



Keep Focused

May 1, 2022

2 Peter 3:1-10

“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you 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 Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Introduction: A personal letter to the church- individual people

Ill.- 2 kinds of letters I have received!

- 1- Mean letters from critics.
- 2- Nice letters from my girlfriend. What would she say? How was she doing? Did she love me? Perfume?

➤ **Peter brings focus to his relationship with the people **Beloved****

means dear, dear friend, dear to one's heart or very much loved and expresses strong love for and affection toward his readers

Expresses his special affection and tenderness for them, by calling them **beloved**, hereby evidencing that he added to godliness brotherly-kindness, as he had exhorted them to do. Ministers must be examples of love and affection, as well as life and conversation.

It is imperative to have leaders that love their people!

Ill.- haircut- pastor – don't like the people

Another pastor- speaking sarcastically against the people of his church.

➤ **Peter brings focus to foundational truth- **Mindful of the words****

- Peter had already written about the importance of being reminded (2 Peter 1:12-13).

Present tense indicates Peter's desire was to continually awaken his readers and to stimulate (their) wholesome thinking. (NLT) It makes one think that ringing through his mind must have been the words of Jesus to Peter when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers" (Lk 22:32)

Reminder (hupomnesis from **hupó** = under + **mimnesko** = to remind) means a reminding or recollection, a remembrance.

Hupomnesis - 3x in 3v - 2Timothy1:5; 2 Peter 1:13; 3:1

Peter sought to impress on his readers the truth they already knew so that their sanctified reason and spiritual discernment would be able to detect and refute the purveyors of false doctrine. As someone has well said, **men more frequently require to be reminded than informed!** Note the prefix "**hupo**" which means "**under**". The idea then is that once they were awakened, everything that they had previously learned gets up under them, continues to keep them stirred and continues to keep them stable.

Application - It isn't enough just to quote a verse of Scripture. It must be memorized, meditated on, or repeated, until it captivates our minds and grips our souls. We win the battle of joy in your mind by focusing on the Holy, wholesome Scriptures.

"I have a good *memory*. My problem is that my *forgettery* is even better."

Romans 16:- ¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.

¹⁷ Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, **contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.** ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. ¹⁹ For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. ²⁰ And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

The Bible is not outdated and ancient! The schools have it wrong!

Ill. Not appreciating antiques any more.

- **Peter brings focus to the scoffers knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days**

✓ Walk according to their own lusts

Remember that "loose" morals are a reflection of "loose" doctrine in a Biblical sense. Aberrant creed issues forth in aberrant conduct. Wrong belief produces wrong behavior.

These are "men whose only guide in life is what they want for themselves" (Phillips), "sarcastic scoffers whose life is ruled by their passions" (New Jerusalem Bible), "being propelled by their own evil urges" (NET), "going where their own passions lead" (Goodspeed), "behaving in line with their own lusts" (Berkley), for they are "men governed by their own passions." (Weymouth).

If one's lifestyle contradicts the Word of God, he or she must either change their lifestyle or "change" the Word of God and these mockers choose the latter path. They scoffed at the doctrine of God's righteous judgment especially the judgment that is associated with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."- Thomas Jefferson- 3rd president

The world is filled with lust!

Today's movies- language

Most NT uses of **epithumia** describe strong desires which are perverted and unrestrained and which originate from our SIN (flesh) nature, which is corrupt and fallen.

- The state of our world today!!

Judges 17:6- In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

✓ They challenge the truth of God

Martin Luther (1483-1546) was looking for His return and this stimulated him to write...

The darkness grows thicker around us, and godly servants of the Most High become rarer and more rare. Impiety and licentiousness are rampant throughout the world, and we live like pigs, like wild beasts, devoid of all reason. But a voice will soon be heard thundering forth: 'Behold, the bridegroom cometh!' God will not be able to bear this wicked world much longer, but will come, with the dreadful day, and chastise the scorners of his Word."

“Every time a blasphemer opens his mouth to deny the truth of revelation, he will help to confirm us in our conviction of the very truth which he denies. The Holy Ghost told us, by the pen of Peter, that it would be so; and now we see how truly he wrote.”
(Spurgeon)

“The argument of the false teachers is essentially a naturalistic one – a kind of uniformitarianism that rules out divine intervention in history.” (Blum)

A recent cartoon depicts a man at his desk looking at a computer screen, while outside his open office window another man is flying past, having just jumped from the top of the building. The man at the desk says to the jumper, “Tough luck, Conners. The market has gone up 1,200 points since you jumped.” So much for assuming that things will always be the way they are right now.

BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen. [Revelation 1:7](#)

[2 Thessalonians 1:7-12](#)

"Where is the God of justice?" asked the evil men of Malachi's day ([Malachi 2:17](#)). "Where is your God?" the heathen demanded of the Psalmist ([Psalms 42:3](#); [Psalms 79:10](#)). "Where is the word of the Lord?" his enemies asked Jeremiah ([Jeremiah 17:15](#)). In every case the implication of the question is that the thing or the person asked about does not exist. The heretics of Peter's day were denying that Jesus Christ would ever come again. It will be best here at the beginning to summarize their argument and Peter's answer to it. ([2 Peter 3-1 - William Barclay's Daily Study Bible](#))

✓ They willingly forget creation

[Dr. Henry Morris](#) - It is remarkable that evolutionism (Darwinianism) which is currently such dominant theory of the origin and meaning of life is based on absolutely no verifiable evidence. There is simply no scientific or historical evidence that evolution has taken place. In fact, the most basic laws of science (laws of probability and thermodynamics) prove that genuine macro-evolution could not happen at all. As Peter prophesied, this belief would be based on "**willful ignorance**"... which is why Paul categorically stated that such "suppressers of the truth" (the 2 major previous divine cataclysmic events—creation and the flood) are "**without excuse**"

