This is a message by Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg. Dean of Talbot theological seminary in La Mirada California. Our prophetic message is on the final destruction by fire. The final destruction by fire as we have it indicated in Peter's second epistle, the third chapter. The last chapter of second Peter. In Peter's first epistle he's on the great theme of the of suffering. In this second epistle Peter is speaking of last days. And so in the third chapter we have the final destruction by fire. Every thinking man and woman realizes that world history must be going on to some climax and finale. If there be reason in the world, in the universe, if there's any rhyme or reason. It’s been proved many times over that there is, then there must be a conclusion to the many facets of divine and human history. Now since the atomic age has begun and men's minds have undergone a revolution concerning the stability of the universe. There has been much searching as to what the scriptures have to say concerning the final destruction of the material world. The basic, not the only passage is this one in second Peter the third chapter. Actually, there are not one but three destructions spoken of in this chapter. The first one that's spoken of is the one of the time of Noah in verse 6. The second destruction spoken of was that of the ungodly men in the future in verses 7 and 16. The third one is that of the old heavens and old earth mentioned in verses 10 to 12. Now this chapter is easily divisible into three logical parts. The first 7 verses is speaking of the scoffers of the coming. The scoffers of the coming verses 1 to 7. It reads in this way. this second epistle beloved I now write unto in both of which I stirred up your pure minds by way of remembrance that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and of the commandment of us the apostles of the lord and savior. Knowing this first
that there shall come in the last days scoffers walking after their own lust. And saying where is
the promise of his coming. Or since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from
the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of that by the word of god the
heavens were of old and the earth standing out of the water and in the water by which the world
that then was being overflowed with water perished. But the heavens and the earth which are
now by the same word are kept in store reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and
perdition of ungodly men. Verses 1 to 7 of 2 peter 3, the scoffers of the coming. Now the entire
message of the chapter is a disclosure to believers. You notice verse 1 indicates beloved. It’s a
message to believers called beloved not just in verse 1 but in verse 8. But beloved be not
ignorant of this one thing. Verse 14 wherefore beloved seeing that you look for such things, and
then verse 17. ye therefore beloved. Mark that in your bible. 2 peter 3:1, 3:8, verse 14, verse 17.
Says the apostle peter I now write unto you in both of which I stir up. He means that in the
previous epistle, he was stirring up their pure minds by way of remembrance. Leave it to peter
the fiery preacher. He wants to stir up their minds by way of remembrance. The vigorous
character of peter's ministry is indicated here. He wants to bring things to the recollection in
order that they may think aright in order that they might have the right framework for their
thinking and their living and their hope. Their expectation. And in verse 2 like all the writers of
scripture he links his message onto that which as gone before. He doesn't say you might just as
well forget everything that's gone on before. And some propagators of error, founders of cults
and sects do that again and again. They say put everything aside you've heard before. It was
wrong sadly enough. It misled you. Now I’m going to give you the truth. They’re wrong.
They’re wrong. Our lord Jesus even said search the scriptures. You think you have eternal life
and they are they which testify of me. Our lord Jesus wasn't afraid to be compared with the
picture of messiah in the Old Testament. Why should he? Why should he and be hesitant when after all that picture was the very one that foretold him in a way that they could recognize him. So peter says I want you to be mindful of the words that were spoken before by the holy prophets and the commandments of us the apostles of the lord and savior. He puts that which had been spoken by the holy prophets formerly with the commandments of the apostles of the lord and savior Jesus Christ. My dear friends. Any view of the bible that puts one part of it higher than the other as to inspiration. As to divine authority is suspect. It is error. It is not truth. He says take what was given there. I am here now to stir up your minds by way of remembrance. To put you in mind. To quicken your memory so that you will pair together. You will join together what was spoken before by the holy prophets of the Old Testament with what we apostles of the New Testament say. Knowing this verse, verse 3. That there shall come in the last day’s scoffers walking after their own lust. Man’s aim always is to gratify himself and his desires for these scoffers. The only constant factor in life is the created universe. Skepticism and selfish desires go hand in hand. And notice last days. It’s not the last days for Israel. It’s the last days for the church. And instead of man seemingly gaining in knowledge of the things of god he comes to the place where he finds himself scoffing, scoffing at the things of the lord. He doesn't go deeper into the things of god, but he casts them aside for fables and the like as Paul wrote timothy in second timothy 4. Oh there are going to be scoffers, but the reason they are scoffing is they are walking after a principle of a desire to satisfy and gratify their own earthly pleasures. Skepticism, selfish desires, always go hand and hand. And what are they saying as they scoff? Where is the promise of his coming? Prophetic truth is discounted. It is scorned. It’s scoffed at. It’s laughed at. And on what basis is it laughed at? Since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. And haven't you heard that friends? On so many sides why
do you wild eyed orthodox Christians always talk about a coming of Christ? That’s ridiculous. Why there's not been any change in the world. Look how uniform the world is going along.

