types of behaviors have always existed within the world, but at the end of the age they will be prevalent within the Church

"And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:"

II. These Scoffers are Willingly Ignorant

- A. Where is the promise of his coming? - No faith
- B. Since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were... - No apparent change from man's perspective
- C. They willingly are ignorant of... - Ro. 1:19-21 - *"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God."*
- D. Whereby the world that then was... - Judgment upon the world

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

III. God's Schedule is Different than Man's

- A. Reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition - The Great White Throne!
 - 1. Acts 17:30-31 - *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by [that] man whom he hath ordained; [whereof] he hath given assurance unto all [men], in that he hath raised him from the dead."*
 - 2. Rev 20:11-15 - *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*
 - 3. The Great White Throne will occur at the end of the Christ's 1,000 year reign on earth
- B. One day is with the Lord as a thousand years...
 - 1. God operates outside of and is not bound by time
 - 2. God sees all events; past, present, future all at once
 - 3. Therefore God does not operate on a schedule that man can predict
- C. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise... - God is always on time, His time

- D. But is long-suffering to us-ward not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance
1. God suffers long with us (?)
 2. Not willing - not desiring that any should perish - man's free will and God's choosing
 3. Repentance - change of mind (Ro. 2 - the goodness of God brings about a change of mind)

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night: in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.”

IV. God's Judgment is Certain

- A. The day of the Lord... - not a 24 hour time period
1. An OT reference to the entire time period surrounding Christ's return to earth, His 1,000 year reign, and future judgment
 2. The Day of the Lord is ushered in by the Rapture and is therefore like *“a thief in the night”*
- B. In the which... - at a point during the Day of the Lord
- C. The heavens shall pass away... - after Christ's 1,000 year reign
1. Rev. 20:11 - *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”*
 2. Rev 21:1 - *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”*
- D. Seeing then that all these things be dissolved...
1. What manner of persons ought ye to be...
 - a) In light of the certainty of God's future judgment of the lost, Peter makes an interesting comment
 - (1) What would you expect the Church to this today?
 - (2) Is it consistent with Peter's instruction?
 - b) Holy conversation - literally conduct or lifestyle set apart unto God
 - c) Godliness - a life that honors God well
- E. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God...
1. Looking for - hoping for; to be on the look out
 2. Hasting - waiting with eager anticipation

“Nevertheless we according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you. As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction;”

V. Peter's Encouragement in Light of The End of All Things

- A. Nevertheless we according to his promise...
1. In light of the fact that believers will dwell in God's new creation, a creation in which righteousness continually dwells, they should seek to be prepared by allowing God to work out his righteousness in them now
 2. Be diligent that he may be found of him....
 - a) Found of him - as the result of being searched out

- b) Believer is to be at peace with circumstances and others
 - c) Without spot, and blameless - nothing someone can point a finger at
- B. And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation
 - 1. Account - *hedeisthe* - to lead the mind (Pres. Mid) - lead your own mind
 - 2. Longsuffering - God is giving believers time to figure out how to live the Christian life by the promises God has provided them
 - 3. Peter references the writings of Paul
 - a) According to the wisdom given unto him - how to make use of the knowledge God provides - knowledge in action
 - b) Paul apparently wrote to these Christians of Jewish background
- C. As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of the things...
 - 1. Peter not referring to new heavens and new earth
 - 2. Peter referring to how to live in light of Christ's return
- D. In which are some things hard to be understood...
 - 1. Peter's humility on display by stating that Paul's understanding and revelation were above his head at times
 - 2. Should provide the believer with encouragement in knowing that it even took an apostle and the leader of the early Church a while to understand God's revelation through Paul
- E. Which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest....
 - 1. Unlearned - ignorant, not learned
 - 2. Unstable - unfixed; vacillating - back and forth, wobbling
 - a) 2 Pe. 2:14 - "*Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:*"
 - b) *Ja. 1:8* - "*A double minded man [is] unstable in all his ways.*"
 - c) 1 Th. 5:14 - "*Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all [men].*"
 - d) Soulless believers are prone to spiritual instability
 - 3. Wrest - "one who wrests or tortures language in a false sense" - O.B.U.

"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

VI. Peter's Salutation

- A. Peter's concern was that believers would be aware of the false teaching that would come into the Church so that they would not fall
- B. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord...
 - 1. 1Pe 2:19-20 "*For this [is] thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what glory [is it], if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer [for it], ye take it patiently, this [is] acceptable with God.*"
 - 2. 1Pe 5:10-12 - "*But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you]. To him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.*"