

1-16-22 From 1-16-05
PETER'S TEACHING CONCERNING THE SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD
In Light Of A New Year

TEXT:

II Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

II Peter 3:2 That ye 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 Saviour:

II Peter 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

II Peter 3:4 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 the creation.

II Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

II Peter 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

II Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

II Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

II Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

II Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

II Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

II Peter 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

II Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

II Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

II Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Intro:

As we enter this new year 2022, we often do two things. We look back at what has happened the past year, or years, and then we wonder what God has in store for us the next year. The Bible has many things to tell us about many different subjects. But when it comes to looking to things yet to come, the Bible gives one warning. That warning is that we need to make sure that we are looking forward to the return of the Lord.

In fact, the Bible says that all those who live their lives and order their lives in such a way as to be looking forward to the Lord's return in their lives will receive a crown.

You will receive a crown whether or not Christ returns in your lifetime.

II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

There are some things in life that when they happen they happen so fast that most people are not able to prepare for them.

Take the 9/11 disaster, or certain natural disasters like tsunamis, etc.

For some people the return of Christ is going to be like that. For them it will be a disaster. Yet for us who are children of God we ought to be looking forward to the return of Christ. It is called our blessed hope.

The Apostle Peter wrote in one of his epistles, II Peter Chapter 3, concerning the return of Christ. Today we are going to be looking at his warnings and teaching concerning this important doctrine. We need to be prepared for this event and should not be caught off guard like so many.

***THIS MORNING LET US CONSIDER
PETER'S TEACHING CONCERNING THE END TIME RETURN OF OF OUR LORD
AND OUR NEED TO PREPARE OUR LIVES FOR HIS RETURN.***

***I. PETER'S GOAL IS TO STIR UP OUR MINDS AND REMEMBRANCE
CONCERNING THIS DOCTRINE OF THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD.***

II Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

II Peter 3:2 That ye 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 Saviour:

1. Peter sought to stir up our minds concerning this doctrine.

Many times biblical truth about the second coming is like paint that sits for a while. Colored paint that sits, often all the color goes to the bottom.

Even white paint needs to be stirred up. It matters little how godly you are, the truth of the second coming of Christ needs to be stirred up. Peter says that here.

II Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

There is not one person that has not heard about the return of Christ Yet, the teaching and truth concerning this doctrine has gone to the bottom of our priority list.

When you stir up the truth of Scripture and realize the Bible says we are in the end times, suddenly what you think is a priority ceases to be as much of a priority.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

The word careful means:

merimnao, mer-im-nah'-o; from 3308; to be anxious about:-(be, have) care (-ful), take thought.

From the root word of merimna.. meaning to be distracted by:

----- Dictionary Trace -----
merimna, mer'-im-nah; from 3307 (through the idea of distraction);

In other words much of the cares and problems in this life are but a distraction. What will these things matter when the Lord returns?

Even if the Lord does not return in your life, we have the cruel reality of the fact that there is an appointment for each of us, to meet the Lord.

Whether here there or in the air, we will all meet our creator someday and that day will be soon. And then what will all these distractions mean.

I read through the Bible last year and I am finishing up a little late this year and I am in the book of Revelation. When I started reading the last book of the Bible I read this:

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants **things which must shortly come to pass**; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

I paused at these words. He opens the book with this statement. He says, that these things must shortly come to pass.

I paused and asked myself, DO I BELIEVE THIS? Do I believe that these things will shortly come to pass?

We go about our lives as if He is going to delay another 1000 years. This is not possible. I set out in the morning cumbered about all the things that need to be done. I get so many phone calls in a day that I have to wear a headset to accommodate them all.

I started thinking, what would change if we all of a sudden found ourselves in the throws of a world as described in the book of revelation? In the book He says, behold I come quickly! Do we believe the book?

2. We need to remember what our Lord said about His return.

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Remember this is what He said.

If you order and live your life with this promise in mind you will put everything in proper perspective.

Let us not be distracted from this truth. Stop and realize there are many evils we have to face each day, but don't lose perspective that there is one thing and one thing only that really matters.

3. We need to remember what our Lord said, and the Scripture say about this.

II Peter 3:2 That ye 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 Saviour:

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

When you stir up the paint can, suddenly everything takes on a different color.

Our minds need to stir up the reality of today with the truth that this life is but temporal and Jesus is coming soon! This will color the reality of this world in a different light!

II. DON'T LET THE SCOFFERS DETER YOU FROM SETTING YOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW YEAR. OUR PRIORITY SHOULD BE READYING OURSELVES FOR THE LORD'S RETURN. The scoffers will make light of this.

II Peter 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

II Peter 3:4 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 the creation.