There is a principle in evolution of uniformitarianism. That things go on unilaterally without interruption, without a cataclysm, without a catastrophe. They go on uniformly and have been going on through the years in spite of the many many evidences that there been catastrophes and cataclysms and great upheavals and chaos in times pass. But prophetic truth is attacked notice it on the ground. A creation around us appears as it has always been. And friends this is materialistic in outlook with no thought of the invisible and eternal. The thought is that since everything’s been the way it now everything's been the same for years on end. Centuries on end. And it's the same way now. So shall it continue on. As it has been, is now, and ever shall be they would say. So, eat drink and be merry. Things are going to go on. Don’t give any thought for the invisible, the eternal. And they say that since the fathers fell asleep since our ancestors died, why things have been the same. Now fell asleep may I stop long enough to say that sleep is never said of the soul. It always means the body. The soul never sleeps. Even in this life when you are physically asleep, your soul can be working away. You can be thinking away so that when you get up in the morning, you say I am more tired than when I went to sleep. There is no sleep of the soul. That’s like talking about your feet hearing or your hands seeing. Or your eyes hearing. Or your mouth smelling. No. smell is a function of the nose. Speaking is a function of the mouth. Seeing is a function of the eyes. Hearing is a function of the ears. Walking is a function of the feet. And touching and handling. Those are functions of the hands. Sleep is never indicated in the bible of the body. So a seeming uniformity in history appears to confirm the view of these scoffers. They say things are just the way they've always been. Yet in verses 5 and 6 they have omitted in their thinking a tremendous truth. Why to admit the fact of the flood. There was a
flood of Noah if we believe the bible at all. To admit the fact of the flood is to recognize two things. First of all, it’s crystal clear that conditions haven't always been the same. We’re living on the earth, but were not living on the earth exactly as it was in the days of Noah before the flood came. Conditions haven't always been the same. And secondly just as god brought judgement on sin then he will again. This there willingly ignorant of. that by the word of god the heavens were of old and the earth standing out of the water and in the water in that remarkable thing. God has made it stand out of the water and yet in the water by which the world that then was being overflowed with water. That’s the flood of Noah. Perished were not in exactly the same condition as he. We are in a renovated earth. A flood washed earth if you will. And notice the tremendous sweep in time from verse 5 where by the word of god the heavens were of old all the way to verse 13 looking for a new heavens and a new earth. And verse 18. Glory to Jesus Christ both now and forever. Tremendous sweep of time in this chapter. It’s remarkable in that aspect. Now, if this verse 5 is speaking of anything it’s talking about the scoffers willful ignorance. Sad thing to be ignorant when it is not a matter of willfulness but willful ignorance is sad indeed. And do you notice that the scripture settles once and for all how the heavens and the earth were made by the word of god. Not by man, not by some favorable fortuitous meeting of Adams. Not some accidental concurrence of Adams. No. but by the word of god as Hebrews 11 tells us. The word of god formed the heavens and the earth. And it was compacted out of or formed out of land appeared from the waters in genesis. Isn’t that a beautiful word in psalm 24. You and I might never think of putting a stable, a firm world on this kind of a foundation, but god did. Listen to it. Psalm 24:1 and 2. The earth is the lord's and the fullness that of the world they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas. Founded the world on water. Established it on the floods. Yes. God did that by his mighty power. and it was compacted out of,
formed out of land appeared from the waters in genesis, and out of the water may refer to the water reabyss [sp?] mentioned in genesis 1 and 2 without form and void. Even in the non-biblical, the extra biblical accounts. The accounts out of the bible of creation, though they are marred and perverted and corrupted. Nevertheless, they pretty much all speak of water reabyss. Just as we have it in genesis 1 and 2. And the spirit of the lord moved upon the face of the watery mass. And then verse 6. In Noah’s day, they also mocked the idea of any vast or catastrophic change. Think of it. For 120 years, Noah preached. Oh he must have been the laughing stock. You know he must have been the laughing stock of all his contemporaries. They must have said that poor old soul. He certainly had water on the brain. We’ve not had rain. I’ve never heard of rain. Our ancestors have never heard of rain since the creation. He’s talking about a flood. But he built that arc we read in Hebrews 11 believing god unto the saving of his household. Wasn’t that a marvelous testimony? Oh that it might be said of all of us that we so believe god that we were used as