

## **The Judgment of God: Loving the Unresponsive, Unaware and the Unprepared**

Learning from Peter 2Peter 3 KSBC Aug.22, 2010

**Introduction** Believing that Jesus Christ is coming back, will judge all mankind and establish a new heavens and earth is quite a challenge these days. Actually shaping our lives and values by that truth is more than a challenge, it seems impossible at times. Everyone's life is going somewhere. The scriptures teach that every life will end up before the creator God of the Bible. There exist only two options. Those who do not submit in repentance and trust will be separated to condemnation and punishment for eternity. Those who have aligned themselves with Christ and turned from their sin will be separated to eternal life in the Kingdom of God. While this sounds believable, acceptable and normal for inside the church house, it is the core of a raging spiritual battle for the hearts and souls of the unresponsive, unaware and unprepared people you live and work with.

It is easy to forget, be influenced by corrupt thinking and become sluggish or discouraged regarding living our lives in light of the coming of Christ and judgment. Will God get his way? Has he spoken clearly regarding his expectations? Is he trustworthy as he has revealed himself in scripture? Is he a worthy judge?

As we have said, it is easy to forget, be influenced by corrupt thinking and become sluggish or discouraged regarding living our lives in light of the coming of Christ and judgment. This is why we need to hear what Peter has to say. Peter at the end of his life and ministry writes a letter of encouragement to followers of Christ who are facing various pressures. The major theme he addresses is that of living in a society that in increasingly bold and ungodly ways denies that God will get his way. There is no reverence, concern or care for what God thinks let alone a sense of trembling or awe before him. If the church is not careful they will circle the wagons and simply think that success for God is not being impacted or hurt by this worldwide plague of disrespect for God. Peter writes to encourage the faithful to live their lives in courageous and proactive obedience.

Our purpose today is to encourage and stir each other to action. The world is at war, it is easy to forget, be influenced by corrupt thinking and become sluggish or discouraged regarding living our lives in light of the coming of Christ and judgment. As we read 2Peter 3, take note of the mood that frames these words. It is the tone, the background, the nuance that connects with our hearts and draws us into fresh responsiveness, new ways of thinking and reenergized behavior.

The mood of the book and this chapter is one of expressed affection (3:1, 14, 17), sincere admiration (3:1 your sincere/pure mind) and settled confidence (1:12) toward the readers. Let's assume the tone of voice behind the coming reminders is that of love, admiration and confidence. Hear this as we read God's words through Peter.

### **Read 2Peter 3**

There are three reasons why you (beloved, admired and trusted) need to be reminded/stirred to action (1:12-15) regarding the coming of Christ and God's judgment:

1. You are forgetful. Whether willful or unintentional, our hearts and minds struggle to hang on to truth.
2. Ungodly influences around you. Whether knowingly or unknowingly, you are like a sponge. You soak up the influences of the corrupt and disrespectful world you live in.
3. You are busy. Busyness is far too easily interpreted as advancing the gospel in your life. You need to be reminded of the link between belief and behavior.

**In your faithful service for Christ in these difficult days, beloved, please keep in mind . . .**

#### **1. The authority of the scriptures. 3:2**

Note Peter's first reminder has to do with the scriptures. The doctrines of Jesus coming in judgment are taught

throughout the entire Bible. There may be questions of timing and interpretive issues related to prophetic imagery, but there is no doubt to the serious reader of the Bible that it teaches Jesus is coming back in judgment.

- Prophets, Jesus and Apostles represent the entirety of God's written self disclosure.
- All three warned of false teachers and warned of the coming Day of the Lord.
- A disregard for scripture is at the root of differing world views and values – 2:1-3

Cmp. 3:13 1:16, 19 you will do well to pay attention as a . . . Eph. 2:19-21

## **2. That mockers of scripture will and do influence you. 3:3-4**

Note the reference to scoffers who scoff in verse 3 . . . these are the same as the false prophets, mockers and blasphemers described in chapter 2.

- Know this first of all . . . it is a fundamental component of a biblical world view to consider and account for the reality of people who oppose God. Know that you are in a major conflict regarding what is true. Daniel, Jesus and the Apostles are all on record as warning the faithful to not be intimidated by the relentless pressure of those in rebellion against God.  
One of the world rulers in the end times seen by Daniel in one of his visions is described in this way:  
*He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law . . . Daniel 7:25*
- Mockers are described as living self indulgent lives and mock any accountability to God. No ultimate standards or final division of people by God. 2:1-4
- Major argument and relentless message of mockers is 'all things continue.' Where is the promise of his coming? A naturalistic worldview. Everything has stayed the same or is advancing.

Cmp James 5:7ff; Heb. 10:36 ff . . . you have need of patience & endurance until the coming of the Lord.

**In your faithful service for Christ in these difficult days, beloved, please keep in mind . . .**

### **1. The authority of the scriptures. 3:2**

### **2. That mockers of scripture will and do influence you. 3:3-4**

### **3. Key truths to stir and guard your thinking. 3:5-10**

Note these 4 arguments Peter lists to protect, guard and encourage the faithful. They deliberately overlook these facts but the faithful are commanded to not overlook these facts.

- This is not a stable, unchanging world. 5-7
- God's perspective of time is the one that matters. 8
- God is not slow, but mercifully patient. 9
- The end will come suddenly, despite the delay. 10

3:13 . . . according to his promise, we are waiting . . .

### **4. Your life matters. 3:11-13**

Note that one of the take aways from these verses is that people remain, stuff/matter is destroyed and new stuff is made. People are the subject, focus of attention in this section. In view of what is in store for the world . . . destruction and impending disintegration . . . the focus falls on what kind of people should you be. We can become indifferent and apathetic thinking that this world matters more and will outlast people. We are told often that this world will outlast all of us.

- Your devotion to God matters 3:11

Holiness/godliness . . . a practical awareness of God in every aspect of life 1Jn 2:28

- Your active cooperation with God matters 3:12-13

Waiting for and hastening the coming day of God Matt. 6:10 pray 24:14 preach

Acts 3:19-20

**In your faithful service for Christ in these difficult days, beloved, please keep in mind . . .**

- 1. The authority of the scriptures. 3:2**
- 2. That mockers of scripture will and do influence you. 3:3-4**
- 3. Key truths to stir and guard your thinking. 3:5-10**
- 4. Your life matters. 3:11-13**

**Lord, I'm listening . . .** summarize/read 3:14--18

1. Beloved, remember.
2. Beloved, be diligent.
3. Beloved, grow.