

II Peter – The Day of the Lord II Pet. 3:1-15

Thesis: To give us assurance of the return of Christ.

Introduction:

Peter reminds them of the words of the prophets and the apostles so that they can know that Christ is coming again. They know that the word of God is true. They know that false teachers are coming and what their punishment will be. Now Peter wants to remind them that Christ is going to return. It is a promise that has been given by God and one that will be fulfilled.

I. Scoffers will come (3:1-4).

A. There were going to be those who did not believe that Jesus was coming back (3:3-4).

1. Their basic argument would be that because the world continues as it has from the beginning, Christ will not come back.
2. There have always been those who would try to destroy the soul of others.
3. **Jd. 1:17-18** (Jude understood that mockers would come) - *But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: { 18 } how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.*

B. Just as there were doubters then, there are doubters today.

1. Just look at the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union).
 - a. They have recently threatened to sue Los Angeles County because their county seal has a cross on it.
 - b. They have done this to numerous other counties and have vowed continue.
 - c. They are also opposed to displaying any signs of Christianity (including the cross and the 10 Commandments) in public places.
 - d. Their name might as well be changed to the Anti Christian Liberty Union; because they are against all things that are related to Christ.
2. While the point is not to strictly condemn the ACLU, it is to show that there are scoffers of Christianity in our world today.

II. God is faithful to His word (3:5-10).

A. Notice the power of God's word (3:5-6).

1. Peter gives two examples that demonstrate the power of the word of God.
 - a. Creation occurred by the word of God (3:5)
 - 1) **Gen. 1:1, 6-10** - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. {6} Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." {7} Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. {8} And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. {9} Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. {10} And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.
 - 2) **Ps. 33:6** - By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.
 - 3) **Heb. 11:3** - By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.
 - b. The flood occurred by the word of God (3:6).
 - 1) **Gen. 7:1-24**
 - a) God had promised that He was going to flood the earth; and He did.
 - b) It rained for 40 days and nights (7:12); and the water remained on the earth for 150 days (7:24).
 - 2) This was done by the word of God.
2. The reason Peter uses these examples is so that we can understand that God is faithful to His word.

B. God is faithful to His word (3:8-9).

1. When it comes to the fulfillment of His word, God is not as concerned with the exact time as we are (3:8).
 - a. God does things "in due time" (that is, at the proper time).
 - b. **Ps. 90:4** (a prayer of Moses dealing with the eternity of God and the frailty of man) - *For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.*
2. There is a purpose to the delay of the return of Christ (3:9).
 - a. The purpose is to give us time to repent.
 - b. It is for our benefit, not His, that He has delayed the return of His Son.
 - c. In fact, Peter goes on to say "that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation" (3:15).

C. Christ is coming again (3:10).

1. Just as God was faithful to His word in the creation and the flood, God will be faithful to His word in the return of Christ.
2. This is something that the brethren knew; Peter is simply reminding them of this fact.

III. Because God is faithful to His word, and He has promised that Christ will come again, we must be ready for His coming (3:11-15).

A. Because of the return of Christ, Peter gives us a description of what our lives ought to be like (3:11).

1. We should live in holiness and godliness.
 - a. I Pet. 1:15-16 - but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, {16} because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”
 - b. I Pet. 2:11-12 - Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, {12} having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
2. The reason we should live this way is so that we can “be found by Him in peace” (3:14).
 - a. We are at peace with God when we are obedient to Him.
 - b. There is peace because there is no fear of the wrath of God.

B. The return of Christ should be a day that we can look forward to (3:11-14).

1. Three times in these verses Peter says that we look forward to the return of Christ.
2. Today, if we are faithful to Him and are “found by Him in peace,” we can look forward to this great day.

Conclusion:

We, today, know that Christ is going to return.
Are you ready for His return?