

What Sort of People Ought You Be?

2 Peter 3:3-18

Introduction:

1. People have talked about the end of the world for many years. Some have gone as far as setting exact dates for when the end will come, only to find out they were wrong.
2. Seems like every 2 years there is a new wave of "The End is Near!"
3. Truth is that we are living in the last days, however we have been living in the last days for about 2000 years!
4. In this lesson I want to help us understand that we are in the last days, and consider what sort of people we should be.

I. The last days

- A. Joel 2:28-32 - in the last days the Holy Spirit would descend on many people.
- B. Acts 2:17-18, 21 - at Pentecost the Holy Spirit descended and Peter reminded his hearers that they were in the last days. Those who desired to be saved needed to call on the name of the Lord.
- C. Romans 10:13 - Salvation by calling on the name of the Lord
- D. Acts 22:16 - Paul was told to be baptized calling on the name of the Lord
- E. The last days began at the cross.

II. False teaching about the last days (2 Peter 3:3-9)

- A. Since people had been talking about the last days since the early church and the end had not arrived, false teachers were scoffing at the idea that there would be an end.
- B. The premise was that since the beginning nothing has changed, but the flood changed the world when it was destroyed.
- C. Man desires to place God on a human clock, but God is not on our timeline, we are on His timeline. (**Psalm 90:4**)
- D. The reason for the Lord not returning yet is because God is patient with His creation and desires everyone to repent and be saved.

III. There will be an end where the present heavens and earth will be destroyed with fire (2 Peter 3:10-18)

- A. **The end will** happen when we least expect it (1 Thes. 5:4; Rom. 2:5; Mat. 24:43; Luke 12:39)
- B. **Since we know** how and when the end will happen, Peter encourages us to be holy and godly (vs. 11) (holy and godly are in the plural form-this means that we are to continually strive for holiness and godliness in every aspect of our lives.

- C. Peter's premise of holiness and godliness is not out of fear - but out of the promise of a New World and New Heaven (a place where there is no more sin, suffering, death, **the place where righteousness dwells vs. 13**)
- D. **In what areas** are we to be holy and godly? (vs. 14)
 - 1. Peace
 - 2. Spotless
 - 3. Blameless
- E. **And, consider** God's patience not as forgetting about His promise of the last day, but as salvation (vs. 15)
- F. While we are alive we need to grow in grace and knowledge (v. 18) - This means that we be active in our Christian walk in sharing the Gospel

Conclusion:

- 1. It is true that the 1st century Christians expected the Lord's return during their life-time. That is the reason why Paul encouraged them (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) not to lose heart. Everyone would witness the 2nd coming of the Lord when it happens.
- 2. Let us live godly and holy lives. **"Preach the Gospel, use words if you must."**