

## What Sort of People Ought We To Be?

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Women's Christmas: last shout out for the ladies event THIS Sat.
- B. Slide3 CK Play: *Wow! A Nativity Story*. Please join us for a fun family event on Sat Dec 11th at 4:00 or 7:00. We have a fun evening planned with games, sing along, photo booth and hot chocolate! This is a free event for all to enjoy.
- C. Funny Christian meme: *People ask, "Do I really need Jesus to go to heaven?" "Bro, you need Jesus just to go to Walmart."*
- D. Prayer: Jesus we need you to come to church tonight. For our very breath, morn/noon/night. In our failures & victories.

### II. Slide4 Intro: What Sort of People Ought We To Be?

- A. For the next 3 Sun's we're gonna be looking at **Advent/Coming** (1st & 2nd).
  - 1. Preparation, Anticipation, & Longing for Him. As we wrap up Peter tonight we're still talking about Jesus' 2nd coming.
- B. Everybody wants *a date to circle* on their calendar for **Jesus' Coming**.
  - 1. SlideX Maybe it's best? When we 1st wake up in the morning, let's walk to our wall calendar (if you still own one) and circle **today's date**. And then live our day in the light of this possibility.
- C. Ever had your house burglarized before?
  - 1. I have: Apt. Green Ave, Los Alamitos. Twice we were taken by surprise (stereo stacked ready to go inside. 2nd time outside). 3rd time, *I was waiting*. Dave asleep in his room, me/stirring, heard sliding door jiggle... game on! (explain bat/golf club, found him, *it was just a friend*)
  - 2. *But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched & not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.* Mt.24:43,44

D. Last week we started looking at *The Lord's Return*. In 3:3-7 Scoffers laughed it. In 3:8,9 God guarantees it. And today in 3:10-18 Peter will *describe it & show the behavior changed by it*.

### III. Slide5 PETER DESCRIBES IT (10,12,13)

A. Read 3:10-13

B. (10) God's Longsuffering (vs.9) is balanced w/His justice (10).

1. Slide6a The day of the Lord – (75+ x's) always connected w/judgment.

a) 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*]

b) Day – **not** a 24 hour day. It refers to *the whole program*.

2. Day of God (12) – (2 x's) the ushering in of eternity. (other time Rev.16:14)

a) **Concludes** the Day of the Lord & **begins** the day of God.

3. Slide6b Day of Christ – (3 x's) relates wholly to the **reward & blessing of the saints** at His coming.

C. The **Certainty** of His coming – **will come**. The **Character** of His coming – **as a thief**. The **Consequences** of His coming – **the heavens will pass....**

1. **Heavens** – Not Gods abode (3rd heaven); **but** the 1st & 2nd heaven.

a) 1st = earths atmosphere. 2nd = starry sky (space).

D. **A thief in the night** - as a thief comes suddenly & unexpectedly, **w/o** announcement or warning.

1. **Used here for sinners** who will *least expect it*.

2. **Used by Jesus** about His own arrival in Mt.24:43.

3. **Used also for believers**. **See** 1 Thes.5:1&4 (it doesn't have to take you by surprise if you're watching for it). **Also** Rev.3:3.

E. **Pass away with a roar - burned up - dissolved - another biblical *under statement!***

1. Nuclear explosions we are now capable of making, involve only *a fist full of atoms*. So, the releasing of all the atoms in the universe would *at least be a great roar & fervent heat*.
  2. Slide7 On March 5, 1979, nine U. S. satellites simultaneously radioed back to earth that **a gamma radiation explosion** occurred in a nearby galaxy known as N-49. This explosion lasted for only 1/10 of a second, but released more radiation than **our sun** does in **3,000 years**. **Doyle Evans**, an astrophysicist at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories in New Mexico, noted that had this explosion of energy occurred in our galaxy, it would have instantly vaporized the earth!<sup>1</sup> [see behind me 2019]
    - a) Even Stephen Hawking, the mastermind theoretical physicist, & cosmologist, predicted that *our planet would become a fireball in less than 600 years. By that time, Earth will be so overpopulated that our energy consumption will make the planet burn red and the human race will perish.*
    - b) So whether God uses a gamma-ray burst (seen by Astronomers everyday), a black hole, a Magnetar Eruption in a nearby galaxy, or simply His words, *Let there be no more light*, and there would be *no more light*.
  3. Elements - The Greek word *stoicheia* can refer to 1) the physical elements (earth, air, fire, water). 2) the heavenly bodies (sun, moon, stars). or 3) spiritual powers (see Gal 4:9; Col 2:8, 20).
- F. This is where we got the term back in the 80's, *It's all gonna burn!*
1. Where have you placed your investments? *In which world?*
    - a) Some make **this world** their only concern. But Jesus rightly asked, *For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?*
  2. If you say, *I have concern for the next world* ... then how do you show it in your **day-to-day living?**

