

2 Peter 3:1-14

We continue again this morning to speak on the subject on Christ's second coming or if you wish: **CHRIST'S SUDDEN APPEARANCE!** We began this series because of the release of that new movie 2012 regarding the end of days. The end will only come when Jesus Christ comes back! There are 7 things I presented to you last week from our text here in 2 Peter 3:

- I. **THE STIRRED CONSIDERATION.** (vss 1-2)
- II. **THE SCOFFERS CONFOUNDED.** (vss 3-5)
- III. **THE STORED COSMOS.** (vss 6-7)
- IV. **THE SECOND COMING.** (vss 8-10)
- V. **THE SANCTIFIED CONDUCT.** (vs 11)
- VI. **THE SECURED COMFORT.** (vss 12-13)
- VII. **THE STAYING CONCERN.** (vs 14)

We also said that there were two specifics we wanted to cover concerning the second coming of Christ in particular what should be our attitude as Christians be as we wait for our Lord's Second Coming? In verses 11 – 15 two things stand out, (1) we must have a sanctified conduct and (2) we must stay concern as we look for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Last week we dealt with our first 3 points in verses 1-7, therefore we'll pick up on our fourth point in verses 8 – 10:

IV. THE SECOND COMING. (vss 8-10)

Peter tells us that our Lord Jesus Chris will come back as a thief in the night. We dealt in particular with the Lord's second coming in our first message so I will not spend too much time here. If you want to know somewhat of what I believe concerning the second coming of Christ, listen to the first message on sermonaudio.com/hdgbc.

Peter echoes with Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul, the Apostle John and Jude in declaring and affirming that there is one particular day in which Christ will come back. Either, all of these are in agreement, or they are all confused. Notice in verse 7 it says, "...the **DAY** of judgment..." In verse 10 it says, "...the **DAY** of the Lord..." and in verse 12 it says, "...the **DAY** of God..." Now, I think it is quite simple that these 3 verses speak of a particular day when Christ will come back. Dispensationalism divides this into 2 or 3 separate events. Thus, the confusion does not lie in the Scriptures, but in the

interpreters of those Scriptures. Jesus Christ, Paul, John, Jude and Peter are all in agreement as to when Christ **IS** coming back: **ONE DAY** and not a series of events. In verse 8 Peter tells us that with the Lord time is eternity. 1000 years is as one day and one day as 1000 years. God knows the end from the beginning, we're the ones with the problem of time, not the Lord, to God time is eternity; that is, time is measured by eternity. That is hard for us to grasp because we are creatures caged in times. Everything is measured by time, but there will come a day, when time shall be no more. Rev. 10:6, *"And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, **that there should be time no longer.**"* Then in verse 9 Peter reminds us of the mercy and compassion of God. He says, *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as man count slackness..."* What promise is Peter speaking about? It about the second coming of Christ, notice verses 3 and 4. And then we also have 13, *"Nevertheless we, **according to his promise,** look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."* Peter is speaking of the promise of Christ to come back for us, to which, He describes that day as a thief in the night, verse 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."* Paul uses the same expression in 1 Thess. 5 and so does our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 24. The idea is that the Lord's coming will come unexpectedly with no warning. But, not for the Christians, as Paul tells us in 1 Thess.5:1-5, please turn there.

Back to 2 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."* We are told that Christ will come as a thief, that is, unexpectedly and without warning so that we would be faithful and watching for that day. We are reminded of this in order to shake off our sleepiness and laziness so that we can conscientiously be alert in expecting Christ at any moment. Peter also tells us that, that day, will see the heavens pass away with a great noise. The heavens or if you wish the whole universe shall pass away. The Greek word for pass away is, '**parechomai,**' which means to go by, to flow away in the sense that it will come to an end, that is, to perish. Christ used this term in Matthew 24:35, *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."* Turn to Rev.21:1 where the Apostle John also uses this term, *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."* (see also verse 4)

The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, or in some translations, a roar, a rushing sound. The Greek word used here is, '**rhoizedon** (from rhoizeo)' which means a whizzing or whistling noise. The noise made by an arrow whizzing by or the noise of a storm, perhaps the cracking roar of flames in a fire. The Blue Letter Bible says this about this word, *"**Rhoizedon** conveys a sense of onomatopoeia, the sound of the word being imitative of the sound of the noise or action designated. The following noises reflect the sense of this word - an arrow whizzing or whistling by, a spear hurtling through the air with a whistling noise, the sound of filing, the splash of water, the rush of a bird's wings in the air, or the hissing of a snake. So*

the universe will pass away with a whizzing, a whistling, or a crackling sound of objects being consumed by flames. John explains this incredible time apparently just after the conflagration of the heavens and earth writing. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”

Peter continues, “...and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” The elements or literally, the ones in a row, that is, that which is in an orderly arrangement. Everything that makes up the universe, down to the smallest atom shall be burned up and dissolved, that is, they shall melt with fervent heat. The elements shall melt or be destroyed by fervent heat or intense heat. It means that everything will be consumed by fire so intensely hot, that it will melt or be utterly destroyed. It is speaking of a burning, furious heat which is beyond anything that a person can imagine. This is why we are being warned because one day everything will go up in flames. What a day will that be! Paul, clearly tells us the same thing, “...the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ***In flaming fire*** taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.” 2 Thess.1:7-9.

