



Willful Ignorance

2 Peter 3:1-7

Hosea 4:1-6; 1 John 3:1-10

Watching the Moon

Lie #11

Consequences of Not Groaning for Christ's Return (2 Peter 3)

- Peter has been warning his readers of false teachers through out his letter.
- Peter understood the danger of false teachers. They had already infiltrated the Church and were *poisoning* her with deadly false doctrine.
- Peter knew that the false teachers were great counterfeiters of the truth. Meditate on "counterfeiters".
- BUT Peter encouraged his readers that they had the SURE WORD of God. (2 Peter 1:19-21)
- In this chapter he warns about a specific warning of false teachers bringing in "destructive" doctrines concerning the second coming of Christ.
- Christ gave a sever warning for those who did not "prepare" themselves for His second coming. (Luke 12:46-48).
- When Christians fail to anticipate Christ's coming with eagerness they become complacent in the way they live!
★ Consider carefully: 1 John 3:1-3. Those who actively hope for the return of Christ **purify** themselves as He is pure! They know that one day they will stand before their Lord and answer for how they lived. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10; Romans 2:5-11)

BELOVED (2 Peter 3:1)

- This is Peter's second letter.
- This letter is addressed to "the elect" just as his first letter. (1 Peter 1:1-2)
- After giving the severe warning of SURE JUDGMENT in chapter two he continues to warn them of false teachers.
- Peter writes to the "beloved". This title needs to be applied two ways:
 - ① Peter was writing to those whom he loved. It is his pastoral ("shepherd's") heart writing warning those whom he loves of "savage wolves" that will attack them. (As Paul, Acts 20:29; as Christ, Matthew 7:15)

- ② “Beloved” comes from the mouth of God (2 Timothy 3:16) giving His “elect” warnings throughout all ages. God is speaking to those whom He loves. “The LORD is my Shepherd . . .” (Psalm 23)
- Peter’s purpose: “to stir up” (διεγείρω *diegeiro*) “to wake up, awaken, arouse from sleep”; “to arouse the mind”; “to render active”. Peter does not want his readers to become complacent! - **See Zephaniah 1:12.**
 - Peter wanted to “stir up” their **minds**! A renewed mind inflames the **emotions** which move the **will**. Remember Romans 12:1-2.
 - ✗ False teacher stir up the emotions. (Romans 16:18; Matthew 13:20-22; Colossians 2:4, 8; Matthew 15:11-13)
 - ✗ 2 Timothy 4:3-4 with Isaiah 30:10-11; Jeremiah 23:17;
 - Peter was addressing their “**pure** (sincere, genuine, “tested by sunlight”) minds. If not guarded our minds (hearts) can easily become polluted with the teachings, philosophies, and things of the world. (Proverbs 4:23; Deuteronomy 4:9; Colossians 2:8)
 - Peter wrote both letters to **remind** his readers of truths, doctrines and warnings.
 - James warned us of being “forgetful hearers”. (James 1:22-24)

MINDFUL (2 Peter 3:2)

- Peter exhorted his readers to be “**mindful**” of Scripture.
- Psalm 1:1-3, Christians meditate on the Word of God “day and night”. They are **mindful** of the things of God (Mark 8:33) as revealed in God’s Word. (Psalm 119:97-99; Joshua 1:8; 1 Timothy 4:15-16)
- Peter pointed to the writings of the Old Testament prophets. To be mindful of these writings one must be a student of the Old Testament. Remember, Peter was writing to the “elect” – Christians.
- Peter speaks of “**the commandment**” of “us”, the apostles of the Lord and Saviour.
 - ★ Peter knew that his letters were the Word of God. Peter was commissioned by Christ to take God’s Word to the Church.
 - Paul wrote Timothy to “keep this **commandment** without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing”. (1 Timothy 6:14)
 - Peter speaks of “**the commandment of the apostles**”, and Paul warns Titus not to follow the commandments of men! (Titus 1:14; Colossians 2:8)
 - ★ Peter also understood that Paul’s letters were Scripture. (3:16)
 - ★ The writings of the apostles carry the same authority as God! (Luke 10:16) To ignore the apostles is to ignore Christ and to ignore Christ is to ignore God.