Let all the earth fear the LORD. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. ([Psalm 33:8-9](#))

Creationist Dr. Henry Morris explains **the heavens existed long ago** this way... Evolutionists, whether they are atheistic, pantheistic, deistic, or theistic evolutionists, **willingly ignore** God's testimony that the heavens and the earth did not

evolve by continuing natural processes but were called into existence by God's omnipotent Word, fully complete and functioning from the beginning ([Genesis 1:1-2:3](#); [Exodus 20:8-11](#); [Psalm 33:6-9](#); [Hebrews 4:3,10](#); [11:3](#)). The only reason God took as long as six natural days to finish the whole creation was to serve as a pattern for man's six-day work week ([Ex 20:8, 9, 11](#)). The various theories of cosmic evolution, stellar evolution and planetary evolution are all unproven and internally destructive, as are the various theories of chemical evolution, organic evolution, human evolution and cultural evolution. **There are now thousands of fully qualified scientists, some from every field of science, who have studied the scientific evidence, pro and con, who have come to the conviction that the Biblical record of earth history is precisely correct and that evolutionary theory is totally false** ([Defenders Study Bible. World Publishing](#))

✓ They don't understand the future of the earth

John Piper emphasizes just how **modern** this heretical reasoning is: This is an amazingly modern argument for rejecting the supernatural, bodily Second Coming. It simply says, the laws of nature are constant and unchanging. The sun has come up and gone down, the seasons have followed each other, the tides have risen and fallen for thousands of years in perfect order. Therefore we must expect this constancy for the future, and any thought that the sky might be rolled up like a scroll and the earth purged with global, fiery judgment by the returning Christ is unimaginable and unwarranted. This is exactly the position of much modern science and there are hundreds of pastors and theologians in the churches and seminaries today who reject a physical second coming and future judgment for the same reason

The famous preacher Robert G. Lee once delivered what has come to be one of the most famous sermons of the 20th Century entitled [Payday Someday](#) and in each of literally thousands of times he preached this truth around the world, many turned to Christ.

When I was pastor of the First Baptist Church of New Orleans, all that I preached and taught was sent out over the radio. In my "fan mail" I received letters from a young man who called himself "Chief of the Kangaroo Court."

...The nurse, with little ado, introduced me to the young man, saying: "This, sir, is the Chief of the Kangaroo Court." I found myself looking into two of the wildest, weirdest eyes I have ever seen. As kindly as I could, I spoke, saying "Hello." "Howdy do?" he answered in a voice that was a discourteous and furious snarl -- more like the voice of a mad wolf than the voice of a rational man. "Is there something I can do for you?" I asked as kindly as I could speak. "No. Nothing! Not a thing. Nothin' 'tall! -- unless you throw my body to the buzzards when I am dead -- if the buzzards will have it!" he said, with half a shout and with a sort of fierce resentment that made me wonder why he had ever sent for me. Then his voice lost some of the snarl -- and he spoke again. "I sent for

you, sir, because I want you to tell these young fellows here something for me. I sent for you because I know you go up and down the land and talk to many young people. And I want you to tell 'em, and tell 'em every chance you get, that the Devil pays only in counterfeit money." Oh! I wish I could tell all men and women and all boys and girls everywhere to believe the truth that Satan always pays in counterfeit money, that all his pearls are paste pearls, that the nectar he offers is poisoned through and through. Oh, that men would learn the truth and be warned by the truth that if they eat the Devil's corn, he will choke them with the cob.

...And the only way I know for any man or woman on earth to escape the sinner's payday on earth and the sinner's hell beyond -- making sure of the Christian's payday on earth and the Christian's heaven beyond the Christian's payday -- is through Christ Jesus, who took the sinner's place upon the Cross, becoming for all sinners all that God must judge, that sin

- **Peter brings focus to the Lord's character but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance**

Peter moves from the **timelessness** of God to the **tenderness** of God.

It is the same thought as expressed in Ezekiel 33:11: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.

“So wonderful is his love towards mankind, that he would have them all to be saved, and is of his own self prepared to bestow salvation on the lost.” (Calvin)

If you have been a believer for any length of time, you are all too painfully aware of how easy it is to become accustomed to God's truth and to take it for granted to the point that we are lulled to sleep by it rather than stimulated to love and good deeds by it!

Not so in haste my heart!
Have faith in God, and wait;
Although He linger long,
He never comes too late.

He never cometh late;
He knoweth what is best;
Vex not thyself in vain;
Until He cometh, rest.

Until He cometh, rest,

Nor grudge the hours that roll;
The feet that wait for God
Are soonest at the goal.

Are soonest at the goal
That is not gained with speed;
Then hold thee still, my heart,
For I shall wait His lead.

REPENTANCE

Vance Havner wrote that "It is a change of mind about sin and self and the Savior."

Easton's Bible Dictionary defines "evangelical repentance" as...

"(1) a true sense of one's own guilt and sinfulness; (2) an apprehension of God's mercy in Christ; (3) an actual hatred of sin ([Psalm 119:128](#); [2Corinthians 7:9, 10](#)) and turning from it to God; and (4) a persistent endeavor after a holy life in a walking with God in the way of his commandments." ([Easton](#))

Application principle- How did I respond to my girlfriends letter? What about you?

- ✓ **Be a student of the Word of God**
- ✓ **Be busy living your life for Jesus**
- ✓ **Experience the Lord's character in your life**
- ✓ **Keep expecting the Lord's return**