Remembering Truth When it Really Counts

"… a primer to guard against false teaching by…"

Understanding Our Promise (3:11-18)

Be Transformed for His Glory

Teachers: Nathan Wells & Dave Torres

2 Peter Outline – To date…and "Coming Soon"

True and False Prophesy												
Chapter 1							Chapter 2				Chapter 3	
Understanding our Faith				Understanding our Scriptures			Understanding our Adversaries				Understanding our Promise	
Greeting to the Saints	Our Quest: To Know Our God	Our Journey: To Become More Like Him	Our Results: To be Effective	Our Reminder: To Remember	Our Eyewitnesses: The Apostles	Our Inspiration: The Holy Spirit	Their Infiltration: False Teachers are Deceptive	Their Inquity: False Teachers will be Judged	Their Impurity: False Teachers are Preverted	Their Impact: False Teachers are Devastating	Its Certainty: Don't Lose Hope	Its Power: Be Transformed for His Glory
2 Pet. 1:1-2	2 Pet. 1:2-3	2 Pet. 1:4-7	2 Pet. 1:8-11	2 Pet. 1:12-15	2 Pet. 2:16-18	2 Pet. 1:19-21	2 Pet. 2:1-3a	2 Pet. 2:3b-10a	2 Pet. 1:10b-16	2 Pet. 2:17-22	2 Pet. 3:1-10	2 Pet. 3:11-18
Development of Faith							Denunciation of False Teachers				Design of The Future	
Holiness							Heresy				Hope	
True Knowledge							False Knowledge				Day of the Lord	
Cultivating Christlike Character							Condemning False Teachers				Confidence in the Return of Christ	

Be Transformed for His Glory (2 Pet. 3:11-18)

Our Objective: What does God want us to learn?

As believers in Christ, we are to be eagerly expecting and looking forward to His Coming again, with holiness and godliness in all our behavior. It will be the day when God completes His dealing with sin in His creation. Therefore, we are to recognize the reality of coming judgment and the destruction of all things.

Understanding our Promise

2 Peter 3:11-18

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people
ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the
heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!
13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth,
in which righteousness dwells.
14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by
Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved
brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,
16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some
things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also
the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.
17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you
are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own
steadfastness,
18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To
Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Anticipating the Coming of the Lord

In 2 Peter 3, Peter is focusing on the events associated with the second coming of Christ to earth. In chapter 1 he wrote about the *redemption* provided at His first coming. In the first part of chapter 3 he focused attention on the assurance of the second coming and the judgment that will take place then. He referred to the events around the second coming as the "*Day of the Lord*." (3:10)

1. "the day of the Lord" – is a *Period of time* encompassing a number of events.

2. All these events are tied together with the coming of Christ to earth, the judgment that will take place and the ultimate redemption of God's creation. Some of the major events that will take place include:

Understanding our Promise

"Day of the Lord"

Jesus' Death, Resurrention, Ascension	Church Age	Rapture of the Saved	7-Yr. Tribulation	Return of Christ in Glory	1000 Yr. Reign	White Throne Judgment/ Descruction	New Heaven & New Earth

1 Thess. 4:16,17

Rev. 19:11-16

2 Peter 3:10-13

"Day of the Lord"

Some of the major events that will take place include:

a. *Rapture of the Saved* (1 Thess. 4:16,17) – True believers brought into the presence of God

b. *Seven-year Tribulation* (Rev. 6:15-17) – God's wrath poured out on a sinful world; and at His working to bring Israel to its knees and draw it to faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

c. *Return of Christ in Glory* (Rev. 19:11-16) – The enemies of the Lord will be destroyed.

"Day of the Lord"

d. *Establishment of the millennial kingdom* (Rev. 20:1-7 – Christ will reign in righteousness.

e. *White throne judgment*; and *Destruction of earth* (Rev. 20:11-15) – God's final judgment on all who have rejected Him by faith.

f. *New Heaven & new earth* (2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1)

Peter's focal point has been on judgment and destruction because this is what the false teachers want to deny. (2 Pet. 3:4) They want to deny that Jesus Christ is coming again, and bothered by His dealing with sin and judging the wicked.

Is this true today? (2 Tim 4:1-4)

A Call for Steadfastness

Peter has been reminding his readers that judgment will come and God has a purpose in why it has not yet happened. He is going to elaborate on that purpose beginning with verse 11.

1. 2 Pet. 3:11: "Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way,…" – refers to verse 10, the ___*heavens*___, the ___*earth*___ , and all its works are going to be destroyed.

2. Since this is going to happen, "…what sort of people ought you to be in ___*holy conduct and godliness*___." What is Peter asking us to recognize?

A Call for Steadfastness

a. Holiness and godliness is to characterize Everything we do.

b. Peter began this concept back in chapter 1 and in his first letter. (2 Pet. 1:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:13) – God provides Power to live godly lives.

c. Peter is implying that if you really know the living God, if you really understand the reality of His coming again, then you are driven to the pursuit of holiness and godliness in your Behavior and conduct.

A Call for Steadfastness

3. 2 Pet. 3:12: "looking for and hastening" – used in verse 12, 13, 14 – Our behavior and conduct is motivated by *expectation and desire*. Believers have a different *perspective* and *focus* of life.

   a. We are not to fear the future day of the Lord, but *eagerly hope* for it. (1 Cor. 1:7; 16:22; 1 John 2:28, 3:3)

4. "…the coming of the day of God…" - Rev. 16:14; 1 Cor. 15:28; Rom. 8:18-23)

A Call for Steadfastness

5. 2 Pet. 3:13: "But according to His promise…" – the "promise" of a new *heaven and earth* is rooted in the OT. (Ps. 102:25; Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 2:19-21)

God *promised* and that *promise* will come true!

6. God will create a "new heavens and new earth" (Matt.24:35)

   a. There is a connection with the old because they are "new" heavens and earth. "New" – *New in quality*, *different*, *unlike anything previous*.

A Call for Steadfastness

b. Precedence – 1&2 Peter: First heavens and earth suffered *destruction by the flood*.

c. This time, in an even greater, more complete way, the earth and heavens will be radically altered and made completely *new* when they are destroyed by *fire* and the *re-created* by God.

d. "But it has been so long." – *we must see it from God's perspective*.

e. The new heavens and new earth will be the *residence of righteousness*. What does this mean?

(Rev. 21:1-4, 22-27; Isa. 60:19-22)

A Call for Steadfastness

7. 2 Pet. 3:14 Peter commands *diligence* in our pursuit of holiness and godliness. (2 Pet. 5-11)

   a. Diligence in pursuit by what resources/means?

8. "Peace" of salvation *marks believers* (Rom 5:1; Rom. 8:1)

9. Believers should have a *spotless character* and a *Blameless reputation*. These are in contrast to the false teachers (2 Pet. 2:13), but like Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:19)

Bridge to Today

a. The *Purity of the Savior* is to manifest itself in our lives as His people.

b. At His second coming, we must be diligent to be found by Him in *peace* and to be *producing the evidences* of our salvation. Does this mean as a Christian, we live without sin?

c. As a child of God walking in obedience to Him, how does it address the sin that keeps asserting itself in your life?

d. For believers, the promise of Christ's return serves as a powerful incentive for holy living. Why? What are some practical things believers should be practicing?

Final take away…

We as believers are to eagerly expecting and looking forward to that day when:

- He will take possession of all.
- Ultimately, we will savor in the glory of new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells – a glorious destiny for those who are redeemed.
- Yet, a frightful destiny for those who reject the free gift of life in Jesus Christ.