

The Day of the Lord

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. **Slide2 Thanksgiving Eve:** This year we are partnering with MPD to serve our community by giving **gift cards** for *various grocery stores and restaurants*. We will be collecting all gift card donations that evening.
- B. **Slide3 Pantry gift card support:** If you would like to provide gifts and necessities to children of the local families you can donate a **\$25.00 gift card from Walmart or Target**. Drop off at church on Sun's, **or** in the front office by Dec.5th.
- C. **Slide4 Shoes:** we are collecting shoes for the Afghan families in one of the bases Save our Allies is working with. New or VERY gently used tennis shoes, men's and women's sizes 6-9 are most common (all accepted). Drop off next 2 weeks.
- D. **Slide5 Quote & Prayer:** **Richard Baxter**, the **English Puritan** church leader, poet, hymnodist, theologian, author **and** controversialist/polemic (apologist vs. polemic).
1. He lived during the 1600's, went thru all kind of trials & suffering. Was asked, given your *unrelenting sufferings*, how have you been so **productive and faithful** for so many years? - *I think of heaven for 30 min's every day.*

II. Slide6,7 Intro: The Day of the Lord

- A. Ch.3 deals w/3 worlds: *The Ancient world. The Present world. The New World.*
- B. It's about **the Day of the Lord** (75+ x's) always connected w/**judgment & blessing**.
1. It describes **the end time events** that **begin** after the rapture **& culminate** w/the beginning of eternity. AKA, *The Day, That Day, & the Great Day.*
 2. It's **not** a **24 hour day**, it refers to *"the whole program"*.
- C. Our Theme as Peter starts **wrapping up** his 2nd epistle ... **Christ's Return**.
1. **The NT clearly teaches:** Jesus will Return. His 2nd Coming will be physical & personal (just like his Res & Ascension). His Coming will be immediately preceded by both heavenly & earthly distress. Christ's return will bring upon the world judgment that is sudden, unexpected, &

inescapable. An antichrist figure is to arise prior to the 2nd Coming; who will be decisively overthrown. **And**, The kingdom of God, God's rule & reign, will be fully established at Christ's Return.

D. **Slide8** 5 reminders when it comes to End Times:

1. While God has revealed **some things** about the future, **much** still remains **a mystery**.
2. When searching for **answers**, continue to leave room for **questions**.
3. Try not to make **agreement on the particulars of future events** a basis for **fellowship w/other believers**.
4. Be **tolerant** of those who **don't** see things as clearly as **you** do.
5. Though no one knows **all** the details, don't hesitate to **stand firm** on those **clearly set forth in Scripture**: [Christ will physically return. There will be a final judgment. Heaven and Hell are both real. The resurrection of our bodies is a certainty]

E. **Slide9** Chuck Swindoll said on the Return of Christ, *"Critics have denied it. Cynics have laughed at it. Scholars have ignored it. Liberal theologians have explained it away. And fanatics have perverted it ... but there it stands, solid as a stone, soon to be fulfilled, ready to offer us hope and encouragement amid despair and unbelief."*

F. **Slide10** 4 reminders/remember (1). *Read All.*

III. **Slide11 WRITINGS (1,2)**

- A. **Note** the linkage between OT & NT writings. *prophets & apostles*
- B. The **apostles of Christ** filled the **260 chapters** of the NT w/a about **300 references to the 2nd coming**. *I guess it's kinda important!*

IV. **Slide12a SCOFFERS (3,4)** *Derision = ridicule or mockery*

- A. **SCOFFERS WILL SCOFF (3)**
- B. Understanding that the 2nd Coming was **imminent**, many early Christians were making the mistake of **setting the date** of His Return during their lifetime.

C. What the false teachers couldn't destroy with **lies** (Andrew taught last week), they start to *scoff & ridicule*.

D. **Doubting** is a struggle to believe. **Scoffing** is a choice not to believe.

1. If we're honest Christians, we've all **doubted** something, at some time.
2. Slide12b *"Interesting, every time a scoffer opens his mouth to deny the truth, he will help to confirm us in our conviction of the very truth which he denies!"*

a) A scoffer scoffs ... & bible prophecy is fulfilled again :) *ha!*

E. **SCOFFERS WILL SAY** (4)

F. **Where is the promise of His coming? All things continue as they were.**

1. They say God's **not** going to **break into history & interrupt the progress of time**.

G. **All things continue as they were from the beginning of creation - NOT SO!**

1. **That just isn't true.** Peter uses a *triad formula*, 3 examples to refute the scoffer's argument. **Creation** (5), **The Flood** (6), **The Final Judgment** (7).
2. He explains ... **No, God did break into history as in the case of the flood. And He did so when men were convinced nothing would happen to them.**

V. Slide13 **DESTRUCTION** (5-7)

A. **SCOFFERS WILL DELIBERATELY OVERLOOK**

B. **They deliberately overlook** – Plato said, *"We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark: the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."*

C. Peter now cites the 2 OT examples that **God does break into history** (1st the created world. 2nd the flood ... giving them some *"flood for thought"*).

