

Like Precious Faith What Manner of Persons 2 Peter 3.10-15

In our Study of Second Peter we have been reminded of the content of our “Like Precious Faith.”

In the previous chapter we saw,

- The False Teachers that are among us and how to identify them.
- The Characteristics of these false teachers
- We must be **stirred to remember** that we must be **Overcomers** rather than be **Overthrown** in our faith and faithfulness.

Then last week we discovered,

- That the **longsuffering of our Lord is Salvation** – God carries the rapture so that more people might be saved.

Our focus today is on,

2 Peter 3:11–12 - Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 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?*

A Catastrophic Judgment is coming upon this world. We often see disasters all around us.

- The historic drought in California and the massive wildfires which occur year after year.
- The hurricanes in the Atlantic and along the Atlantic Seaboard and the Gulf Coast.
- It seems we have some kind of natural disaster somewhere in the world on a weekly basis.
- Then there are the man-made disasters. The violence, the prejudice, the hate, and the anger of some people against other people.

Yet all of this pails in comparison the the coming judgment and disaster that will be the end of this corrupt world. That catastrophic disaster is described briefly in our text.

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.**

2 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?**

When we diligently study the Word of God, Study to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Tim 2.15), we know that this is talking about an event that takes place,

Rev 20.11

- After the rapture of the Church
- After the Great Tribulation Period
- After the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage supper of the Lamb
- After the Second Coming of Christ
- After the Millennial Reign of Christ
- Right before the Great White Throne is set up.

Our text is linked to,

Revelation 20:11 - 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.**

There is coming a day when this world will be no more. This corrupt and sinful world will be consumed to its very elements and will flee away from God. At that time the Great White Throne Judgment will take place and at the end of that judgment every human being will have been judged by Almighty God.

Our text asks a simple and direct question,

2 Peter 3:11–12 - **Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,** ¹²Looking 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 what should Christians be like as they live out their lives in this mortal world?

This World is Temporary in Nature

One very important thing that should mark the hearts and minds of every born again Christian is the fact that this world is temporary and will one day come to an end.

The Word of God reiterates this fact over and over again.

***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.*

When this world melts away under fervent heat it is not the end of humanity. It will be the transition of humanity from mortality to immortality. That's right everyone will live forever.

Some people mistake the question **"Do you have eternal life?"** to imply that those that do not have eternal life will simply come to an end. The Word of God tells us otherwise.

For the Born Again, the Saved, the Word of God says,

2 Corinthians 5:8** - We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and **to be present with the Lord.

That is for those who are Born-Again we will be present with the Lord. However, those who are not saved, while they will one day die, to die does not mean the end of their existence. **They will still live forever but they will live in death. To die is not an ending it is a separation.** In death your soul and spirit are separated from your body but you continue to live on for ever and ever. **The death part for the lost man is their separation from God and His manifold blessings.**

Our text calls us to be continuously aware that this mortal world will one day be done and gone and everyone will either be with God if they are born again or will be in a lake of fire and brimstone for all eternity to come.

The Word of God reminds us that,

***Hebrews 9:27** - And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

The Characteristics that should mark our lives day by day,

*2 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,***

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2 Peter 3.10-15

1. Holiness (vs 11)

1 Pet 1.15

In the Word of God, God says,

*1 Peter 1:15–16 - But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.***

To be Holy is to be set apart. In relation to God it is to be set apart unto God.

God calls those who belong to Him to be holy as He is Holy.

2. Holy Conversation (vs 11)

Titus 2.14

*2 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,***

To have a Holy Conversation is not directed only toward the way you talk or your conversation; instead it is focused upon the way you live out your life. Our lives and every aspect of our lives, which is our conversation, is to be holy unto God.

This is reiterated in the word of God when the Word of God says,

*1 Peter 2:9 - But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, **a peculiar people;** that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

Also,

*Titus 2:14 - Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself **a peculiar people,** zealous of good works.*

As Born Again Christians there ought to be something different about the way we live our lives. Everything in our lives ought to reveal that we are peculiar from this world because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ.

