

This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am **stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,**² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,

ESV

“Let’s get fired up!”

-- READ SLIDE

-- Coach Peter is trying to fire up his readers because he’s heard some mumbling in the locker room.

TR: A cynical and sarcastic tone is starting to reverberate.



Some of those wearing the uniform are starting to mock the team slogans, whether on the walls or on T-shirts.

- "These are stupid."
- "It doesn't matter."
- "We're never going to win."
- "I don't even think they keep score anymore."
- "It is only the franchise players that really matter, not folks like me."
- "What I do on my own time is none of the coach's business. Who does he think he is?"

TR: The scary thing is that it is easy to fall in among these folks .

..

**We can slip into hanging around the
MELANCHOLY MOCKERS**

READ SLIDE

TR: 2 Peter 3 will call these folks . . .



. . . scoffers.

TR: This is part of Coach Peter continuing to unmask . . .



. . . the wolves in sheep's clothing.

-- Those who used to say they were sheep, or maybe still do, but who have turned away from the Good Shepherd, Jesus.

TR: What does the coach warn us about these melancholy mockers?

knowing this first of all, that **scoffers will come** in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

ESV

Let's look in our Bibles . . . 2 Peter 3, page 1121.

-- READ SLIDE

-- The Bible defines the last days as the time between the advents, or comings of Christ.

TR: When it comes to scoffers . . .



. . . we can be assured that they'll be there.

TR: And one of the key things they will mock is found in verse 4

. . .

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 creation."

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: God's not going to intervene . . . the way things are now is how they have always been and will always be.

**We can slip into hanging around the
MELANCHOLY MOCKERS**

(3) They will be there

(4) They will mock Christ's 2nd
Coming

SCOFFERS

And if you are making your life choices now based on Jesus coming back someday . . . you are a fool.

TR: These mockers, as we found in chapter 2, tend to overlook biblical history . . . verse 5

For they **deliberately overlook** this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 7

But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: These mockers . . .

**We can slip into hanging around the
MELANCHOLY MOCKERS**

(3) They will be there

(4) They will mock Christ's 2nd
Coming

(5-7) They deliberately overlook
biblical history

SCOFFERS

READ SLIDE

- They overlook the biblical accounts of God's intervention in creating everything from nothing AND in judging the world through a flood . . .
- AND that He has warned us that He will judge the world again with fire.
- These mockers didn't accidentally overlook these things . . . they deliberately choose to do so.

TR: I want us to back track a bit, to verse 3 again, and see where all this mocker is rooted.

knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, **following their own sinful desires.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: These mockers, scoffers, will coming with scoffing . . .

**We can slip into hanging around the
MELANCHOLY MOCKERS**

(3) They will be there

(4) They will mock Christ's 2nd
Coming

(5-7) They deliberately overlook
biblical history

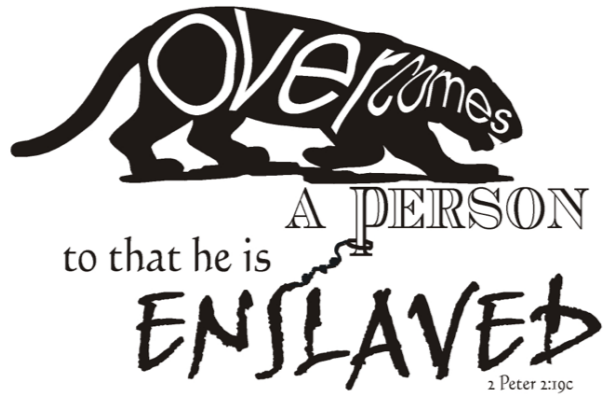
(3c) AND it is all rooted in their
sinful desires

SCOFFERS

READ SLIDE

TR: They may mock the foolishness of being in the second coming of Jesus, but what they don't readily admit is that it is not an intellectual barrier but a moral one.

For whatever



They don't want to admit that they are enslaved to that which overcomes them.

TR: Most scoffers will not easily admit one of the most important lessons God taught me at seminary . . .