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<sup>1</sup> Galaxie Software. (2002; 2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.

3. When everything gets torched the only thing you that will remain is your relationship w/Jesus Christ.

a) *Slide8 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of **heaven**, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of **heaven**, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.* Col.3:1-4 nlt

G. (12) **Hastening** – speed its coming ... *How?*

1. This can be shown in prayer & effort: In Prayer, **Thy kingdom come**.

In Witnessing, sharing our faith, so salvations happen, so Christ returns.

H. (13) **His promise** - Peter **wasn't** trying to set out a timeline ... **but** to assert that **the present world** is *temporary*; only **the future world** is *eternal*.

I. **Dwells** – where **righteousness** has its *fixed/permanent abode*.

1. It will be *the home of righteousness*, because **The Righteous One** will be there.

#### IV. **Slide9 BEHAVIOR CHANGED BY IT (11,14-18)**

A. read 3:14-18

B. **Slide10a** (11) **What sort of people ought you to be?**

1. **Knowing these facts of the future, who should it cause you to be presently?**

2. This is actually a rhetorical question, **but** in case someone might miss it he answers, *Be holy ... Be godly*.

a) **Holy** speaks to separation (*from* the world **&** *to* God).

b) **Godly** speaks to duty before God.

(1) **Godliness** is *being aware of God's presence* in every aspect of your life. Which is the key to **living godly**.

- C. Jesus came & **showed** us *how to live*, **not** with accumulating *wealth, prestige & stuff*, **but** *showed* us *how to live* through suffering, through serving, through giving, through blessing others, through the death of a dear friend, through tears.
1. **Godliness** is *being aware of God's presence* in every aspect of your life. Which is the key to **living godly**.
- D. (14) **Be diligent** – *make every effort* (NIV)
- E. **Be at peace**, w/o spot or blemish. (free from phys or moral defects)
1. Are you making every effort to be **at peace** when He returns?
- F. (15,16) The apostle Paul teaches along these same lines.
1. The apostles are **unified** in truth & purpose.
  2. God's Procrastination is not **inaction** on God's part, **but** instead a **demonstration** of His Looooonnnng-suffering.
- G. (17,18) **Take care ...** by **growing in Grace & knowledge**; & in giving glory.
1. These will transform any believer into **a useful faithful servant**.
- H. **Slide10b Growing** - The question we often ask our children is, "*what do you want to be when you grow up?*"
1. It's a good question for us at **any stage** of life.
    - a) We must be constantly *growing, developing, maturing*.
    - b) **Spiritually**, we must never stop growing; and all along the way we must ask ourselves, "*what do I want to be when I grow up?*"
  2. Many Christians **grow in knowledge** by **shoving** bible truths into their minds; **but** often leave off **growing in grace** or, **showing** Bible truths in their lives. [Peter here reminds us the balance of both **learning/living** the Word]
- I. **Glory?** – The glory of **redemption**, glory of **spiritual growth**, glory of **manifesting the symphony of grace**, glory of **escape from the false teachers**, glory of **His ultimate return...all glory belongs to Jesus!**

- J. **lide10c** End application: So, what should you do in the light of the coming day of the Lord? *Clean up. Look Up. Speak up.*<sup>2</sup> [Clean up/deal w/sin. Look Up/ Live each day in expectation of His coming. Speak up/every chance you get *to speak of Him*]
1. These 3 commands alone will keep us *plenty busy* until the Lord returns.
  2. **In the meanwhile remember ...** *He's got the whole world, in His hand.*
- K. Keywords: End Times, Glory, God, Heaven, Jesus, Judgment, Second Coming.

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<sup>2</sup> Chuck Swindoll, James & 1 & 2 Peter, pg.324