Knowing This First (2 Peter 3:3)

- “knowing” – Christianity is based on FACTS and TRUTHS – NOT feelings or opinions. Christians are “**to know**” what they believe! John uses the verb “to know” 26 times in 1 John. For example: 1 John 2:3-5.

- “first” – **First in priority!** Peter was warning his readers of the tactics of the enemy. Peter used this phrase in 2 Peter 1:20 - assuring us we had the sure word of God.
- “in the last days” – time between the first and second comings of Christ. (Acts 2:17; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Hebrews 1:2; James 5:3; 1 Peter 1:20; 1 John 2:18; Jude 18) - the is the Harvest season - Luke 10:2.
- “mockers” or “scoffers” – this has been, and continues to be, a tactic of the enemy. It is designed to make believers look and feel like fools.
- False teachers ridiculed the teaching of Christ’s second coming because they do not want to feel the guilt of accountability! They want to “follow after their own lusts”. So, they “turn the grace of God into lewdness and deny the Lordship of Christ”. (Jude 4)

Willful Ignorance (2 Peter 3:4-6)

- The Old Testament was written and preserved for the learning of the Church. (Romans 15:4)
- ✗ YET, very, very few of today’s Christians are serious students of the Old Testament - and are comfortable in this sin.
- ✗ Christ taught, “Man lives on every Word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Luke 4:4) Every word includes His Word in the Old Testament.
- (v. 4) “Where is the promise of His coming?” – a denial of God’s promise!
- Ever since the beginning things have not changed! So, they say!
- (v. 5) “they **willfully** forget or ignorant or neglect” – They shut their eyes to the facts and truths of God’s Word! (See Romans 1:18-25)
 - They “suppress the truth” that the universe was created “by the Word of God” - Genesis 1; Psalm 33:6. Very few “christians” today believe in a six day creation and a young earth.
 - Genesis 1:1 marked the beginning of space, matter and time. There was no space, matter, or time before Genesis 1:1. There was only a triune God. And then HE spoke and things changed.
- (v. 6) The world was destroyed by an act of God. (Genesis 6-8)
- False teachers ignore history as recorded in the Word of God.
- ★ **Consequences of REJECTING the knowledge recorded in the Word of God: Hosea 4:1-6 - do you take these verses seriously?**

BUT Judgment IS Coming (2 Peter 3:7)

- Earlier, Peter demonstrated that God is **SERIOUS** about judgment. God did not spare the fallen angels, the whole generation during Noah’s times, and Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Peter 2:4-10)
- Christ warned that it will be more tolerable for Sodom in judgment than those who have been given much. **MEDITATE** on Luke 12:48 with Matthew 11:23-24.
- Now Peter speaks to the certainty of God’s judgment coming His way.

- **BUT** the same Word that created the heavens and earth has declared that “the heavens and earth which are now **preserved** by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” God has appointed a day. (Acts 17:31)
- The heavens and earth are **preserved** by the Word of God. (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 4:11)
- **There is a day of judgment!** (Acts 17:30-31; Jude 14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:6-11; Revelation 20:11-15) **There is a day of accountability!**
- ALL judgment has been given to Christ. (John 5:22-23, 27; Acts 10:42; 2 Timothy 4:1)

What Must We Learn & DO

- ① We must be **watching** for the coming of Christ. (Luke 12:37-43; Hebrews 9:28; Philippians 3:20-21; Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2 Peter 3:12-14; 1 Corinthians 1:7; 2 Timothy 4:8)
- ② We must **purify** ourselves just as He is pure. (1 John 3:1-3; 2 Cor 7:1)
 - By continually examining ourselves to see if we are in **the** faith. (2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10)
 - By continually confessing our sins. (1 John 1:8-10)
 - By continually repenting of our sins. (Luke 13:1-5; Acts 17:30)
- ③ We must use the Word of God to “stir up” our minds and not become complacent or sluggish. (2 Peter 3:1; Zephaniah 1:12; Heb 6:11-2)
- ④ We must acknowledge **the authority** of all Scripture. (2 Peter 3:2; John 17:17; Luke 10:16) **To ignore God’s Word is to ignore God Himself.**
- ⑤ We must make our daily “aim”, “focus”, “labor” to live in such a way to be “well pleasing” in His sight. (2 Corinthians 5:9; Colossians 1:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; 1 John 3:22)