
Sermon Notes

April 21, 2024

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Promise of Christ's Coming

2 Peter 3:1-7

"In House" Discussion

- ❖ We read God's Word to
 - know God better
 - understand ourselves more clearly and our desperate need for salvation
 - discover the remedy God provides for our sin
 - allow the Holy Spirit to perform spiritual surgery in us as He forms us into the image of Christ
- ❖ Peter's previous warnings about false teachers provide the backdrop against which he offers Christ followers positive teaching and exhortation

Biblical Worldview

- ❖ In v. 1, Peter's affection for his reader's is clear
 - calls them *beloved*
 - Peter's heart's desire is to see those he loves in the Lord fully on board with the Lord's purposes for them
- ❖ Peter knows no Christ follower is ever so secure in the faith that he/she does not need reminders and exhortations to maintain a Biblical worldview

- Peter warns against the traps and tricks of Satan (the one who prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour)
- Peter wants to ensure that believers continually cultivate the ability to discern spiritual truth and apply it to their lives
- ❖ Two sources that form the foundation of a Biblical worldview
 - *the predictions of the holy prophets*
 - their words continue to have force and relevance for all who become God's children through faith in Jesus
 - fuels an eager anticipation and expectation about what is still to come
 - essential to Christian growth
 - *the commandment of the Lord and Savior*
 - a shorthand way of summarizing the mission of all who faithfully follow Christ
 - Jesus tells us we *must be perfect, as our heavenly Father is perfect.* (Matt. 5:48)
 - ♦ all who submit to Christ and follow the lead of His Holy Spirit, are given a new will that causes them to desire to conform their lives to the will of God
 - ♦ living out the many implications of the new commandment Jesus gives in John 13:34-35

A Target of Scoffers

- ❖ Living the way God calls, equips and empowers you to live will likely make you a target of scoffers
- ❖ Peter picks out two frequent lines of attack that scoffers take

- to deny that Jesus is coming back in glory
 - *Where is the promise of His coming?*
 - "the world keeps turning, generations come and go, nothing ever changes"
 - ♦ such claims deliberately overlook the spectacular way God intervened in the course of human history through the flood
 - ♦ God destroyed the world through water and His Word
 - ♦ God will do the same thing again in the future through fire and His Word
 - creation exists because of God's powerful word (Psalm 33:6-7, Hebrews 11:3)
 - God will use His powerful word in the future to destroy the world by fire
- to downplay, disdain, and deny the notion that God is in control of history
 - those who follow Christ must guard themselves against the ways contemporary thoughts about the history of the world can seep into their thinking
 - believers must maintain a Christian worldview which affirms that God is constantly at work in the unfolding events that mark our lives and our world
 - history does not unfold by "chance"
 - history is not circular nor does it repeat
 - there is a personal God who intervenes in history and shapes people and world events as He sees fit
 - Jesus will return in power and reign in glory

Personal Reflection

1. Why do you read the Bible? Based on this message, are there ways in which you need to enlarge your expectations about what God intends to do in you as you meet with Him in His Word each day?
2. What are you currently doing to expand your Biblical worldview? In what ways have you found current cultural trends seeping into your thinking? How will you contend for the faith and work to renew your mind by exchanging your false thinking for a Biblical perspective?
3. In what ways does the promise of Christ's coming sustain you when you face rejection, scoffing and mockery for maintaining a Biblical worldview about life and history?