1. Scoffers are here, Walking after their own lusts. Lust. Scoffing. Pride. Sin. All come in one package.

Where is the promise of His coming, these scoffers say.

WHY DO MEN SCOFF? IT IS BECAUSE OF THEIR SINFUL LUSTS.

Our problem today is that our society does not believe there is such a thing as sin and therefore they do not understand what is lust.

WHAT IS LUST?

I am thinking back to a news report I saw a while back about a young man that was a member of a Baptist Church who discovers that he is gay. You don't discover you are gay you are tempted into a gay lifestyle because you are a sinner. People really think being gay is a genetic trait. Now the world has gone beyond that, the big thing today is being transgender.

Recently our government spent \$200,000 to do research on monkeys to try and discover why transgenders were more likely to contract HIV. So they tried to change their sexes, to see what would happen. What is sad is that monkeys don't contract aids!

Monkeys do not naturally seek to be transgenders. Sin comes when you are drawn away of your own lusts, it has nothing to do with biology or genetics.

There is a certain excitement a sinner receives when they get involved in the forbidden. When it is forbidden.

What was so exciting about eating the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden?

What is lust? Lust is the excitement a sinner receives from doing what is forbidden? That old adage is true, people will not want to fish in your pond till you put up a sign that says no fishing allowed.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

WHY ARE PEOPLE GAY OR TRANSGENDER? THE ANSWER IS "IT WAS FORBIDDEN.." THERE WAS NOTHING MORE TO IT THAN THAT. We don't need spend thousands of dollars on experiments to understand it! But the nature of lust is that once it is accepted it will no longer be exciting and then sinners will go on to bigger and better things. Ultimately they will seek to legalize pedophilia and other perversions that are illegal today.

When the norm is short hair, rebels want long hair. This is the nature of sin and lust.

When the norm is long hair a rebel will want short hair. or a shaved head.

When the norm is one earring for girls than one earring will not suffice.

When the norm is for a woman to wear a skirt and men to wear pants than women will want to wear pants and men skirts.

When the norm and acceptable thing is being gay and transgender, then wicked men will pursue fresh lusts and illegal passions. The nature of lust is to do the forbidden. Once it is no longer forbidden sinful men will pursue fresh new pastures to nurture their lusts.

For instance in my High school we had a smoking area for students. However there was always something more exciting about smoking that cigarette in the bathroom.

The norm is fornication and adultery. Those who are given to lust will not be enticed by this. They will seek a more perverted lifestyle. GAY, QUEER, etc. Now transgender, etc.

Problem with our society is we have accepted adultery and fornication as the norm. We should have recognized lust as sin at all levels.

I READ AN ARTICLE ABOUT THIS GAY STRUGGLING FOR ACCEPTANCE.

The mother would accept it if the young man was having an immoral relationship with a young lady. In fact, the mothers encourage it.

She herself, married and divorced twice. This has become the norm.

The issue is immorality. We are fighting the wrong battle. Gay immorality is just as sinful as heterosexual immorality. Where we have gone wrong is we accepted the heterosexual sin and now it no longer satisfies the sinner.

THE SCHOOL ALLOWED FOR A SMOKING AREA AND THE BATHROOMS ARE STILL FILLED WITH SMOKE BETWEEN CLASSES. I noticed less smoking in schools since we outlawed smoking altogether. Since they have been teaching it is morally acceptable for young people to be sexually active there has been a proliferation of perversion. Sinful men always want to challenge the norms and pursue the forbidden.

III. IGNORANCE IS WHY PEOPLE SCOFF CONCERNING THE LORD'S RETURN!

II Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

II Peter 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

II Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

1. They are willingly ignorant.

It is not because they do not have a Bible. Are there not Churches that teach the Bible? The Bible is the most printed book in the world.

They are willingly ignorant. They do not want to even hear the truth.

Just being around the truth does not mean you have the truth.

You need to receive the truth and be open to it.

How many people have been raised in a good church with good teaching but have rejected the truth. I believe most people that go into a homosexual lifestyle at one time were churched and heard the truth. The Bible says this is the pattern. When people do that which is unnatural it is because God gives them up to this perversion against nature.

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Their judgment is that God gives them up to do those things that are not convenient.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

2. IGNORANCE OF GOD'S PAST JUDGMENTS WILL PREVENT US FROM BEING PREPARED FOR FUTURE JUDGMENT!

II Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

II Peter 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

II Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

In the days of Noah there were two groups of people.

Those who were prepared for the flood, which was a very small group!

Those who mocked and rejected the warnings of Noah, which were the majority.

There were 120 years of warning and preaching. NOAH PREACHED IMPENDING JUDGMENT BUT THE PEOPLE REJECTED THAT PREACHING.

The Lord is also giving ample warnings to us today.