THE HEART IS THE SOURCE OF HERESY

READ SLIDE

- In chapter 2 we learned that many of the scoffers and wolves that want to devour us would have claimed to be God's sheep at one time.**
- At TF we talk about the core value of Head and Heart. We want to help you honor Jesus with clear biblical thinking and a clear loving emotions.**
- Those who wander from Jesus rarely do so because they cannot intellectually reconcile the biblical world view with reality . . .**
- in my experience, they do so because they have sinful desires in their own hearts and they know that they cannot reconcile what they want to do with a honest reading of God's revelation to us in His Word.**

TR: In practice, I think it often works this way . . .

MELANCHOLY

→ MEDICATE

→ MOCK

... and this will help explain why I call these dejected folks with their cynicism “melancholy mockers.”

-- The MELANCHOLY comes when they are DISAPPOINTED with God.

-- What they imagined would happen did not ... the relationship didn't continue ... the cancer didn't leave ... the parents did not stop their divorce ... they did not become wildly prosperous ... they were not propelled to fame or power ...

-- This melancholy or discouragement then becomes so oppressive that they seek to MEDICATE and feel alive by giving in to their sinful desires.

-- EX: Someone giving in to sinful desires in order not to feel old (cf. a midlife crisis)

-- And, finally, when someone has given into self-medicating

through fulfilling their sinful desires, they reconcile their head and heart by MOCKING what they used to believe.

TR: The challenge for the Christ follower is to not give in to this downward spiral of despair. What we need is . . .



. . . a calm urgency.

-- That's what I called a series on end times a number of years ago.

-- We can be CALM because we know God is in control.

-- BUT, we also must have a motivated sense of URGENCY to be about what God has called us to.

TR: Coach Peter doesn't just warn us about the Scoffers, he also gives us fuel to fire up again.

**We can step up to being among the
ENTHUSIASTIC ENERGIZERS**

He helps us see that . . . READ SLIDE

TR: We can fire up again because we are . . .



. . . among the beloved.

-- A term used four times in our passage.

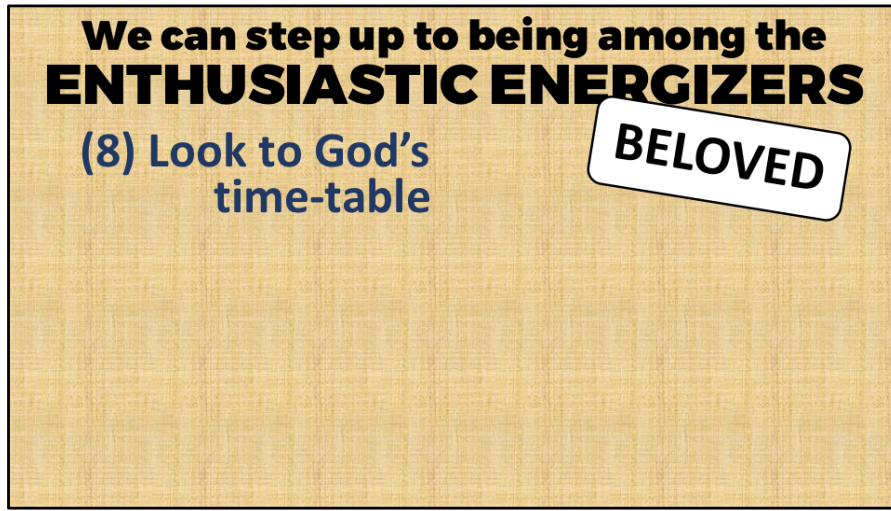
**TR: So, let's allow Coach Peter to fire us up. Look first at verse
8**

But do not overlook this one fact, **beloved**, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: The scoffers overlooked biblical truth, but we must not overlook . . .



. . . God's time-table.

-- In the midst of the craziness of our daily to-dos and schedules, we must step back and remember that God has a time-table that is measured in a way beyond our watches and calendars.

