

## **2 Peter 3:1-10**

- Opening Comments
- Opening Prayer
- Quick review of last sermon – (1 Peter 1:13-2:5)

**Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. <sup>2</sup> I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.**

**<sup>3</sup> Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” <sup>5</sup> But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. <sup>6</sup> By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. <sup>7</sup> By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.**

**<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.**

- This scripture speaks to everyone of us regardless of age or gender,
- Or whether we have been saved or are yet unsaved,
- And regardless of what position that we have in this life.
- When we are young and are looking forward to something,
- It seems like times crawls slower than molasses on a cold January day.
- When I was a little boy, I just could not wait for Christmas each year
- And it seemed that it took forever to come.
- But as we get older, more often than not, we find ourselves saying,
- My, how time flies. Where did time go?
- Or It seems like only yesterday when....

- There are times when I sit on the couch in our empty nest
- And think about all the years we live here with our kids
- I look up the stairs and I can still see my kids coming down them,
- When they were toddlers, to when they were in college.
- And now it sometimes seems like it was a lifetime ago.
- But at the time it often didn't seem like time wasn't flying by.
- Perhaps it was because we were so consumed by life's busyness.
- There were so many things that were going on at work,
- With the tension and stresses that went along with trying to make a living.
- We were always looking ahead forward to the next events,
- That a busy life brought... school, music lessons, sports, concerts,
- The next play, social event, or our next vacation.
- And now, I can honestly say, where did the time go?
- The truth of the matter is life does go by fast.
- Change comes incrementally in our lives, but it still goes by fast
- And then you think, my high school years are over,
- And then my college years are over,
- And we continue to incrementally move on to the next phase of our lives.
- We get married, have babies, toddlers, school children, middle high school
- Kids, High School and College Kids, Married Kids, and Grandkids
- And our lives continue to move through its many cycles.
- And In a spiritual sense, time moves by quickly as well.
- Foremost, we need to remember that the time we have to receive Christ,
- And be baptized as a believer is limited.
- There is only so much time that is available for us to repent
- Today's scripture reminds us of this,
- That all the things that were immediate,
- Quickly become things that are past.
- And the question we are being confronted with is,
- What will do about it?
- The Bible is simple on what we need to do.
- We recognize and acknowledge it.
- We confess our sins and repent,
- And we change the direction that we are living.
- But although we want God in our lives,
- We are often hesitant to give up our old ways.

- That's the time when we are but babies in Christ.
- We want our cake and to eat it too.
- But hopefully, over the course of time,
- True transformation happens.
- And we start to realize that the old ways are not the new ways.
- That we are a new creation. (1 Cor. 5:17).
- And that the desire of what we used to do,
- And it's replaced with a desire for other things.
- And we will see that our prayer life will change as well.
- We cease with our immature wish lists,
- And instead pray with praise, adoration, and thankfulness.
- We become more thankful,
- We appreciate all that we have,
- And we look at the music and the preaching in a totally different light.
- We look at it with a new appreciation.
- And as converted believers,
- We find joy in helping new Christians on their journey.
- And little by little, conversation by conversation,
- We get to see a change taking place in the lives of new believers.
- We witness a new maturity,
- We see a new ambassador of Jesus Christ.
- And again, what was immediate, has now passed,
- And something new has happened spiritually
- To allow that change to happen in our life
- We just need to set ourselves on a path,
- To take us on the transition that these scripture talk about.
- We truly become a new creature,
- And we allow that change to happen in our lives,
- And we recognize that sin and transgression,
- Leads only to misery and death
- That the momentary sinful thrills get replaced by a rut.
- That's what the scripture is saying to us.
- And we need to be cognizant that the choice is ours
- God doesn't do it to us.
- We have free will
- What we do tonight, tomorrow, or next year,