instruments in the hand of god. In the spirit of the lord. To the bringing about of the salvation of those in our households. In Noah’s day, they mocked the idea the concept of a vast cataclysmic, catastrophic change. But, it was overflowed by which the world that then was in Noah’s day being overflowed. That word overflowed is our English cataclysm. Comes from a Greek word kataklusthes where we get cataclysm in English. There was a tremendous cataclysm. As though we would read by which the world that then was being cataclysmicly overflown with water. Perished. Perished. The earth was flooded by the very waters out of which it had come. Look at Luke 17 verses 26 and 27 for scriptural confirmation further. And then verse 7 the heavens and the earth which are now by the same word are kept in store. This is an interesting new item of truth. The heavens and the earth which are now by the same word are kept in store. Reserved unto fire. Not water anymore because god promised he would not judge the world
summarily by water again. But reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of godly, ungodly men. Perdition is the natural end of ungodly men who will not trust Christ or his word. Now the word that made the created order has reserved it unto fire for the day of judgement. Stored up for fire. Did you ever stop to think of the heat stored up in the atom? We’re going to see more of that as we go through the passage. But they have only let loose a certain portion of that heat stored up in the atom. That’s god who put it there. And it’s stored up. The word there is treasured up. Some read with fire showing that the means of the ultimate destruction is already at hand and prepared. And you find fire and heat, those two elements. Not only in verse 7 but look at verse 10. You’re going to read about melt with fervent heat. The elements melting with fervent heat. And in verse 11 we find that since all these things are going to be dissolved. And in verse 12. Oh yes. Heavens being on fire shall be dissolved. There’s tremendous fire and heat already stored up. Already reserved. Already at hand for this final cataclysm. And you know as well as I do from the word of god that fire is a tremendously purifying element. when your doctor has sterilized your dentist has sterilized his instruments and if he wants to sterilize them still further, he will put before he puts that instrument in your mouth you'll find him placing it through the fire. There is a tremendously purifying effect of fire. And the prophet Malachi speaks of it more than once. In Malachi 3:1 we read behold I’ve sent my messenger, he shall prepare the way before me the lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple. Even the messenger of the covenant whom you delight in. behold he shall come said the lord of hosts. But whom may abide the day of his coming? You remember that in Handel’s messiah brought out so forcefully. And who shall stand when he appeareth. For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers soap. A launders soap. And he shall sit like a refiner and purifier of silver. He shall purify the sons of Levi and purge them like gold and silver. That they may offer
unto the lord an offering in righteousness. And then in Malachi 4:1 for behold the day cometh that shall burn like an oven. And all the pravity and all that do wickedly shall be stubble. And the day that come shall burn them up said the lord of hosts that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. That purifying effect of fire. So in the first seven verses of second peter 3 on the final destruction by fire, we have the revelation, the truth concerning the scoffers of the coming. Now in verses 8 through 13, we have the divine cataclysm. It must be immediately made clear friends. I cannot emphasize it too strongly, that peter was not speaking of the atom bomb nor did he know of it. How could he have spoken of it? He didn't know of it. And if he had been given it by way of revelation, I grant you that these terms cover that and more. Cover what we have here in second peter 3. It covers the atom bomb concerning its heat and all the rest of it. But peter wasn't speaking of the bomb. He didn't know of it. If he knew of it by revelation, how would it make any sense to his contemporaries when it hadn't been revealed to them? And they wouldn't have had any parallel or analogy with which to understand it. The spirit of god led him to couch the terms. Let us be careful that we understand it in this fashion. That the spirit of the lord. The Holy Spirit led peter to couch the truth in such terms that now that we know some of the atomic secrets, they agree completely with what is written here. And so in verses 8 to 10 we read but beloved be not ignorant of this one thing that one day is with the lord is a thousand years. And a thousand years is one day. The lord is not slack concerning his promise. He's not slow. He's not behind time with reference to his promise as some men count slackness. But he's long suffering. That’s why he’s waiting. Longsuffering toward us. Not willing that any should perish. But that all should come to repentance. But the day of the lord shall come as a thief in the night. In spite of his long suffering in 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 in it shall be burned up.