He said it will be like the days of Noah and the days of Lot.

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

Luke 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Both times were times of tremendous sin, immorality, days of lust and frivolity, and also prosperity.

Plenty to eat, plenty to drink.

People do not believe God brought these judgments. Yet the evidence of these are still with us.

THE DEAD SEA IS FILLED WITH SULFUR AND SALT.

When warning about the second coming and judgment, Jesus said,

Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's wife.

She turned into a pillar of salt, and I believe the salt sea itself is a reminder to the world of God's judgment against the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah. One of the pseudo names for the dead sea is "Lot's Sea". Remember that Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back when the city was being destroyed.

It is believed that the two cities were located at the southern end of the Dead Sea in the Jordan Valley (Genesis 13:10). Josephus refers to the Dead Sea as Lake Asphaltites. It is of interest to note that Josephus writes that the Lake Asphaltites was formed as a result of the devastation that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. Most biblical archeologists believe the ancient ruins of these cities are buried beneath the water. Recently some have claimed to have found the cities.

FOSSILS ABOUND, EVEN ON THE MOUNTAINS OF PA YOU CAN FIND SEA FOSSILS. On Many Mountains throughout the world sea fossils abound.

There is evidence almost everywhere that the world was once flooded over, yet those who are willingly ignorant have to reason away this evidence!

If we heed God's warning we will be like Noah and his family.

If we reject the warning we will be like those who were swept away in the flood.

I Peter 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

A tsunami is but a small taste of what the flood may have been like!

3. IGNORANCE OF THE BIBLE TEACHING THAT GOD WILL SOMEDAY BRING JUDGMENT AGAINST THIS UNGODLY WORLD PREVENTS PEOPLE FROM BEING PREPARED FOR OUR LORD'S RETURN!

II Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Just like in the days of Noah so will it be like in the coming of the son of man, Christ. Just like in the days of Lot.

Who survived the flood??

Who survived out of Sodom and Gomorrah??

So it will be in the future.

If there is no judgment there will be no provocation for preparation for our Lord's return.

I Believe:

- A. Phase One of the Judgment: God will remove His Church.**
 - B. God will bring tribulation for 7 years.**
 - C. Christ will come back to earth and remove every non believer.**
- SHEEP GOAT JUDGMENT.**

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Matthew 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Matthew 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Matthew 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Matthew 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

Matthew 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Matthew 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

Matthew 25:43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Matthew 25:44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

Matthew 25:45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

II Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

After this there will be a period of 1000 years where Jesus will rule and reigns on planet earth.

After the 1000 years God will make a new heaven and a new earth and then the elements will melt with a fervent heat. And all that has been tainted by sin and rebellion will be burned up.

IV. BECAUSE THE LORD HAS DELAYED HIS RETURN THESE 2000 YEARS EMBOLDENS PEOPLE TO DOUBT THE PROMISE.

II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

1. God's days are not like our days.

II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

If someone delays a promise for two days, is that a long time?

In Sunday School we learned that God worked with Israel for about 1000 years in the times of Judges and Kings. From Abraham to Moses was about 500 years, and the intertestamental period was about 500 years. That means from Abraham to Christ was about 2000 years! From Adam to Abraham was about 2000 years! And now from Christ to His return has been about 2000 years!

God has this pattern of delaying a major promise by about 2000 years but not more.

The Bible says a thousand years is like a day. Jesus said I will be back in a few days! Be ready!

2. THE LORD IS DELAYING TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO BE SAVED:

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

3. WHEN CHRIST COMES IT WILL COME SUDDENLY WITH NO WARNING!

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

When 9/11 came it came suddenly.
The tsunami that it Japan came suddenly.

V. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION OF THESE TRUTHS FOR OUR LIVES? THE LORD IS INDEED COMING SOON!

II Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,
II Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
II Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

1. WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS SHOULD WE BE, SEEING THESE THINGS ARE TRUE?

Holy Conversations, that means the way we walk and talk ought to be Holy. Godliness.

2. Remember that everything that is material in this world is going to Dissolve.

How we are cumbered about with so much that is temporal.

I often store pianos for 6-7 years but finally have to say, they need to go. So they go to the burn pile and are burnt in the fire. So it is that God is looking to see what he can salvage out of this world. But in the end all that cannot be salvaged will be burned up.

VI. THE BOTTOM LINE IS SHAPE UP AND LIVE RIGHT BEFORE CHRIST COMES BACK!

II Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

II Peter 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

II Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

II Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

II Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

1. Peter tells us how we should live in light of these truths.

II Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

A. Be diligent: We need to be diligent about our faith and commitment to the Lord:

spoudazo, spoo-dad'-zo; from 4710; the use speed, i.e. to make effort, be prompt or earnest:-do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.