-- We need to ask ourselves, "Will this be an issue in 10 days? 10 months? 10 years? 10,000 years?"

-- This is the CALM of calm urgency.

TR: Verse 9 builds on this . . .

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is **patient toward you**, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- The mockers had said that Jesus isn't coming back.
- They suggested that God doesn't fulfill His promises.
- Their melancholy comes from their disappointment with God coming through for them . . . on their time-tables.

TR: But, our coach is stirring us up to . . .

**We can step up to being among the
ENTHUSIASTIC ENERGIZERS**

(8) Look to God's
time-table

(9) Trust God's motives

BELOVED

methods **m** **n** motives

READ SLIDE

- Yes, it seems like a long time between the first coming and His promised second coming . . . but it is not because God is slow.
- His method may be delay, but His motive is patience.
- This uses our M&M candies illustration of methods and motives.
- God's heart is that none should perish.
- Mockers seem to lose the judgment of charity towards God's motives. They lose faith or trust.

TR: Yet, as Jesus promised . . .

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it **will be exposed.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- [day of the Lord]

**TR: What is said in secret will be shouted from the rooftops.
Even as today we are seeing old sins . . .**



EXPOSED

- . . . exposed. Politicians and Hollywood folks.**
- We can stir up our enthusiasm and energy to serve and follow Christ by bringing to mind that eventually EVERYTHING will be exposed.**
 - Every sin done in secret will be brought to the fore.**
 - All of the works done on earth will be brought before the court (cf. the legal flavor of the word translated “exposed.”)**

TR: Step up . . . fire up . . . and . . .

**We can step up to being among the
ENTHUSIASTIC ENERGIZERS**

(8) Look to God's
time-table

(9) Trust God's motives

(10) Expect Christ's return . . .
that will expose all works

BELOVED

READ SLIDE

- Jesus did a lot of teaching about the last things. He warns us not to slumber or get distracted.
- Interestingly, it seems the American Church scene right now doesn't have a lot of focus on the second coming of Jesus.
- It is so easy to be lulled into complacency by what the scoffers say . . . all things are continuing just as they always have.
- With the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the tensions around North Korea . . . we all ought to be talking about how close the end might be.

TR: Actually, Coach Peter tells us in verse 11 . . .

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²**waiting for and hastening** the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

ESV

READ SLIDE

- There is disagreement between some who think God will resurrect this earth and use it as part of the NH&NE . . .
- **VERSUS** those who think it will be completely new.
- If we only had these verses, it certainly sounds like a complete destruction.

TR: That shouldn't frighten us but rather cause us to live differently . . . with urgency to . . .

**We can step up to being among the
ENTHUSIASTIC ENERGIZERS**

(8) Look to God's
time-table

BELOVED

(9) Trust God's motives

(10) Expect Christ's return . . .
that will expose all works

(11-12) Wait for AND hasten the
Day of the Lord

READ SLIDE

-- We are to wait with anticipation and preparation, not complacency and cynicism.

-- And, incredibly, somehow we can **HASTEN** the day of the Lord.

-- God is sovereign and He knows the day.

-- **YET**, what we do here and now makes a difference.

-- Verse 11 talked about lives of holiness and godliness . . . that hastens the day.

-- And the focus on salvation throughout means that our being **PRAYERFULLY INTENTIONAL** and gospel fluent hastens the day