There’s divine reason as to delay in fulfillment of these things. Someone may say well why doesn't god do something? Why doesn't he bring in some new factors, some new economy. Some new intervention, interposition, inhuman affairs so that these scoffers can't keep on saying everything's the same as it was. Why doesn't the lord do one great cataclysmic thing. Well my dear friends there is divine reason as to his delay in fulfilling the things predicted here. There’s a practical word as to relationship of all this to the unsaved. One day is with the lord is a thousand years. God lives in the timeless eternal eternity. We talk about eternity past. Eternity future. That’s just an accommodation to us so that we may understand it better. But god is in the eternal present. He is the I am. Not the has been, or the will be in that sense. He is the always I am. God wants to be slow in judgement always, verse 9 tells us. His long suffering and patient means salvation to souls. My dear friends, we can make this very practical. We’re longing as did the apostle john for the coming again of our lord Jesus. They longingly yearningly cried out even so come Lord Jesus. And we should say that too and we should mean it. But we shouldn't find fault with the lord. For his patience, his long suffering, what appears to be delay because he has a marvelous objective in mind in that he is waiting so that more souls will be brought to a knowledge of salvation. To faith in Christ so that heaven may be even more populated than it has been. There be more of that glorious company in the eternal ages. Isn’t that just like god? Just like our blessed loving gracious heavenly father. And then notice verse 10. That simultaneous with the great white throne when heaven and earth flee away. The day of the lord will come as a thief in the night. Which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with a fervent heat. The earth also and the works that are in it shall be burned up. Christ foretold that heaven and earth would flee away. Mark 13:31. Matthew 24:35. Heaven and earth passed away but my word shall not pass away. Isaiah 51:6 mentions it. Hebrews 1:11 and 12 the
lord will roll up the heavens as a scroll. Pass away. But his years the years of god, the years of the lord Jesus Christ are never ending. They are eternal. Revelation 20 verse 11 also. Astronomy now testifies that other heavenly bodies have passed through great conflagrations. Do you notice what time is indicated here the day of the lord. Now friends if you want to understand prophecy correctly and you want to think through prophetic portions clearly, you are going to have to pay a great deal of attention to the word D A Y. day. When day is used in the bible, old and New Testament, that word does not always mean the same thing. It does not always mean 24 hours. When we say this is the day of salvation 2 Corinthians 6:2. That has already gone on for centuries. We say this is the day of grace. The day of god's blessing. Now if you will take these passages in mind, I believe you will have a connected concept of day. In 1 Corinthians 4 we read of day man's day. Paul says I’m not worried about being judged by man’s judgement. We have it in our translations. But actually that should read by man’s day. Not just man's judgement, but man’s day. that passage reads that verse 2 of 1 Corinthians 4 moreover its required in steward that a man be found faithful but with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you or of man's judgement. That expression man's judgement in 1 Corinthians 4:3 is literally in the Greek hemera man’s day. Man is having his day. He is having his inning as we might say. He is allowed a tremendous measure of freedom. Now the day of man will find that it’s followed by the day of Christ. That’s the rapture. Philippians 1:6. He that hath begun a good work in you will perform until the day of our lord Jesus Christ. The day of man then. And then after that the day of Christ the rapture. Then the day of the lord it will begin after the rapture. After the day of Christ. Its course will include the great tribulation. So many Old Testament prophecies speak of the day of lord. A day of wasteness a day of gloom a day of clouds. A day of terror. A day when men shall be in great fear and great events will transpire on the earth in judgement. You have day
of man first then, the day of Christ, the day of the lord that includes the great tribulation, and the
millennial reign of Christ because that's the day when the lord will enter into his own when he
will have this way. When he will have the sovereignty visibly so as he has always had it. God
has never relinquished any of it. Even when he's allowed man to have a measure of freedom so
that it’s called man’s day today. And then follow me, after the day of the lords great tribulation
the millennial reign of Christ, its end will mark the day of god. Let me give you these days again
just briefly. Day of man, our day. Day of Christ, day of the lord, day of god. Our verse is
emphasizing the last part of the day of the lord. And it’s hastening on. Notice verse 12 to the day
of god. We have a mention of the day of the lord coming as a thief in the night. Now the day of
the lord can't be the rapture. The day of Christ is the rapture. But do you know the tribulation
time punishment on earth is going to overtake men as a thief in the night. They’re not going to be
ready for it. They’ve been warned just as Noah’s generation, his contemporaries were warned.
