

The Second Coming of Christ and Our Conduct

2 Peter 3:10-18

I. As we have been studying through 2Peter two facts about the false teachers have been made clear.

1. They did not believe in second coming of Christ, **2Pet. 3:3,4**
2. They chose to live a life that demonstrated their disbelief, **2Pet. 2:12-15**

II. In 2 Peter 3:4-9, the false teachers heresies are silenced when Peter disproves their arguments for not believing in the second coming of Christ.

1. They claimed that everything has continued in the same way since creation, v.4
2. Peter shows this isn't true and can be proven in the creation of the world and the flood which came later, v.5-6
3. He also makes it clear these events took place by the word of God. He goes on to say the present heavens and earth are being reserved for judgment by that same word.
4. In other words, one took place by the word of God and so will the other.

III. As Peter closes out this epistle he turns his attention to the surety of the second coming of Christ. In his closing statements he describes what the second coming of Christ will be like.

IV. But he doesn't stop there, he then turns his attention to those who believe in the second coming and he gives them a warning and exhortation in the form of a question. **v.11**

V. Peter is going to show that those who know Jesus is coming again will demonstrate this by living a life in accordance with holy conduct and godliness.

Trans: To begin lets consider Peter's description of Christ's second coming.

1. The description of His second coming.

A. 2Peter 3:10

B. In this description Peter reveals some startling facts that leaves those who don't follow Christ without hope.

1. He begins by speaking of "The Day of the Lord"
 - a. These people understood what this meant.
 - b. In the past this phrase generally referred to coming judgment.

Isa. 2:12; 13:6-9

Ezek 30:3

1Cor. 5:5

- c. He says it will come, judgment is coming, there is no question about it.

2. He will come like a thief.
 - a. The word for thief is where we get our word “Clepto”
 - b. It means to remove secretly, to take away stealthily.
 - c. In other words, the time will be unknown, **1Thess. 5:1-2**

3. The Heavens will pass away with a roar.
 - a. The Heavens will cease to be.
 - b. This word is used in reference to the Christians past life in, **1Peter 4:3**
 - c. The heavens refer to the atmosphere around our planet.
 - d. It will take place with the sound of a mighty rushing wind.

4. Elements will be destroyed with intense heat.
 - a. In all probability the word elements refer to all that make up our planet.
 - b. The word destroyed can also be translated loosed.
 - c. What we have here are the atoms that hold all things together being loosed and dissolved with intense heat.

5. The earth and its works will be burned up.
 - a. This points more to the sinfulness of man rather than to the physical creation, because it speaks of works that will be laid bare.
 - b. Some later manuscripts render the word, “burned up” as laid bare.
 - c. This is the concept that after all the physical is taken out of the way, all that remains is the works of man while on this earth, and this will be revealed.
 - d. If it is speaking literally of the earth and its works being burned up, the result is the same. Complete destruction.

Appl: As Peter begins to describe what will take place at the second coming of Christ his focus is on the destruction of the earth.

He doesn't speak of Christ coming in His glory, as he does in **1Pet. 4:13**

Why? Peter wants these false teachers to know that there is no escape. He is not trying to speak of Jesus' glory at his coming, but rather showing that there will be a price to be paid for not following the teachings of Christ.

All that these false teachers hold dear will be utterly destroyed. Nothing will be left except for the exposing of their deeds. There will be no escape for them.

This is going to be a world wide destruction, just like the flood of Noah's day those sinners could not escape, neither will these false teachers.

Trans: As Peter continues his discussion he now gives a warning and exhortation in the form of a question. This is our second point.

2. Maintain proper conduct knowing He will come again.

A. 2Peter 3:11-18

B. The warning is seen when he uses the phrase “since all things are to be destroyed”, **v.11**

1. The participle “be destroyed” is in the present tense.
2. This implies the certainty of what is being said
3. They can be certain that the destruction of the world will take place.

C. Peter then asks a question in **v.11**

1. Knowing judgment is coming, what sort of people should you be?
2. The Greek word for “what sort of people” means literally, “of what country”
3. This brings to mind, **Heb. 11:13-16**
4. The words “should you be” denote continuous action.
5. In Holy conduct, **1Pet. 1:15**
6. In Godliness

D. The reason this is asked is because of what is to come, **v.13**

1. We’re looking for a new heavens and a new earth.
2. Some might see this as a rejuvenated physical place, but this is not easily supported, **Heb. 1:10-13**
3. Whatever the place it makes no difference, it is where righteousness dwells, which excludes the false teachers and includes those of Holy conduct and godliness.

E. Because the earth and its works are going to be destroyed and because we are looking for a new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells we are then instructed in how we are to live while we sojourn on this earth, in **v.14-18**

1. We are to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.
 - a. We are to be like a sacrificial offering.
 - b. Preparing ourselves for what is ahead, a dwelling place of righteousness
2. We are to regard His patience as salvation, unlike the false teachers, **v.15**
3. We are to be on guard against false teachers.
 - a. Why?
 - b. Because these untaught and unstable men distort the scriptures to their own destruction, **Gal. 1:6-8**
4. We are to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - a. We are to grow in God’s favor (grace) by acquiring as much information about Jesus as possible.
 - b. We grow in God’s favor by drawing nearer to His Son.

App: As Peter closes out this epistle he points the faithful in the direction they are to be heading.

There is no sense going back over what is taking place with the false teachers, save the coming judgment.

What lies ahead becomes the motivation for what now is.

For the Christian, knowing that Christ is coming, it is imperative that we continually live a life of Holy conduct in reverence to God.

We must always be moving closer to God, through a true knowledge of His son and by moving away from the false teachers.

In doing so we will grow in God's favor and a place in the new heavens and the new earth will be preserved for us.

The false teachers will face their own fate.