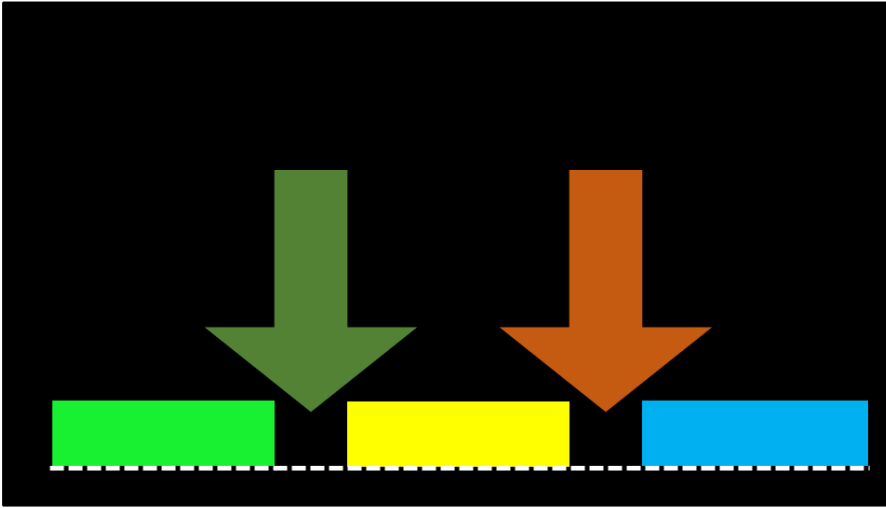
TR: As we get fired up for our work NOW, we must still keep our eyes up . . . verse 13

But according to his promise we are waiting for **new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Allow me to give a quick overview of last things.



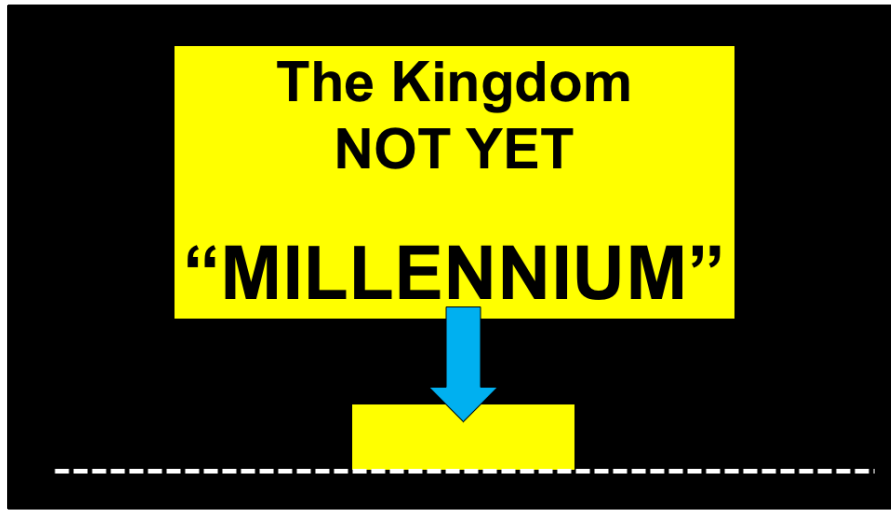
There are two basic ways Christians understand last things.
-- I am among those who believe that there are still TWO ARROWS of God's action to come.
-- Some will combine those two arrows into one.

TR: The first block of time is where we are at now . . .



READ SLIDE

TR: The next block of time seems to be . . .



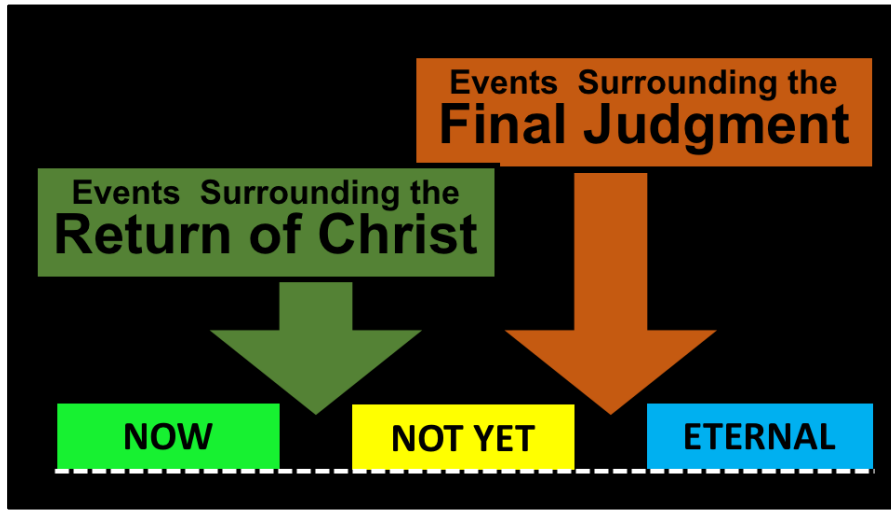
READ SLIDE

TR: And the final block, that never ends, is the one that Peter tells us to be waiting for . . .



