

Series: 2 Peter
Title: Christ Shall Return
Text: 2 Peter 3: 1-14
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In this epistle, the chief end for Peter writes is to stir us up to live a holy life, in all godliness, as we watch and pray for our Lord's return. The Lord Jesus will return very soon. Believe Christ, live godly, watch and pray.

Title: Christ Shall Return

2 Peter 3: 1: This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

BELOVED is a title Peter uses this 3 times in this chapter. Every believer is "beloved" of God.

- Chosen by God the Father
- Redeemed by God the Son, Christ Jesus
- Regenerated by God the Holy Spirit

Believers are beloved of one another—they were Peter's beloved.

1 John 5:1:...every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

- Born of same Spirit, same heavenly Father
- By same precious blood of Christ
- Given like precious faith
- Of the same household of God

Application: We want those we love to be established in the truth so they will be safe in Christ. If you love someone you don't keep back the truth from them, you remind them of the precious promises of God. That was Peter's purpose in writing his first epistle and this epistle—**to stir up your pure minds.**

Our natural mind is defiled by sin. None can make his mind pure. But the believer's mind—conscience—has been made pure—purged, cleansed—by the blood of Christ by the Holy Spirit in the washing of regeneration--"as we walk in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us [continually] from all sin." (1 John 1: 7)

We are reminded—established—stirred up—through this gospel.

Philippians 3: 1:...To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

2 Peter 3: 2: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: [or of the commandment of the Lord and Savior delivered by us the apostles.]

The whole Bible has one unified message because it is God-breathed from the same Holy Spirit. The message is Christ.

Luke 24: 44: [The Lord Jesus said] all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

2 Peter 3: 3: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,...

We live in the last days. The last days began when Christ came the first time and shall continue until Christ returns.

1 John 2:18: Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

So what do scoffers say?

2 Peter 3: 4: And saying, Where is the promise of his coming?

The prophets declared Christ would return. Christ promised it.

John 14: 43: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Angels declared it as his ascension. His apostles declared he would return.

But the chief lust of the natural heart is for God to be a liar and man to be true. Man hates God and hates the thought of having to meet God. **Let God be true and every man a liar.**

Next we see the scoffers argument.

2 Peter 3: 4:...for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

Man looks at how long the world has been in existence and thinks this world shall continue forever.

2 Peter 3: 5: For this they willingly are ignorant of,...

Proposition: Natural man's ignorance is willful ignorance. He refuses to believe the clear word of God. Here are four things men are willfully ignorant.

I. FIRST, NATURAL MAN IS WILLFULLY IGNORANT OF THE FACT THAT GOD, BY THE WORD OF GOD, CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

2 Peter 3: 5: For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

God is Eternal

It is not the earth that is eternal, it is God that is eternal. Instead of looking at creation as everlasting look at the Creator.

John 1: 1: In the beginning was THE WORD, and THE WORD was with God, and THE WORD was God. 2: The same was in the beginning with God. 3: All things were made BY HIM; and WITHOUT HIM was not any thing made that was made. 4: IN HIM was life; and the life was the light of men.

Psalms 33:6: By THE WORD of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of HIS MOUTH.

Colossians 1: 16: For BY HIM were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: ALL THINGS WERE CREATED BY HIM, AND FOR HIM 17: And HE is BEFORE ALL THINGS, and BY HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST.

God made all things. So we would be wise to listen to God and believe God.

Hebrews 11:3: Through FAITH we UNDERSTAND that the worlds were framed BY THE WORD OF GOD, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Natural man makes a huge mistake thinking this world made itself and that this world will last forever. God made it. Only God is eternal.

Application: Turn to Romans 1. If there be any scoffers here this day, you listen carefully to this verse of scripture. You may pass from this life having willfully trying to ignore God's eternal power and Godhead, but when man meets God he will not be able to plead ignorance with God.

Romans 1: 20: For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

So first, men are willfully ignorant that "by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water."

II. SECONDLY, NATURAL MAN IS WILLFULLY IGNORANT OF THE FACT THAT ALL THINGS HAVE NOT CONTINUED AS THEY WERE FROM CREATION. GOD DESTROYED MAN FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

2 Peter 3: 6: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:...

The End from the Beginning

God has shown us the end from the beginning. He has shown us that in the end he shall destroy the world with the ungodly. Learn from the scoffers in Noah's day. In their day, indeed all things had continued the same from creation—for 1656 years. Millions of people lived on earth. Several kinds of industry existed: metal industry, agriculture, arts and sciences. Various classes existed in society just like today: wealthy men, middle class and poor men. Vain religion was thriving. Mankind looked upon themselves as far advanced just as they do today. But what man considers advancement is more and more ungodliness. The earth was as corrupt and violent as it is in our day

Genesis 6:11: The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12: And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. 13: And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Noah declared to them that all would perish except they get in the ark—just as I stand here declaring that all shall perish except you get in Christ. But they scoffed and continued walking after their own lusts, saying, “Where is the promise of his coming?...All things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”
WAS GOD TRUE TO HIS WORD?

