



2/3/26

*2 Peter 3:1-9*

*I have to admit, I don't know 2 Peter well. I know parts... and even though I've read the letter many times, I don't think the message stuck quite so much as it does today... in our current culture. It seems that the pursuit of making a name for oneself and the damage that comes with it has carried on throughout history. This is NO SURPRISE to the LORD. Let me never forget what God said thousands of years ago in Isaiah 46:8-10, "Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the END from the BEGINNING and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish ALL My purpose.'" Let the eyes of my heart see better than the eyes on my head as I look to Jesus.*

*Vs. 1-2 ~ "This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles..."*

*I love how Peter calls the believers "beloved." He is telling them the truth because he loves them as Christ loved them. I am so convicted by this!!! Do I love others as Jesus loves me? O Lord, this is Your plan for Your people. Please grow and perfect Your love in me.*

*Peter said, "In both of my letters, my goal has been to stir up your sincere, pure mind for the Lord by reminding you of the words of the prophets and the commands of your Lord and Savior that come through His apostles." The apostles are the 12 appointed men by God AND Paul. Between Peter, Paul, and John we have most of the New Testament. The words from God's word are what I need to follow. I need to pay attention and be reminded of what God wants to teach me, and how He wants me to follow Him wholeheartedly.*

*What do I need to be reminded of?*

*Vs. 3 ~ "Knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires."*

*Why do I need to be reminded of this???* Because when I see it happen, if I don't remember that God is fully aware and fully in charge and will fully carry out His plan... I will be either distracted, discouraged, or I will be drawn away from God to share in what they're doing. I will think God has let me down. But He hasn't. This is why I need to pour myself into God's word... so that I won't be blindsided, and so that I won't forget that God is in it and that He is working even the worst of situations for my good.

*Vs. 4 ~ "They will say, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.'"*

*I need to be reminded that Satan is a liar and the father of lies... so he will influence others to speak lies as though they're truth. Satan has always tried to convince people that GOD is the liar, and that HE is withholding good from us... but Satan is the liar. He will convince those whose consciences are seared to do anything they can to define a world where God does not exist. Let me not fall prey to their snares.*

*Vs. 5-6 ~ "For they DELIBERATELY overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water BY THE WORD OF GOD, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished." You know, like a flood!*

*I need to remember that they will do anything they can to explain what God has done without seeing that God did it. They will infiltrate our schools, our communities, even some will infiltrate our churches! They will do everything they can to make us question God's power and authority... and His love.*

*They will say that science and psychology rule over the Bible. They will say the Bible is irrelevant and just a bunch of fables. They will try to explain away what they can and mock what they can't. They will use plausible words of wisdom. And they will be wrong. But I should not judge them for this... I should grieve for them and pray for them... that they might have their own Damascus Road experience where they hear the voice of Jesus calling to their hearts and saying, "Why are you persecuting Me?" I need to pray they respond as Paul did. He repented and was saved. That is the heart of God.*

*Vs. 7 ~ "But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly."*

*I need to remember that judgment is coming for those who disregard the Lord. MY judgment came down on JESUS 2000 years ago. If I am distracted, discouraged, or drawn away from what God has said, I will not see how imperative it is for me to be about the purposes of God! I will forget that these scoffers need JESUS! O Lord, please give me a heart to live Your gospel!!! Give me YOUR heart that cares for the lost. Give me the heart of Jesus and His followers who REFUSE to waver in their resolve and in their faith!*

*Vs. 8-9 ~ "But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."*

*I need to be reminded of God's absolute patience! I praise Him that He did not return before I reached repentance. Let me pray for others to reach repentance as well!*

*This reminds of the movie, Hacksaw Ridge, the true story of Desmond Doss, a soldier in WWII who never carried a weapon or fought because of his faith but saved 75 wounded soldiers during the battle of Okinawa. For every soldier that he brought to safety, he said, "Lord, please help me save just one more."*

*God is not worried about TIME. For Him, a thousand days is as one, and one is as a thousand. He is not slow. He IS patient. He continues to say, "Just one more," until "the Day of the Lord."*

*The Lord WILL fulfill His promise to take His beloved children home. But He is also going to be patient in the process until every last one repents and turns to Him. God knows this is not about just having a better life. This is about ETERNAL life for some and ETERNAL separation from Him for others. Of course the God of love wants to be patient before He blows the trumpet and comes on His white horse!*

*Am I willing to remember and pay attention to all of this? Am I willing to see that being a part of His plan to reach people with the gospel is a privilege and joy? Am I willing to endure suffering and trials, knowing that my eternal future is secure in Him, and that He will give me courage and strength to endure in the waiting? O Lord, may it be so!!! Because I know that You're patience and mercy are the reason I have salvation, I want to stand with You and not let anything distract, discourage, or draw me away from You. I want to be as devoted to You as You are to me. Amen!*