But they won't listen anymore than they're listening now. They will not listen then. But that day
of the lord is going to come in which the heavens are going to pass away with a great noise. Like
the crash of rampaging fire. I’m sure many of you have seen pictures or you have it in your
newspapers and magazines or have heard it even on a television on telecast when there'd been
great fires on the west coast. You have heard the very crackling great noise crash of rampaging
fire. A wheezing sound. A rapid motion through the air. Some would have said like the flight of
a bird or thunder or fierce flame. Then what's going to happen? And the elements. It used to be
applied to letters of the alphabet. Here the Greek word elements component parts. That word
means the component parts of which the organized world order or system is composed. And
according to great Greek authorities it’s the components into which matter is ultimately divisible.
Of course folk thought that matter was so everlasting that it was uniform. That it was indivisible.
That’s where we get the word atom. The A means not like non in the Latin. Tom. Atom, T O M is from a Greek verb tomeo to split. Atom is supposed to have been an unsplittable part of the makeup of the universe. And as someone has facetiously said, they have split the unsplittable. Now they’re trying to unscrew the unscrewable. But notice dissolved. These elements are going to melt with fervent heat. And then all these things shall be dissolved. It’s unloosing. That word dissolved is as unloosing as in the splitting of the atom. And our friend dr. Wilbur smith and his work on this atomic age and the word of god has pointed out the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire. And you know that’s more frequently referred to by the scripture writers than any other historic judgement. You find it in Isaiah 13 and Jeremiah 23 and Zephaniah 2:9 and Amos 4:11 in Ezekiel 16 in Matthew 10, Luke 17, 29. In Jude the 7th verse and other passages. Tacitus the roman historian said famous cities were once destroyed by fire from heaven. Think of that account in genesis 19 when god poured out his wrath on Sodom and Gomorrah. Josephus says it was burned by lightning. And Edward Robinson the great archaeologist in his biblical researches in Palestine bears the same testimonies. Been suggested that it took more than lightning. Perhaps the release there at Sodom and Gomorrah. The release of the energy of atoms in the air above those cities. And lee Chesnutt in his book on the atom speaks and echoes the word of god. He’s indicated after one little bomb General Farrell said the whole country was lighted by a searing light with the intensity many times that of the midday sun. That would picture intense heat to us. He went on to say the awesome roar which warned of doomsday made us feel that we puny things were blasphemous to dare tamper with the forces here to for reserve to the almighty. That confirms the statement of the great noise here in second peter 10 and 11. And doctor tonks, T O N K S in his work on the application of atomic power has said translated into more familiar terms, the annihilation of one pound of anything yields the same energy as the
burning of about 2 million tons. A ton is 2000 pounds. The burning of about 2 million tons of coal. That’s the annihilation of one pound of anything yields the same energy as the burning of about 2 million tons of coal. John Hersey in his book Hiroshima said at Hiroshima great clay, gray clay tiles whose melting point was 1300 degrees centigrade, that would be 2372 degrees Fahrenheit. I repeat that at Hiroshima these great gray tiles whose melting point was 1300 degrees or 2372 degrees Fahrenheit dissolved at 600 yards away from the center of the blast. For some years it’s been known that very high energy manifestations have been entering the earth’s atmosphere from outer space. And these manifestations are known to scientists as cosmic rays. And with recently developed photographic measurement techniques has been found. Some of these cosmic rays are possessed of energy levels from 2 or 300 million electron volts on up to several billion electron volts. It’s been seen too by these photographic means that these cosmic rays occasionally strike the nucleus of an element in the photographic plate and they knock it into what the scientist calls smithereens. The new sub atomic particles are entirely different from protons neutrons or electrons. They are called mesons. Light and energy are unmistakably interlocked friends. And so are mass and energy. Blackett. Has he? He’s the Nobel Prize winner in physics. Produced a photograph that has shown the conversion of a light ray into two material particles. Discovered how to calculate the amount of energy that would create this pair of particles. Friends, these researches, these findings in the realm of science only confirmed what we have stated here. Let me read these two remarkable verses again. That the day of the lord will come as a thief in the night in 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 in it shall be burned up. Seeing them that all these things shall be dissolved what manner a person’s ought you to be in all holy living. And godliness in verse 11. These
