

2 Peter 3:10-18

4-6-11

“What Manner of Persons ought you to Be!”

I. INTRO:

A. Everybody wants a date to circle on their calendar!

1. Maybe it's best, upon 1st waking up in the morning, to walk to your wall calendar & circle today's date, & live your day in the light of this possibility!

B. Ever had your house burglarized before?

1. Explain a few times: 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!
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

C. Last week we started looking at *The Lord's Return!*

1. 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! (*our outline*)

II. PETER DESCRIBES IT! (10,12,13)

A. (10) Longsuffering is balanced w/justice!

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

1. It describes the end time events that **begin** after the rapture & **culminate** w/the beginning of eternity.
 - a) Also called, “*The Day, That Day, & the Great Day*”.
 - b) **Day** – not a 24 hour day(back in the grandpa's day). It refers to “the whole program”.

C. Day of God (13) – (2 x's) the ushering in of eternity. (other time Rev.16:4)

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

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

E. The **Certainty** of His coming – “will come”.

F. The **Character** of His coming – “as a thief”.

G. 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).

- H. **A thief in the night** - as a thief comes suddenly & unexpectedly, w/o announcement or warning.
1. Used here for **sinner**s 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 (doesn't have to take you by surprise if you're watching). Also Rev.3:3.
- I. **A great noise & fervent heat**...“another one of the bible's great *under statements*.”
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 noise & fervent heat**”!
 2. 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!¹
 3. All 3 images *in vs. 10* represent a disastrous fire.
 4. **Elements** - In the ancient world, this expression **did not** refer to **atomic particles** as it does in modern science, **but** to the **basic building blocks** of the perceivable, material world - the earth, water, wind.
 - a) They'll be **wiped clear** to make way for **something new**.
- J. This is where we get the term, “*It's all gonna burn!*”
1. **Q: 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?
 3. When everything gets torched the only thing you that will remain is your relationship w/Jesus Christ.
 - a) **If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Col.3:1-3**
- K. (12) **Hastening** – “speed its coming”...**How?**
1. This can be shown in prayer & effort:

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

- a) In Prayer - “Thy kingdom come”.
- b) In Witnessing – sharing our faith, so salvations happen, so Christ returns.

L. (13) *Its warrant?* – His promise!

1. Peter **wasn't** trying to set out a time line...**but** to assert that the present world is **temporary**; only the future world is **eternal**.
2. A little girl was taking an evening walk with her father. Wonderingly, she looked up at the stars and exclaimed: "Oh, Daddy, if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what must the right side be!"

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

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

III. **BEHAVIOR CHANGED BY IT! (11,14-18)**

A. (11) *What manner of persons 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 piety(*dutiful*) before God.
 - (1) **Godliness** is *being aware of God's presence* in every aspect of your life!
 - (a) Which is the key to “**living godly**”!
 - (2) Church should be a place where every member is...
 - (a) **Is** cared for *and* grows to maturity.
 - (b) **Is** equipped to serve *and* finds his/her place of service.
 - (c) **Is** praying for *and* seeking the lost.
 - (d) **Is** under authority *and* walking in authority.

B. (14) **Be diligent** – *make every effort* (NIV)

C. **Be in peace, w/o spot, & blameless!**

1. **Are you making every effort to be in peace when He returns?**

D. (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 Looooonng-suffering.

E. (17,18) **Forewarned** is **Forearmed!**

1. This word **beforehand** is where we get our English word “*prognosis*”.
When a **medical** prognosis is made, a patient is better able to prepare himself for what is **ahead** & if possible, to **correct** himself.
 - a) If the doctor tells you to, “lay off the fried chicken, salt, bacon, & other artery cloggers... or have serious heart problems”; **then** you know **beforehand** & can change your eating habits according to this information you’ve received.
 - b) Peter has given you the futures **prognosis!**
 - (1) What lifestyle changes do you need to make?
2. **How are we “armed”?** – By **growing in Grace & knowledge**; & in **giving glory!**
 - a) These will transform any believer into a useful faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - b) Are you getting to know Jesus & what pleases Him better?
 - c) How strong is your appetite for the food of God’s Word?
 - (1) **If** there’s no **physical** appetite in a child...something’s wrong!
 - (2) **If** there’s no **spiritual** appetite in a child of God...something’s wrong!
 - (3) **O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You; In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.** Ps.63:1

F. **Growing** - The question we 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 you want to be when you grow up?"
 - c) **Growing is** falling down & getting up. Falling down & getting up. Falling down & getting up...all the way to heaven!

G. **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!

1. Is.42:8 **I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other,**

H. **Fall** - Loose your proper foothold.

1. Not referring to losing one’s salvation.
2. **On the other hand**, if you took heed to the **prognosis**, **then** you’ll maintain your “**steadfastness**” or your “**firm position/secure position**”.

- I. 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!
1. Peter gives us the balance of both **learning & living** the word!
- J. **End application: Clean up! Look Up! Speak up!**²
1. **Clean up your life!** - All of us have sin in our lives. **Deal seriously with it.**
 2. **Look Up & expect His Coming!** - **How can you live each day in constant expectation of His return?**
 - a) Remind yourself of the reality that this present world is temporary.
 - b) How are you spending your time & money?
 - c) Will most your investments survive His coming in the end?
 3. **Speak up every chance you get!** - **With whom can you share Christ before it's too late?**
 - a) May your words be the thing that nudges them ***one step closer*** to God's eternal kingdom.
- K. **So, what should you do in the light of the coming day of the Lord?**
1. **Clean up! Look Up! Speak up!**
 2. These 3 commands alone will keep us plenty busy until the Lord returns.
 3. **In the meanwhile remember...** "He's got the whole world, in His hand."

² Chuck Swindoll, James & 1 & 2 Peter, pg.324