

October 29, 2017

Practicing Our Readiness Drills for Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and 2nd Peter

Sermon Topic: Live as if Everything You Own is Rusting Away into Oblivion

2 Peter 3:10-13

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (ESV)

- Theme of 2nd Peter: Defend yourselves with biblical knowledge and spiritual maturity against the deceptions of false teachers.

Critical Point #13 - Everything here on earth that people treasure will dissolve when Christ comes back again. Therefore live as if those things don't matter to you but invest ahead by living holy and obedient lives.

Introduction – On the street interviews

1. The Day of the Lord is biblical phraseology for the Day when God's wrath will come upon the world without notice or warning. - *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,*

Isaiah 13:9-10 Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. (ESV)

The Seven Bowls of God's wrath in Revelation are John's/Jesus' graphic description of that day. 1) harmful boils on all who took the mark of the beast, 2) Oceans turn to blood and all sea life dies, 3) All fresh water turns to blood, 4) The sun sends scorching fire on the earth and people are scorched by the intense heat, 5) Total darkness on the anti-Christ's kingdom, 6) The Euphrates River is dried up allowing vast armies of the east to fight against the anti-Christ 7) 100 pound hailstones killing almost everyone on earth.

Do you see Jesus as a wrathful, angry, all-powerful, supernatural being hurling down from heaven by His command 100 pound hailstones onto the people of this earth? What would prompt Him to be so violently angry? Why wouldn't He? When all who have taken the mark of the beast have declared their loyalty to a vile, evil wicked ruler who thinks nothing of ripping open pregnant women and torturing Christians for their loyalty to Jesus and for

blaspheming the Father and burning men and women and children alive. Imagine all the evil of ISIS times 10 and would you not think God would not be angry against such evil?

Then how should we feel about that day? 1) We need to imagine that we deserve a direct hit from a hailstone or a bolt of fire coming from flame throwers like we have seen in the war movies. Why don't we get that treatment? Because Jesus took that flame on the cross for our sins and we are forgiven, acquitted, justified, cleansed and are now on His side of the battle lines. Gospel.

2. When that day comes, every monument built to the glory of man will be destroyed, every ounce of pollution will be eradicated, and even the honors and achievements, and charities (works) will be exposed for what they are-selfish activities designed to bring glory to the achiever. ***and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.***

Every Smithsonian like museum around the world that is dedicated to the glory of mankind's magnificence will be destroyed.

Just like God destroyed the tower of Babel, every Babel like tower today will come crumbling down with earthquakes and fire.

3. Since all our hard earned accomplishments to build worldly legacies and leave houses and cars and cash to our grandchildren is futile (a waste of time) why not invest for eternity by living out holy lives before God and your children/grandchildren. ***Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,***

Holiness is not the abstinence of the "Don't list" it is the fervent following the Lord's instructions in Matthew 5-7. 1) We are to be salt and light in this world, 2) We are to cease being angry with others, 3) We are not to lust 4) or frivolously divorce, 5 we are to be people who keep our word and always tell the truth 6) We are to love our enemies and never retaliate, 7) we are to be generous to the poor, 8) we are to lay up our treasures in heaven 9) we are to not judge others motives, 9) we are to do unto others what we wish they would do to us, 10)

4. Since the future is so much better than the present, why wouldn't we Christians be focusing on that glorious day?
 - If we are anxiously anticipating the arrival of our Lord like a bride looks forward to her wedding day then it will affect the way we live. ***waiting for the coming of the day of God***
 - And, if Jesus will not return until every one of the elect is saved, then why don't we witness to more people knowing that the odds are some of them might be chosen and our gospel sharing will be used of God to finish the harvest. ***hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt***

as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- This is similar to our prayers. Some say if God is going to do it anyway, why pray? We pray because God sovereignly uses our prayers to accomplish his purposes. Just so, God sovereignly uses our witnessing to bring people to Christ and it would then appear as if we had a part in bringing the whole harvest in so the end could come.

Application:

The NT idea of imminence is very real for no matter what generation in history the Lord's appearance has never been more than 70 – 80 years away! Why? At death everyone sees the Lord one way or another.