truths were told should lead to a godly life and walk. And while were living holy lives, lives marked characterized by godliness. Were to be looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of god. And with the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved. And the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Earnestly desiring. How? By prayer. By preaching of the word. By godly life. We hasten the coming of the day of god. It must be possible friends or why would the spirit of god tell us through peter that we could both look for and hasten unto the coming of the day of god. By prayer, by preaching by godly life. And the elements shall be dissolved. The elements shall melt with fervent heat. Now that word melt is not the same word as in verse 10 which means dissolve but it’s a stronger word. The wasting away of nature. Igneous rocks reveal that they were once liquid. And during fires as I've said before on the west coast one could hear by television the rocks popping just like water boiling in a cauldron. And then verse 13 we read nevertheless, we according to his promise look were looking for hasting to the day of god but were looking for new heavens. And a new earth in which dwelleth righteousness. In our day righteousness suffers violence. In the day when Christ rules righteousness will reign. And there will be justice. Unwavering justice. Righteousness will rule in the new heavens and new earth righteousness will dwell. There will be no evil there to be overcome. To be put down, to be suppressed. And just as in Noah’s day the flood ushered in a new era with a renovated cleansed earth. So these events spoken of here will result in a new heavens and a new earth. Well why is there a need someone may ask at this point. Why I can't understand why the heavens. I can understand why the earth has been polluted so many centuries. I understand why they would need cleansing. But could you please tell me why the heavens above us need to be cleansed also that there needs to be a melting there and a new heavens. Why is there a need for such. Well I suggest that Hebrews 9:23 will help us there. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of
things in the heavens shall be purified with ease. But the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. Remember sin reared its ugly head not first on earth with Adam and eve. But sin in god's universe reared its ugly head in heaven. When that created one Lucifer sinned against god, said I will be like the most high god. Now the millennial earth is going to know renovation also. As well as the new heavens and the new earth. The millennial earth we read of in Isaiah 11. The earth is going to see creatures in it. A wolf will be able to lie down with a kid and a lion with a lamb and a wolf with a lamb and nature will be at one. And Isaiah 35 the desert is going to blossom as a rose. Well it does today but it does it by irrigation of the soil. In that day it will be marvelously done by divine power. That’s what our lord Jesus Christ meant. In Matthew 19 when peter had asked our lord Jesus well what will come to us. You’re speaking of this transpiring and that transpiring for others. And that nothing is impossible with god. With men this is impossible. About entering into the kingdom of heaven but with god all things are possible. Peter answered and said to our lord Jesus behold we forsake it all and follow thee what shall we have therefore. God the lord the lord Jesus Christ said unto them verily I say unto you that ye who have followed me in the regeneration. That’s the palingenesia it does not mean the new birth of the soul. It means the renewal the recreation of nature. Yes. The renewal of the earth. As in Isaiah 11. And as in romans 8:19 to 23 when all creation groans and travails and thank god in a coming day shall enter into the liberty of the sons of god. Millennial earth will know renovation too. But thank god that will be followed by an even more beautiful scene with the new heavens and new earth because the millennial earth will find some coming up against the beloved city. Satan will gather its host from the four ends of earth. So many that they’re after the name of those great hosts in the Old Testament Ezekiel 38 and 39. Gog and Magog. But here they come not from one locality but from all the four corners of the earth. And they're going to