The earth along with the universe will be burned up, (vs.10). Not only the heavens universe, earth, but also the works, all the various achievements of men of this world shall also be burned up. The Greek word for burned up is ‘**katakaio**,’ which means to be wholly consumed and destroyed by fire. It speaks of a violent consuming heat that will utterly and completely destroy everything, thus bringing in a new heaven and a new earth. This particular event will come upon us one day, suddenly unexpectedly wherein many will not be ready and prepared when Christ comes back. How about you this morning? Will you be ready? Will you be prepared? Will Christ’s coming catch you by surprise in awful judgment? Or will Christ’s coming be a watching and waiting for your Lord and Savior? The Lord’s second coming will be God’s final act to purge this earth of sin and sinners. Whatever you treasure on this earth will be burned up, only that which is done and accomplished for God will be eternal. All the earthly works of men shall be burned up and destroyed for ever. Where and how will the second coming of Christ find you? He will come again, will you be ready. This brings us to our fifth point:

V. THE SANCTIFIED CONDUCT. (vs 11)

Verse 11 tells us what manner of persons we should be as we anticipate our Lord’s second coming. “*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.*” Since you see and understand that all things shall be dissolved or destroyed, what manner of persons should we be? Peter is basically telling us that there is a strong connection and relation between Christ’s coming and our conduct. The word dissolved means to be destroyed and in the Greek it means to untie and loose from ropes and or straps. It gives the idea of causing something to cease to exist, that is, bringing it to an end. Christ’s coming will bring an end to the earth as we know it, it will cease to exist and it will all be burned up, be dissolved

or destroyed. Because of this knowledge and understanding, Peter makes a very poignant point. Since you know that this earth shall be no more, what kind of persons should we be? What a sobering questions for everyone that names the name of Christ. If you profess to be a Christian, this question is for you. What manner of person should you be, especially knowing that God will one day destroyed this planet? Not only does Peter ask the question to provoke us, but he even gives us the answer, "...*what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.*" In other words our conduct should manifest the aspect of holiness and godliness as we await the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peter, challenges us and he instruct us! The NIV reads like this, "*Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.*" The word ought in the Greek is **dei** which refers to an obligation with the idea of owing debt to somebody. It is in the present tense which describes our necessary obligation of fulfilling daily our holy calling before God and man. It is translated in other passages, must need and should. It is of necessity that we must be walking in holiness as we see the day approaching, we are under obligation to God as debtors having an eternal perspective. Peter is very clear in establishing that we must have a sanctified conduct as we await the coming of our LORD! Peter is speaking of our inward and outward conduct. The word conversation means more that just our speech, it is speaking of our outward conduct. Again, Peter reminds us that this world is passing away and shall one day be dissolved with a great noise and flaming fire and the only thing that will abide and last is our holy labors for God, everything else shall be gone in a moment in a twinkling of an eye, Rev. 14:12 & 13. We only have one life to live and that also will soon past, but only that which is done for Christ will last. May God encourage us to have a holy fire for Him! Has this not been our messages in Revelation 3:2-6, "*Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain... 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. 4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and **they shall walk with me in white:** for they are worthy. 5 **He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment;** and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*" Thus, the word conversation refers to our everyday life style before the world and godliness describes the internal heart in reverence to God. We must outwardly and inwardly maintain a sanctified conduct in our Christian walk! Turn to 1 Peter 1:9, 13-16. Sixthly:

VI. THE SECURED COMFORT. (vss 12-13)

"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? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." Not only are we called to watch our conduct, but we are also admonished by Peter to look forward to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. As thought Peter is saying, you must be watching and waiting in order to be encourage with a great hope and anticipation. Peter is reminding Christians, that since we are heading toward heaven, that is, we are going to be delivered from the day of the Lord; we should be looking to that day with earnest

expectation and with a secured comfort. The word looking gives the idea of directing our thoughts and hearts towards Christ's coming, that is, looking and waiting with great anticipation with a hopeful sense. The word looking in the Greek is in the present tense which speaks of continually looking for the return of Jesus Christ. We are to; not only look, but also hasten His coming. In that hymn by Fanny Crosby, "Blessed Assurance," one of the stanza's says, "Perfect submission all is at rest – I in my Savior happy and blest, - WATCHING and WAITING LOOKING ABOVE, - Filled with his goodness, lost in His love." The Greek word for hastening is **pseudo**. This word means to earnestly desire. We are to be looking for and earnestly desire His second coming. This is nothing short of expectation. Thus, we are to be looking and hastening for the second coming. The word for coming in the Greek is **parousia**, the *parousia* of Christ. In the study of eschatology there are 4 Greek words worthy of study to help you understand Christ's second coming.

