

Don't Get Faked Out!

Preparing for Christ's Coming

- This is Peter's second letter, written to remind believers not to become short-sighted or forgetful about their eternal destiny (2 Peter 1.8-9).
- He began his first letter with an emphasis on the living hope we have in Christ and the eternal future that is waiting for us (1 Peter 1.3-9).

- He warned his readers to “keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls” (1 Peter 2.11) and to “be earnest and disciplined in your prayers” because “the end of the world is coming soon” (1 Peter 4.7).

- He began his second letter by urging them to make their relationship in Christ their highest priority and investment of time and effort so that they would not fall away but would “receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1.5, 10-11).

- He emphasized that they must pay attention to God's narrative, not a substitute narrative about life and the future.

You must pay close attention to what [the prophets] wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God. (1.19-21)

Beware of substitute narratives

They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?”

- The Biblical record of past events is to remind us that God has predetermined the timeline of human history, including the return of Christ and the end of life on planet earth.

And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed. (3.7)

- It is a common human tendency but a fatal misconception to think that delay means I don't need to pay attention to what God has said would happen.
- Delay means opportunity, not improbability.

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. (3.9)

- How I live now determines my eternal destiny (3.11, 14)

Beware of substitute narratives; they are as old as sin!

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?” (Genesis 3.1)

A Serious Warning from History

- Peter's reference to the flood of Noah's day was not random; Jesus also used it as a warning against negligent behavior or a dismissive attitude toward God's timeline.

“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.” (Matthew 24.37-39)

- Repeatedly, Jesus warned that delay must not lead to spiritual inattentiveness or negligence.

“So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.” (Matthew 24.42-44)

Dangerous Proximity

- In his first letter, Peter told his readers that we are God's chosen and holy people, called out and set apart.

They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2.8-9)

- Peter used the terms “foreigners and aliens” to describe our status as Christians in this present world.
- He warned that we are engaged in a war against our souls and *must* keep away from worldly desires (the influences of present-day culture).

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. (1 Peter 2.11)

“*The people that the song bothers are usually conservatives or really religious people, but my thing is I grew up listening to this type of music,” explained Cardi. “Other people might think it’s strange and vulgar, but to me it’s almost like really normal, you know what I’m saying?”*

—Cardi B, regarding her song WAP with Megan Thee Stallion

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Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! (Ephesians 5.3-8)

Living for the Promise

But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. (3.13)

- There are five things that we must remember:
 - (1) Salvation through Jesus Christ is our only hope.
 - (2) God is graciously waiting so that all will have the opportunity to repent (to turn from the wrong direction).

- (3) God's plan and promise for the future far outweighs any other gain in this life.
- (4) The identity I choose today and the way I live will determine my "forever future."

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. (3.13-14)

(5) The highest priority and most critical achievement in this life is to live well for Christ.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (3.14, 17-18)