

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 14TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 2 PETER

LISTEN TO THE WORD NOT THE WORLD (2 PETER 3:1-7) ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH REMEMBRANCE

Peter's focus in both letters written to the Church was to "**stir up your sincere understanding by way of reminder.**"

- Peter wanted to encourage this "**uncontaminated or unmixed**" way of thinking **in the midst of persecution** (1 Peter) and **in the midst of false teachers** that wished to distort biblical truth.

BE REMINDED OF THIS

The reminder in both letters centered around the return of Christ and the implications of that reality in the lives of a Jesus followers.

- In 1 Peter, the certainty of Jesus' return meant that our suffering was temporary and there is a call to holy living despite persecution. In 2 Peter, he uses the words of the OT prophets and of Jesus about His return to combat false teaching.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Peter wanted the Church to recall the "**words spoken by the OT prophets,**" so they would not be influenced by false teachers in their thinking of the certainty of Christ's return.

- Reminding them about the "**command of our Lord and Savior given through your Apostles**" is to remind them of how to love one another as they await the return of Christ.

WE CANNOT BE DISTRACTED

Peter tells his readers, "know this first," do not be surprised when people "scoff" at the idea of Jesus coming again. To "**scoff**" at something means "**to make fun of.**"

- There will be people that will try to distract us from the fact that Jesus will return, either claiming that it will not happen or it will not happen for a long time.

"FOLLOWING THEIR OWN EVIL DESIRES"

The words from Peter remind us that their ridicule is from a moral issue and not just an intellectual issue with God and His Word.

- In light of the Great Command, **these people, who are cynical of other people and live out their own selfish desires, are exactly who we are commanded to love.**

"BY THE WORD OF GOD"

These false teachers knew the OT scriptures but chose to ignore them. Their scoffing was based on the belief that things have been the way they are and will always remain to be so.

- Peter's words state that they willfully forget God's intervention in creation and in judgment in the days of Noah, therefore denying that He will intervene again.

THE LORD DOES NOT DELAY (2 PETER 3:8-13)

"DON'T OVERLOOK THIS ONE FACT"

Peter wants us to understand that God does not delay, as some understand delay. It is not that God is unable to intervene or is indifferent to what is taking place.

- What seems like forever to us is but a moment to God, who is outside of time. In the same way, a lifetime on earth is only a vapor (James 4:14) when compared to eternity.

"AS SOME UNDERSTAND DELAY"

Another point that Peter wants us to see is that **God is not idle.** He is not delaying His Son's return out of unwillingness to intervene.

- What we view as delay is actually God's patience. Before Jesus' return, everyone will have the opportunity "to come to repentance." **God's delay is because He does not "want any to perish."**

A CALL TO ACT

Though God is patient, and His wrath is delayed, there will be a day when His wrath is boiling over, then "**the day of the Lord will come.**"

- Peter describes this event of the Lord's return and how it "will come as a thief." **Though we do not know when this day will come, we can be certain that it will come, and that certainty calls us to action.**

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE?

So how do we respond to this information? Do we throw up our hands in defeat and say, "There's nothing we can do"?

- No, we were told how the day would come so we could prepare. **We are to do everything we can to prepare "our house" and tell as many people as possible so they can keep watch with us.**

HOW ARE TO LIVE

Peter says, in light of Jesus' coming and all things being dissolved, "it is clear what sort of people [we] should be in holy conduct and godliness."

- The might displayed by the Creator should motivate us to live lives that honor the name of Jesus as we "**wait for the day of God and hasten its coming.**"

"HASTEN ITS COMING"

This phrase has caused much debate and confusion and is not meant to communicate that we can somehow hijack God's timetable and manipulate Him into sending Jesus.

- This verse communicates God's sovereignty, as He knows when the return of Christ will take place, but **there is still an urgency to fulfill our calling to teach the gospel** (Matthew 24:14).

BE ON YOUR GUARD (2 PETER 3:14-18) MAKING AN EFFORT

Peter says we are to "**make every effort to be found without spot or blemish.**" He uses the same words to describe Jesus in 1 Peter 1:19.

- Every decision we make and everything we do is meant to be considered with the following question in mind: "**Will this make me Christ-like?**"

PETER AFFIRMS PAUL

Peter references Paul's letters and how he also challenged the Church to live out godly lives in light of the day of the Lord.

- Instead of submitting to this teaching, **there will be some who will twist and distort the Word to condone their sinful lifestyles. Just because someone quotes scripture does not mean they teach biblical truth.**

"BE ON YOUR GUARD"

Since we have been warned about false teachers and how they operate, Peter says we are to be alert so we do not "**fall from [our] own stable position.**"

- The "stable position" he refers to is **one that is fully grounded in the Word.** To "fall" means **to be swept away by false teaching.**

A CHALLENGE TO GROW

Peter then goes full circle and ends this letter right where it began, with a challenge to the Church to continue growing.

- We are to "**grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**" **The grace of God is there to help as we grow into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.**

HE WILL RETURN

- "You do not truly hold the truth of the doctrine of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ until that doctrine holds you and influences your manner of living as the Bible says it should" (Warren Weirsbe).

GOD DOES NOT DELAY...

- V.15 says we are to "regard the patience of the Lord as salvation."
- God is patient, giving opportunity for all to come to repentance, since He does not want anyone to perish.
- **Is today the day of salvation?**
- **Are we being the hands and feet of Christ, spreading the good news of salvation?**