We ought to have a Holy Life Style, or a Holy Conversation.

3. Holy Godliness (vs 11)

Rom 8.29

The fact is we ought to be distinctly different from the world, but not just different in any old way, not just weird. Have you ever known someone that was just weird? Christians are to be different because we ought to be in **Holy Godliness**.

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2 Peter 3.10-15

The Characteristics that should mark our lives,

1. Holiness (vs 11)
2. Holy Conversation (vs 11)

What is this Holy Godliness?

Romans 8:29 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

To be Godly is to be like God. It is to be conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When the world looks at our lives and notices something peculiar about us they ought to somehow know that we have been with Jesus, or that we strive to be like the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is what it means to be in Holy Godliness.

4. Anticipating Our Transformation (vs 11-12)

2 Peter 3:12-13 - 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? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Since I stressed this Anticipation of our coming eternity at the beginning of this Sermon I will not reiterate it here. Other than to remind you that the fact of the ever nearing rapture ought to temper every decision you make in life. It ought

to be manifested in every relationship of your life. It ought to guide your every thought in your life.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon and it could be today!!

5. Be diligent in Peace (vs 14)

*2 Peter 3:14 - Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, . . .***

The Word of God calls us to peace,

Romans 12:18 - If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

In other words do not be a source of frustration and division in this worlds affairs.

In this life, Born Again Christians have peace with God, and know what true peace is. Lost worldly people think they know what peace is but until a person has peace with God they have have never truly known peace.

We are looking for our eternal home and are but sojourners here in this life. Therefore be at peace in this mortal corrupt world as much as you can.

There will always be those who will not be at peace with you, but you can still strive as much as possible to be at peace with all men, just as you have peace with Almighty God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Be diligent in Purity (vs 14)

*2 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, . . .***

1 Jn 3.1

Be without spot in the sight of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you want to know the best way to accomplish this great purity?

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2 Peter 3.10-15**

**The Characteristics that should mark
our lives,**

- 1. Holiness (vs 11)**
- 2. Holy Conversation (vs 11)**
- 3. Holy Godliness (vs 11)**
- 4. Anticipating Our Transformation (vs 12)**

1 John 3:1–3 - Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. ²Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³**And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

It is simple. Expect daily that today you will stand in the actual presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you have this hope living within you moment by moment then you will strive with purpose to be found ready to be judged by our Lord Jesus Christ.

A bride in anticipation of her wedding day makes diligent preparation for that long awaited and anticipated day. She wants her wedding to be perfect and memorable. So it should be for born again Christians.

Revelation 21:2 - And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

Be Diligent in Purity!

7. Be diligent in Prosecution (vs 14)

2 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.**

What does it mean to be blameless?

What it does **not mean** is that this world will not accuse you. We know that in the promised persecution for the people of our Lord the lost sinful people of this world will falsely accuse the people of God.

2 Timothy 3:12 - Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

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6. Be Diligent In Purity (vs 14)

They will falsely blame you for all kinds of things. This lost world will tell all kinds of lies about you as a Christian. Expect it.

To be blameless is to be Un-Convictable?

This does not mean you wont be convicted in this world. This world is known to pass unusual laws just to be able to imprison the people of God, to convict them in this worlds legal systems. **No this blamelessness is speaking of the worlds ability to convict you in the presence of God.**

When we all stand before God in Judgment will there be anyone in this world that can throw an accusation at you and make it stick. **Can this world convict you in God's court?**

Notice that we are to be found of Him (or God) as blameless.

Are you Reminded Child of the Living God, saved by the Blood of the Lamb of God, that this world is but temporary and the things of this world will not last.

But the things of God they will last for all eternity to come.

With all of this in view what type of person will you choose to be?

Of course all of these characteristic expectations begin with the New Birth. The first and most important step to developing these characteristics in your life is to be saved by our Lord Jesus Christ.

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CrossRoads Baptist Church, June 06, 2021