- Even the things that we choose to believe and hold as authoritative,
- God gives us the choice.
- **Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. <sup>2</sup>I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.**
- This scripture speaks to those of us who are already on the path,
- Regardless of where we are on our spiritual journey.
- We need to have our pure minds stirred up by way of remembrance.
- We need to remember, (and some of us need constant reminders),
- That when bad things happen, we often think,
- Why am I in the midst of so many problems,
- When I am doing my best to remain faithful?
- But we have a choice:
- Do we complain about the things that God does in our lives?
- Do we complain about the things that He allows to happen?
- Do we see our lives with eyes of complaint and discontent,
- That God is being unjust, too harsh, and unfair?
- We need to be stirred up by a remembrance that we are called,
- To be thankful in everything.
- As believers, we are called to see the hand of God,
- And recognize that He is all powerful and all knowing,
- And remembering that He just In all His decisions and judgments.
- That He is full of mercy and compassion to those that call out to Him,
- Understanding that He reproves with equity for the meek of the earth.
- Do we feel like we are being treated unfairly?
- As children of God, and as His servants,
- We don't get a vote on what God does.
- If we are to be a disciple of Jesus Christ,
- Who gave up everything, including His own life, for an unjust world,
- Why should we think that we are better than that?
- Sometimes we would be better off to stop and think about,
- All the many blessings that God has given to us in our lifetimes,
- That we would be overwhelmed and perhaps overcome.
- Have we thought about some of the disasters and tough times,
- That we've gone through in our lives?

- Or the times that we have been really spiritually thirsty?
- And God miraculously through different times and events, provided for us?
- God is faithful.
- All of us here today have had our turn at the temptation of bitterness.
- We have had a turn at the temptation of allowing loneliness to consume us.
- Everyone of us has had a turn of feeling all types of temptations,
- And everyone of us has the ability to overcome them
- **<sup>3</sup>Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. <sup>4</sup>They will say, “Where is this coming’ he promised?**
- Peter is reminding us that God is at hand.
- Time for God is not like it is for us. (Isaiah 41)
- God is faithful
- He will deliver us
- But what is our role in all of this?
- The first thing we could ask ourselves is: are we doing the basics?
- If you are a couple and are having some relationship problems,
- Are you praying together? (Pastor Bob – triangle)
- If God is not in our lives all the time,
- Then it is clear that we are not taking care of the basics.
- All we need are the basics, and our faith.
- How can we expect to solve all the problems and complexities that we face
- Unless we take it to the Lord in prayer?
- How can we expect a successful and happy life,
- And for goodness to come our way if we aren’t doing the basics?
- Do we confess our sins so we can be forgiven?
- Are we praying without ceasing?
- Are we nourishing ourselves by reading and living the Word of God?
- We will not be successful in overcoming all the problems of the world
- If we are not doing the basics... the fundamentals
- Like a baseball team... can’t lay down a bunt, miss a sign or cut off man,
- Then we will not be living the abundant life that Jesus called us to live
- So the question left for us today
- Have we stirred up our minds with appreciation and thankfulness?
- Are we doing the basics?
- The disciples did not ask Jesus how to pray a repetitive prayer.

- They asked Jesus to teach them how to pray,
- They wanted to be closer to Him.
- And He said to pray, to not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- Having fellowship and accountability are all good things to help us
- But the bottom line is that we must do the simple,
- If we are to expect the complex to work.
- To keep ourselves unspotted, to live an overcoming life,
- We need to stay away from certain places, things, and activities.
- We can't expect that a good roof on a house will keep the house strong,
- If the foundation is crumbling.
- Houses should be built on solid ground.
- We have to do the simple in order for the complex to be useful.
- We need to do the simple things that God requires us to do in the Word.
- If we want the blessing to come from all the things that we would build
- We need to build everything on the foundation
- Of the simplicity of Jesus Christ, and Him crucified
- By heeding the call of repentance
- By living a life of self-denial,
- A life that is circumspect, prudent, intentional, and obedient to the Word.
- God is faithful, and He will deliver us
- Christ is coming back.
- It is not for us to know when,
- But be sure, He is coming!!!
- Ending Prayer.