D. They want you to forget that the very **Word** they deride is, in control of God's universe. God created everything by **His Word**; **His Word** holds it together; **His Word** caused the flood; **His Word** will one day bring judgment of fire to the ungodly world.

1. **Note** how many times **word** is used. Last time by **water**, this time by **fire**.

E. So, Why hasn't this taken place yet ... it has been about 2000 yrs now?

VI. Slide14a DELAY (8,9)

A. THE TIMELESSNESS OF GOD (8)

B. Peter discouraged *date setting*, explaining that *God's schedule* is from a different perspective than ours & much more patiently worked out.

C. **Time**, although considered a crucial commodity among human beings, is not a great issue with God.

1. **Story:** I'll never forget one of the first times to the P.I. we were told to **put away our watches**. This didn't make sense till our first teaching (**explain:** We were late to leave the house. *When does church start?* When we get there. *How will they know when church starts?* When we pull up. **And they did!**)

D. Of course God deals with **time**, but being *outside of time* He just has a different perspective of it. **Thus**, *His time is not our time*. His time is always the right time, no matter what our watch says.

1. Slide14b As far as God is concerned, *our finite perception of time is irrelevant!*

E. **One day is as a thousand years** - The present church age has lasted, in God's eyes, *not quite 2 days*.

1. To God, time is always in the present tense.
2. **Is this teaching showing us how to calculate end times? No!** nor the verse in which it comes from in Ps.90. **So what's He saying then?**
 - a) **God doesn't measure time by human standards.** We must adjust ourselves to **His** way of time & **not** expect **Him** to live by **ours**.
 - (1) Like an impatient child on a trip, we must **wait**. **And** we can't hurry God by constantly asking, *"Is it time yet?"*

F. Slide15 THE TENDERNESS OF GOD (9)

G. **The Lord is not slow** – hesitate, linger, delay (used only here)

1. What seems like tardiness or slowness is only in respect to *your* schedule

H. The Lord & His Promises.

1. Every spring, the different species of trees in my yard put forth their leaves at different times. And so the promises of God.
2. Some bloom in early spring, others I wait & wonder, *maybe the frost got them this year?* But then I wait, & sure enough the little buds appear on their branches.
 - a) Mulberry trees are very slow in putting forth their leaves. *Have you ever had a mulberry promise from the Lord?*
 - b) Wait for it to come. At the appointed time it shall surely come

I. The Lord & His Patience/longsuffering.

1. God's waiting is *redemptive*. Mercy's day is lengthened :)
2. The Lord is *not slow*, He's *patient*. He's *not tardy*, He's *deliberately delaying*. He's *not indifferent*, He's *merciful*.

J. The Lord & His Plan for repentance.

1. This is *not a decree*, as if God willed everyone to be saved.
 - a) *Christian Universalism* is not taught in the bible. [The fundamental idea of Christian universalism is *universal reconciliation* – that all humans will eventually *receive salvation*]. (re-read 7b)
2. Peter says that God *longs* that **all** would be saved, **but knows** that many will **reject Him**.
3. God can't be waiting then for all people to be saved; *He is waiting to receive all His own though*. As Jesus said, "*And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.*" Jn.10:16
4. The Lord is still seeking for His *jewels* lost in *earths mud*.

K. The Danish philosopher, **Kierkegaard**, tells a parable of a theater where a variety show is proceeding. Each show is more fantastic than the last, and is applauded by the audience. Suddenly the manager comes forward. He apologizes for the

interruption, but the theater is on fire, and he begs his patrons to leave in an orderly fashion. The audience think this is the most amusing turn of the evening, and cheer thunderously. The manager again implores them to leave the burning building, and he is again applauded vigorously. At last he can do no more. The fire raced through the whole building and the fun-loving audience with it.

1. “And so will our age, I sometimes think, go down in fiery destruction to the applause of a crowded house of cheering spectators.”

L. **Slide16** (vs.9 msg) *God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. **He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.***

M.**Keyword:** end times, patience, promises, Second Coming.