- **Parousia** = coming.
- **Epiphanias** = appearing.
- **Apokalupto** = revelation.
- **Hemera** = day.

These 4 words will enhance your understanding of eschatology to help you comprehend the second coming of Christ.

Peter says, looking forward to the coming of the day of God. Notice again, what Peter says regarding what happens when the day of God comes: "...*wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*" The heavens will be on fire and shall be dissolved or destroyed as the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Now, you will be surprised how many separate this from verse 10 and say that it is speaking of two different events. But notice the phraseology in both verses clearly show that it is going to be the same event, happening on the same DAY! (Read verses 10 & 12.) Look again in 2 Thess.1:8-10. Consider also Matthew 13:29 & 30 and 39 & 40. Look at, Rev.8:7, 17:16 and 18:8. Everything shall be burned up; everything shall melt with awful fervent heat. Where will you be when Christ comes back? Will you be safe in the arms of Christ or under His hand of judgment? Do you have a secured comfort or a sure condemnation?

Notice what Peter says after these fearful words in verse 12: verse 13 says, "*Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*" Here our secured comfort is in the promise of God. Our hope and expectation is based on the promise of our Great God. One day, there will be new heavens and a new earth in which we shall forever be with our God. His promise again in 1 Thess.4:13-18. What future awaits us, turn again to Revelation 21:1-8. And all of this is according to His promise, yes indeed, this is our secured comfort. Our security and our comfort lie in the promise of God. Remember those faithful words of Christ to His disciples and to us: John 14:1-3, "*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe*

also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Again, what a secured comfort: "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." This brings us to our 7th and last point:

VII. STAYING CONCERN. (vs 14)

In the midst of all this Peter reminds us that we must stay concern regarding the second coming of Christ. "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." He says, seeing that you look for these things, notice he says: BE DILIGENT or if you wish, stay concern! Be concern about being diligent as we look for the second coming of Christ. Therefore since you see these things, be diligent so that we might be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless. We must stay concern in being constantly ready and not neglect this glorious truth or it can gradually develop a cold and neglectful heart, where we can be complacent and not faithful to the things of God. This is why Peter is blowing that trumpet loud so that we can stay concern by being diligent in the things of God. Our Lord also tells us to stay concern and be watchful: Matthew 24:42 & 43, 25:13; Mark 13:33-37; Luke 12:37-49. May our Great God grace us and help to be spotless and blameless when He comes the second time. This is not speaking of our positional stand in Him, but in our practical walk or if you wish progressive sanctification. Notice how clear Peter says this in verse 14: (read). We must constantly stay concern about the things of God and not neglect our responsibility before God.

Consider this story from Our Daily Bread, got it from Blue Letter Bible: "**The Ermine** - In the forests of northern Europe and Asia lives little animal called the ermine, known for his snow-white fur in winter. He instinctively protects his white coat against anything that would soil it. Fur hunters take advantage of this unusual trait of the ermine. They don't set a snare to catch him, but instead they find his home, which is usually a cleft in a rock or a hollow in an old tree. They smear the entrance and interior with grime. Then the hunters set their dogs loose to find and chase the ermine. The frightened animal flees toward home but doesn't enter because of the filth. Rather than soil his white coat, he is trapped by the dogs and captured while preserving his purity. For the ermine, purity is more precious than life. - H G Bosch (Our Daily Bread, Copyright RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved)" Oh to God that we would be spiritual ermines, that we would count our purity before God more precious than life. Oh, that we would seek to stay away from the filth of the world and honor our God by walking in holiness. May God find us in such a state when He comes back, watching and walking blameless and without spot before Him in this evil world. May God help us to have a spotless character and a blameless reputation! No, not perfection, but a holy walk and a righteous life. Rev. 19:5-9, "And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”

May God help us to ever be mindful of His Son, His Word, His Church and His Second Coming!

Thus the:

- I. THE STIRRED CONSIDERATION. (vss 1-2)**
- II. THE SCOFFERS CONFOUNDED. (vss 3-5)**
- III. THE STORED COSMOS. (vss 6-7)**
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