----- Dictionary Trace -----
spoude, spoo-day'; from 4692; "speed", i.e. (by impl.) despatch, eagerness, earnestness:-business, (earnest) care (-fulness), diligence,

The opposite of being diligent is the word slothful. A person who is slothful is lackadaisical, neglectful, late.

We need to work at being faithful to the Lord.

B. We need to work on three virtues in our Christian life.

II Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

That we many be found in him: 3 virtues, peace, without spot and blameless:

a. In peace:

eirene, i-ray'-nay; prob. from a prim. verb eiro (to join); peace (lit. or fig.); by impl. prosperity:-one, peace, quietness, rest, + set at one again.

The concept of godly peace is to be a rest, not in turmoil, a quiet gentle state where there is no disruption or turmoil in your life.

This only comes as we know we are in the will of God and resting and trusting in Him.

When a volcano is at peace it is not erupting. It is quiet.

When a volcano is not at peace it is causing destruction and a fright to everyone that is near it.

So it is with people, that are not at peace, they are being destructive to all around them. Hurtful, and a terror.

We need to pursue peace, and be at peace with God and men.

b. Without spot:

Sin creates spots in our lives. These spots and blemishes are caused by sins and transgressions we commit against God.

c. Blameless:

Positionally we are blameless before God because of Jesus Christ. But practically, we need to walk blameless before Him.

To be blameless is to not harbor any willful sin in our lives.

2. Peter reminds his reader that Paul's Scripture would be good reading and would support what he is saying.

II Peter 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

II Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Scripture agrees with Scripture.

II Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

II Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

There will be no contradiction of the Scripture from one writer to the other. Peter, tells his readers to search the Scripture.

The best interpreter of Scripture is the Scripture.

Isaiah 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

Isaiah 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

I had James asking me this morning how is it that you answer people who argue that the Bible is written by men. Here we have Peter claiming that Paul wrote Scripture. The Scripture attests by it's own merits that it is inspired. Also, other men of God have

recognized the writings as Scripture. Also, the church and God's assembly have recognized the authenticity of Scripture. When Peter calls Paul's writings Scripture he puts it in the same category as other Scripture when he says.

II Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

II Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

II Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

How did people know that what Jeremiah wrote was Scripture, or what Moses wrote was Scripture, or what Isaiah wrote or any of the writers of Scripture? The writings had to face the scrutiny of other Scripture, the scrutiny of their ministry and life, and the scrutiny of other prophets, and men of God. The ministry of these men had to face the scrutiny of time, and also the test of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 18:21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?

Deuteronomy 18:22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Peter testifies of Paul's writings that they were Scripture. Men do not take this honor upon themselves but that honor is bestowed upon them of God and other men of God.

So it was with all Scripture, God's men in His Church testified of their writings. As far as the Old Testament these were accepted well before the time of Christ and before the start of the New Testament Church.

Today we have the privilege of having a tried and proven book with call the canon, the Scripture. Time tested and proven Word of God.

Psalms 12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Psalms 12:7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

The Bible is a supernatural book. Is it any wonder that how we got it is a supernatural process? It is God who moved men to write it, and it is God that saw to it that we received it and it is God who is preserving it so we have it to read today.

3. Peter warns his readers to keep themselves from the error of the wicked, but to grow in the grace of our Lord.

II Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall Often our own stedfastness.

II Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Without a tempter there is no sin. To sin we need two things. Who are the tempters but children of the wicked one who are themselves wicked. Often my wife and I like to watch historical documentaries while we are exercising on our porch. There is nothing more amazing than how wicked people have been through the years. Especially in regards to the political systems of this world. There is no doubt in my mind that this wickedness continues.

Satan is called the god of this world and you can certainly see how he has pulled the strings in the affairs of men through the ages.

For sin to prevail we need two things:

1. We need a temptation to sin,
2. and we need an inclination to follow that lust or temptation.

In the millennium righteousness will reign because Satan will be locked up for 10000 years. As soon as he is loosed for a little season there is a great rebellion against the Lord.

We need to be careful we are not led away of the wicked.

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he said pray that we should not be led into temptation.

Conclusion:

So as we enter the New Year let us take heed to the admonition of Peter. We need to stir up in our minds the reality that every material thing in this life will be burned up. The Lord's coming is imminent. Let us be diligent about our walk with the Lord and be prepared for His return.

We need not be overly anxious for anything.
Let us not get too comfortable in this world.
Do we really believe He is coming quickly?

One could argue that there have been 2000 years of saints who believed that, but He did not come in their lifetime. Yes but I say they lived a better life living like He would come in their lives. So we need to do the same, the only thing is we are 100 times more likely to be the generation that will see His return.