

Text— 2 Peter 3:3-15

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Today is the last Sunday after Trinity; so, it is customary to think about the last things which will come to pass in this present world.

Unfortunately, most folks think this present evil world will go on and on for millions of years as long as man reduces fossil-fuel-emissions and the like, which is why there is so much panicked talk about climate change and the need to make all sorts of efforts to save what the unbelievers call “mother earth” or “mother nature” while they totally ignore Father-God who is in truth the Creator and Preserver of all things.

Sadly, heinous sins continue to be elevated and encouraged by society at large, rather than the urging of real repentance and sincere faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Savior of sinners. Yes, God’s Word, the Holy Bible, is pushed aside or changed or ridiculed, while man’s science-falsely-so-called is placed in the forefront as the thing to be trusted and relied upon for guidance. Jesus Christ and His return to judge the world are treated like ancient fables which are to be joked about or ignored.

Nevertheless, Holy Scripture tells us that so it will be, for 2 Timothy 3:1-5 reports, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

Therefore, our Scripture selection is quite timely to consider as it emphasizes:

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME”

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) What the day of the Lord is
- 2) Why many folks are scoffers concerning the day of the Lord
- 3) How Christians are to be and remain sure that the day of the Lord will come

-1-

In the two verses just prior to our text, the apostle Peter declares, “This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 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.” Hence, Peter desired that his fellow Christians remember what the Word of God given to both prophets and apostles had previously related to them.

Consequently, we read in the opening two verses of our text, verses 3 & 4, ----- (2 Peter 3:3-4)

Observe what Peter would have the followers of Christ keep in mind first: *that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 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.* Thus, self-serving mockers who are only interested in pleasing their sinful flesh will come in the last days and ridicule the promised visible return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Is such not the case right now? People joke about Jesus as they hold that the world has been around for billions of years and will go on for many more. It’s as Jude verses 17-19 also remarks, where we read, “But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who

separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.” Indeed, the scoffers are unbelievers who deny and mock everything the Holy Scriptures teach.

My friends, there will be a second visible coming of Jesus Christ to earth, but it will not be in humility as at His first coming, for Hebrews 9:28 states, “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Yes, it’s as we read in Matthew 25:31-34, 41 & 46, “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: 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: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 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: 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: And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

Accordingly, the day of the Lord is Jesus’ second visible coming to earth, also called Judgment Day and the Last Day. Hence, the scoffers are in serious trouble if they do not repent and believe on Jesus Christ while they yet have time, for the Lord Jesus says in no uncertain terms, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (John 12:48; Mark 16:16)

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As we continue to ponder our text, let us see why many folks are scoffers concerning the day of the Lord.

Verses 3-7, ----- (2 Peter 3:3-7)

Our text supplies us with a number of reasons why many folks are scoffers concerning the day of the Lord, and the first reason we see is that the scoffers walk *after their own lusts*. Indeed, the scoffers walk, they conduct themselves, after their own sinful desires. Take a look around at most folks and you’ll see they are filled with self-pride since they are instructed in public schools so to be, for they are taught that they have evolved from lower life forms and after millions of years human beings now can smartly shape their own destiny.

Yeah, the majority of people are so pumped-up with high self-esteem that they detest the message of Philippians 2:3 which urges, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” Hence, when they hear someone mention that Jesus Christ came into this world conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary in order to save sinners, that He is God manifest in the flesh, that He died on the cross and paid for the sins of the whole world with His holy blood, that He bodily rose again from the dead after three days in the grave, that He visibly ascended into heaven 40 days later, and that He will come again in glory to judge the quick and the dead; they laugh and mock, *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.*

And why is it that many folks are therefore scoffers? *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: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.* Yes, the scoffers are WILLINGLY IGNORANT of the things the Holy Bible clearly teaches.

Think about it. Genesis 1:1 relates, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” And Psalm 33:6 plainly states, “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” Nevertheless, the scoffers willingly and ignorantly deny the truth

of creation by almighty God while they instead accept the utterly ridiculous theory of evolution as if it were fact. They hold that everything just sort of came to be by accident by a big-bang or some other nonsense; and, of course, they cannot explain how the big-bang happened or how the materials causing it came to be present, etcetera, etcetera.

Furthermore, the same folks who hold to evolution and are scoffers concerning the second coming of Christ are also willingly ignorant of the world-wide flood that God brought upon sinful impenitent human beings around 2348 B.C. Oh, they reject the account of Noah and the Ark, while instead they believe there was a major ice-age millions of years ago during which large critters were frozen, followed by their skeletal remains then being implanted into rocks, followed by major melting; so, they hold such to be the reason why fish-fossils are found high upon mountain tops. They fail to realize the truth that the world-wide deluge covered the highest mountain tops and consequently the animals and fish which perished left fossil remains at high elevations.