READ SLIDE

TR: It seems best to me to see that the Bible presents two series of events . . .



READ SLIDE

TR: So, about what Coach Peter is stirring us up by way of reminder is . . .

**We can step up to being among the
ENTHUSIASTIC ENERGIZERS**

(13) Anticipate the New
Heavens and New Earth

BELOVED

READ SLIDE

- We will not be earthly good if we are not heavenly-minded.
- It is hard to delay gratification if we do not have a hope that makes such self-control worth it.
- This is not yet heaven, so we expect a struggle.
- But when we get to the eternal state, we will say, "It was worth it all!"

- Remember, what we are trying to do is allow Peter to stir us up so that we don't fall into a second coming coma . . .
- . . . rather, that we maintain biblical expectancy, anticipation, motivation . . . **URGENCY.**

TR: We can step up, according to verse 14 . . .

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, **be diligent to be found** by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- [be diligent] ~ make every effort (like our first locker room talk from 2 Peter 1)
- [to be found] ~ to be exposed as

TR: Since we are waiting for the NH&NE, let's . . .

**We can step up to being among the
ENTHUSIASTIC ENERGIZERS**

(13) Anticipate the New
Heavens and New Earth

(14) Make every effort to be
exposed as holy & godly

BELOVED

READ SLIDE

- Everything that we do will be found out.
- Every sacrifice, every act of grace, every service modeled after Jesus' service . . . it is all seen and it will be seen by all.
- We can do things in secret or at least humbly because we know that our works will be "found out."

TR: As we anticipate the NH&NE, making every effort in the time we have, trusting God's motive in the timing of Christ's return to be patience and not slowness . . . verse 15

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 16

as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- The scoffers, the mockers, they will twist things

TR: But, we are to hear our coaches, the Apostles Peter and Paul, and . . .

**We can step up to being among the
ENTHUSIASTIC ENERGIZERS**

BELOVED

- (13) Anticipate the New Heavens and New Earth
- (14) Make every effort to be exposed as holy & godly
- (15) Count God's patience as opportunity for salvation

READ SLIDE

- When Jesus comes again, it will be biblically anticipated YET unexpected and sudden . . . the opportunity for salvation will be gone.
- There must be an urgency to our missions work . . . whether in our communities or in the world abroad.

TR: The choice is before us. We can slip into . . .

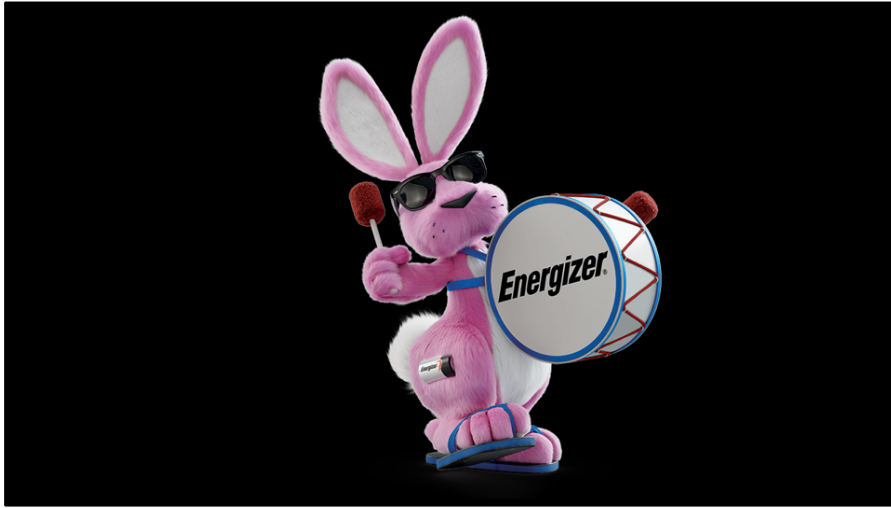
MELANCHOLY

→ MEDICATE

→ MOCK

READ SLIDE

TR: Or we can . . .