Genesis 7:11: In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened....19: And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. 20: Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. [25-30 ft. above the tallest mountain]...22: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. 23: And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

Application: Sinner, don’t be willfully ignorant. 1) God made the earth, he is eternal, not the earth; 2) All things have NOT continued as they were, God has clearly given us an example of how he will one day again destroy this world and all who are not in Christ.

III. THIRDLY, MAN IS WILLFULLY IGNORANT OF THE FACT THAT BY THE SAME WORD OF GOD, THIS WORLD IS NOW HELD IN PLACE, AND SHALL BE DESTROYED AGAIN.

2 Peter 3: 7: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, BY THE SAME WORD, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

The Everlasting Covenant Word is Sure in Christ the Word

After that flood of judgment fell upon the ark in Noah’s day, God made a covenant that he would never destroy this world with water again—as a token, he set a rainbow in the sky. The rainbow—seven colors—is a type of the everlasting covenant between the triune God and Christ. That word of covenant is holding this world in place. When John saw Christ seated in the throne of God—he saw “a rainbow round about the throne.”(Re 4:3) It means, because Christ came, bore the judgment of God, satisfied justice and rose again—justifying those for whom he died—so the everlasting covenant between the triune God and his Christ assures us that not one of his elect shall be lost.

The Word, Christ Jesus, who is God, the Word who created all things, the Word who was made flesh and dwelt among us, the Word who fulfilled all the everlasting covenant word of God for his people, the Word is seated in the throne of God now is hold all things in place. Right now, “the heavens and the earth, which are now, BY THE SAME WORD, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” The scoffer may despise the gospel Word. But by that same Word—the word of his everlasting covenant of grace—the word of his power--this world is held in place. For one reason...

IV. THE EVERLASTING COVENANT WORD OF GOD IS HOLDING ALL THINGS IN PLACE UNTIL CHRIST, BY HIS GOSPEL WORD, CALLS THE VERY LAST ELECT CHILD TO HIM.

2 Peter 3: 8: But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9: The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that ANY should perish, but that ALL should come TO REPENTANCE.

The ‘Uward’ Shall Never Perish

The 'usward' are the beloved, the elect of God, those he chose by his everlasting Word of covenant grace. God is longsuffering, waiting for one reason, God is not willing that any should perish. When it says God is not willing that any should perish—it does not mean that God wishes all would come to repentance—though God takes no pleasure in the day of the wicked.

It means because God shall be glorified in the salvation of every one he elected unto salvation in Christ, because Christ shall not fail, because righteousness demands it, not ANY for whom Christ shall perish but **ALL SHALL BE BROUGHT TO REPENTANCE**. That is why Peter says in verse 15: And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation.

John 6: 37: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

John 6:45: It is written in the prophets, And they shall be ALL taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

In Adams day: the only reason that the LORD did not immediately destroy the world when Adam plunged the entire human race into spiritual death is because God had a chosen elect remnant which he had given to Christ before the world began-- "*Therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious to you*"

In Noah's day: "the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." (I Peter 3: 20)

In Lot's Day: the LORD waited before destroying Sodom and Gomorrah is until his chosen child was delivered. 2 Peter 2: 9: The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

In Isaiah's day: the only reason God did not immediately destroy Judah when the majority looked to Egypt is because the LORD had a chosen remnant in Judah. Isaiah 1:9: Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

In our day: the only reason God has not destroyed this world is because he has an elect remnant scattered throughout the world. "*Therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious to you.*"

Application: Acknowledge what God is teaching in HISTORY—it is HIS STORY! The time of quickening and conversion of each child of God is set by God. Each one Christ redeemed shall be brought to repentance. And when Christ our King and Savior has called out his last elect child, after that the Lord will come.

No One Knows the Hour

2 Peter 3: 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

No man knows the hour of the Lord's return. The Lord said plainly:

Matthew 24: 36: But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

God the Son stood on this earth 2012 short years ago and said,

Luke 17: 26: And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27: They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

Sinner, heed this word. Noah and his family—survived because God called Noah and shut them up in the ark. Noah believed God. Do you? In all those different kinds of animals—see a picture of all the elect people of God—which shall be saved from every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.

Sinner, oh, that you would hear God speaking this hour! There is salvation in Christ Jesus. And everyone under the sound of my voice needs salvation. Repent from your scoffing. Beg God to have mercy on you. If the Spirit of God has broken your heart, if he has given you a willingness to cry to Christ for mercy, then know this—Christ delights to show mercy to sinners.

“The word of faith, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
(Rom 10: 8)

Believer, here is the word to us who believe.

2 Peter 3: 11: Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13: Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14: Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Amen!