Furthermore, in following their pattern of willing ignorance and rejection of the teachings of the Holy Bible, including the rejection of the fact that God's timing is perfect, the scoffers fail to accept the fact that *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*. Indeed, the truth is that it is the power of God through His Word which keeps the heavens and earth operating, reserved for destruction by fire on Judgment Day when the ungodly will be sentenced to never-ending death in hell, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:44)

My friends, ALL people need to know they are sinners in dire need of the Savior, Jesus Christ! The Holy Bible clearly states: "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. For God so loved the world,

that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (Romans 3:23; 6:23; John 3:16-18)

Accordingly, it's a fact that many folks are scoffers concerning the day of the Lord because they walk after their own lusts and are willingly ignorant of the Holy Bible and its teachings regarding creation, the world-wide flood, the power of God and the salvation He supplies only by grace through faith in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord of all.

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As we ponder our text to its conclusion, let us see how Christians are to be and remain sure that the day of the Lord will come.

Verse 8, ----- (2 Peter 3:8)

Fellow Christians, we and all other sinful human beings in this world are subject to time, but the Lord God is NOT, which is why our text says: *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*. Moses knew it, for he says to the Lord in Psalm 90:4, "a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night." Consequently, we Christians are to be and remain sure that the day of the Lord will come because with God there are no time-delays as all is happening in accord with His perfect schedule.

Verse 9, ----- (2 Peter 3:9)

As we Christians look around at the increasing wickedness in the world, we wonder why Jesus has not already returned to judge all people. Nevertheless, what appears to us as a long delay is

actually evidence of God's grace, for our text says: *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.* Thus, we see that the Lord does NOT wish to damn anyone; God truly desires that ALL people would repent of their sins, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

Our text proves that those are wrong who hold that God has from eternity predestined some folks to damnation, for the truth is that the Lord *is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.* Nevertheless, God's longsuffering will finally come to an end; therefore, folks need to realize that "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation," as 2 Corinthians 6:2 declares.

Verse 10, ----- (2 Peter 3:10)

Note from this verse of our text that we Christians are to be and remain sure that the day of the Lord will come because GOD TELLS US IT SHALL COME and how it shall come. Yes, we are assured in our text which the apostle Peter penned by inspiration of God: *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.*

The day of the Lord, the visible return of Jesus Christ to judge the living and the dead, WILL COME AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT, that is, unexpectedly and suddenly to most folks. It's as 1 Thessalonians 5:2-10 also relates, "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and

be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him."

My friends in Christ, there is a real immense global warming coming, for *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.* Yes, all of man's proud inventions and works shall be vaporized by truly super-intense heat brought to bear by God who will see to it that even the basic materials – the elements – are consumed as they melt with fervent heat. We have God's Word on it, so we are to be and remain sure that the day of the Lord will come.

Verses 11 & 12, ----- (2 Peter 3:11-12)

Think about the question put forth to us Christians as our text says: *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 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?* So, we Christians are to be and remain sure and ready for the coming day of the Lord by continuing to cling to our Savior Jesus Christ in heart-deep living faith— faith that is fruitful in truly good works done in full accord with God's Word, "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." (Hebrews 13:14) We must remain ever alert and ready for the visible return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Verse 13, ----- (2 Peter 3:13)

Oh beloved, for you and me and all other Christians, the day of the Lord is not gloom and doom but rather the start of better things for us,

because, *we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.* Indeed, the present sin-cursed world will be consumed and pass away, but better things are to come: *a new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness,* in accord with God's promise. Yes, in Isaiah 65:17 the Lord promises, "behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." Revelation 21:27 adds, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." Fellow Christians, wonderfully better things await us, thanks to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Verses 14 & 15, -----. (2 Peter 3:14-15)

Our text closes by encouraging us Christians to strive to remain in the true faith of Jesus Christ unto life everlasting, for we just read: *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 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.*

The ONLY WAY to be found of the Lord spotless and blameless is by possessing the full forgiveness of sins and perfect righteousness which God's only begotten Son supplies, "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe. [For] He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."
(Romans 3:22; John 3:36)

Thus, all Christians are to be and remain sure that the day of the Lord will come by being fully aware of what God's Word – the Holy Bible – informs us concerning the end times and Jesus' visible return, continuing in the true faith given by God and strengthened by God as He works through the Gospel of Christ in our hearts.

Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins; let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord; and, let us continue looking forward to Jesus' visible return because we are certain the day of the Lord will come. Amen.

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