“keep on going” . . . using batteries that are recharged by biblical reflection.

-- We can:

(8) Look to God’s time-table

(9) Trust God’s motives

(10) Expect Christ’s return . . . that will expose all works

(11-12) Wait for AND hasten the Day of the Lord

(13) Anticipate the New Heavens and New Earth

(14) Make every effort to be exposed as holy & godly

(15) Count God’s patience as opportunity for salvation

TR: Sometimes we can get tired of slogans, but then we realize that they are just trying to touch us right in our hearts, to motivate us to keep going. Verses 17-18 give us the two sides of our choice today . . .

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **take care** that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.
¹⁸But **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: The two-fold choice is . . .

A Two-fold Choice is Ours to Make

(17) Stand guard and watch your footing

(18) Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus

. . . negative and positive . . . **READ SLIDE**

-- We must guard against allowing our disappointments turn to melancholy INTO self-medicating with our sinful desires INTO mockery.

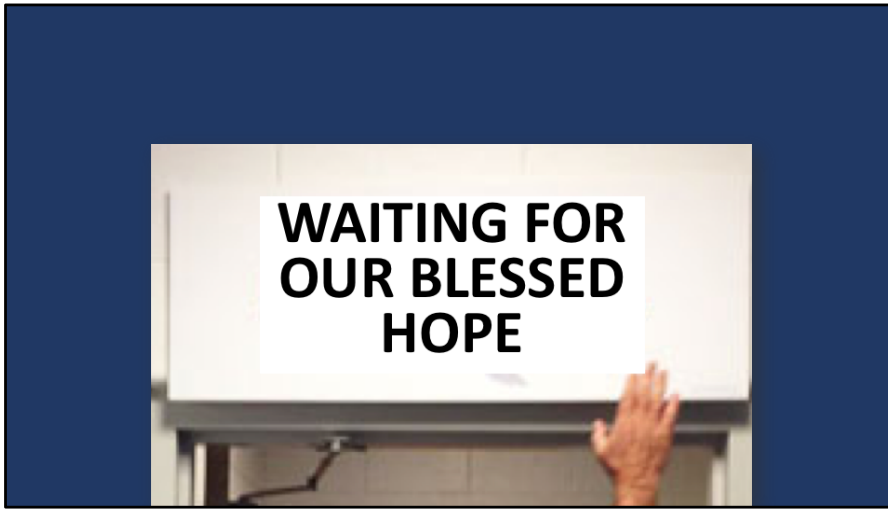
-- AND, we must do more than just be on guard . . . we must . . .

-- . . . actively grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

-- Remember, back in chapter 1:2-3, Peter started the letter praying that grace and peace would be multiplied to us in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

-- AND, in verse 3, that it was “through the knowledge of him” that we have been granted all things pertaining to life and godliness.

TR: And how are you doing? As you walk out the locker room, how high is your hand as it slaps the sign over the door?



What is our urgency level?

-- What is our sense of biblical expectation?

-- How is our confidence in God's motives, that if He gave us His one and only Son, that He will give us all things?

-- How are we making the most of every opportunity to grow in holiness and godliness . . .

-- AND to be sharing the great news of what Jesus offers to others with them?

TR: Team . . . we can do this . . . I have confidence in the Holy Spirit Who resides within you. You are not mockers but energizers. You can and will keep going . . .

To Him Who is Able
& to keep you from **FALLING**
to present you before
His Glorious Presence
WITHOUT FAULT & **GREAT**
WITH JUDE 24

. . . because I am entrusting you . . . READ SLIDE