

#4 Living in Light of the Lord's Return

2 Peter 3:1-18

1. Some people need to be **CONSTANTLY REMINDED** of things they already know

2 Peter 3:1 *This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles...*

2. Some people **CAST DOUBT** on the Second Coming of Christ and the Future Judgment

2 Peter 3:3 *...knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."*

3. Some people **CONVENIENTLY OVERLOOK** how God has indeed intervened in the world in times past

2 Peter 3:5 *For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.*

4. Some people ought to be **COMPLETELY TERRIFIED** of God's impending judgment when Christ does return

2 Peter 3:7 *But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.*

5. Some people **CLEARLY MISINTERPRET** God's intent in "delaying" Christ's Return for so long

2 Peter 3:8 *But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ 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.*

6. Some people understand that the end of the age will signal the end of great opportunity, so they **CONSCIOUSLY COMMIT** to living in light of the Lord's Imminent Return throughout their remaining days

2 Peter 3:11-18

FIVE CHALLENGES to God's People for Living in Light of the Lord's Imminent Return

- #1: **GODLY LIVING!** Live lives of godliness that reflect the character of The One Who is Coming for Us 3:11
- #2: **EAGER ANTICIPATION!** Look forward with great hope to seeing Jesus face-to-face one day, when this world will be judged and righteousness will prevail in a new creation 3:12-13
- #3: **PURITY AND PEACE.** Strive to be free from contamination by this present world, pursuing holiness and harmony instead 3:14
- #4: **EVANGELISTIC ZEAL!** Seize opportunities to bring the message of salvation to those who don't yet know the Lord, while there is still time 3:15-16
- #5: **DISCERNING AND DEVELOPING!** Remain stable in the faith by (a) recognizing false teachers and resisting their influence, and (b) intentionally growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus 3:17-18

My takeaway from today's sermon...

Steve Benninger, Lead Pastor
New Life Church/November 18 & 19, 2017