come against the beloved city and fire comes down out of heaven and consumes them. So there needs to be some purging of that revolt as well. So millennial earth will know renovation and then after that millennial reign of Christ there will be this new heavens and new earth in which dwelleth righteousness. dwelleth righteousness. I repeat now righteousness suffers. suffers violence millennium it reigns in eternity it will dwell. the new heavens and the new earth are spoken of in Isaiah 65, in second peter 3:13, in revelation 21 verse 1 and verse 5. now someone says what is all of this mean to me? I’m living a humdrum everyday life. I have to work for a living; I have to pay my taxes as a Christian and all. I want to do my duty by my wife my children my community. and above all, I want to do my duty by the lord. how can I use any of this? it’s alright for mental calisthenics. it may be alright for proper thinking for the future but I have to have something that will help me in the down to earth and nitty gritty as they call it of living. my dear friends, do you think the spirit of god has forgotten that? if in the first 7 verses he spoken of the scoffers of the coming in verse 8 to 13 of the great cataclysm. verses 14 to 18 of second peter 3. the practical conclusion. yes, god's word is eminently practical. if we don't apply the truth found therein, we haven't understood them, or we have been disobedient in putting them into application. the final destruction by fire in second peter 3 concludes with a practical word. the practical conclusion. wherefore beloved, seeing that you look for such things and that summarizes all that has been in the chapter to this point. seeing that you look for such things be diligent that you may be found of him in peace without spot and blameless. now the chapter has 4 practical exhortations. verse 11 about seeing about our godly living, our holy living what man or persons we ought to be. and then in verse 14 here. wherefore beloved seeing that you look for such things be diligent that you may be found of him at peace without spot and blameless. holy living verses 11 and 14. verse 12 looking for or expectation of the day. that's the second practical
exhortation. you should be looking for hasting unto coming of the day of god. that's the second one. first one in verse 11 and 14. holy living. verse 12 looking for or expectation of the day. verse 17 steadfastness. seeing that you know these things. beware lest you be let away by the air or we could fall from your own steadfastness. and verse 18 growth in grace. grow in grace. were told to live holy lives. were told to expect the consummation of all things. were told to be steadfast not deadfast. scripture said be steadfast unmovable. and then grow in grace. someone has put it beautifully in the hymn you'd remember. lift up your heads pilgrims weary. see days approach. now crimson the sky. night shadows flee and your beloved awaited with longing at last wrought nigh. dark was the night sin warred against us. heavy the load of sorrow we bore. but now we see signs of his coming. our hearts glow within us. joys cup runneth o'er. oh blessed hope. oh blissful promise. filling our hearts with rapture divine. oh day of days. hail thy appearing. thy transcendent glory. forever shall shine. what's the practical value of all this? seeing that you look for such things be diligent. you may be found of him in peace without spot and blameless and account. the long suffering of our lord is salvation. yes that's what we read of in verse 8 and 9. but it’s not only by peter. god the spirit revealed it also through Paul, the long suffering of our lord is salvation for souls. even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you as also in all his epistles speaking in them of these things in which of some things hard to be understood. which they that are unlearned and unstable rest they twist as they do also the other scriptures unto their own destruction. yes. Paul’s words agree with peter's words. now putting it into practical everyday living, we've indicated these 4 practical exhortations. how shall we conduct ourselves? first of all, these truths are a great incentive to evangelism. to be ready to meet the lord at his coming. secondly, to comfort sorrowing ones. great evangelist taught these truths as moody chapman sundy Torrey and many
others. great incentive to evangelism. read the lives of those men. read their sermons that have come down to us. see whether they ever talked about these prophetic matters. in a practical way as applying to us today to help us live the life that we ought to. to make us sole winners. to make us those willing to share our faith in Christ with others. and then a great incentive to faithful service generally. seeing that we know these things. seeing that we understand the terror of the lord. we should make it our ambition whether absent from the body or in the body that we should be found faithful pleasing our lord. and first Corinthians 3:13 to 15 that we may build upon that foundation, not wood hay and stubble that the fire can consume. but that we may build that which is silver and gold and precious stones that can abide the fire. revelation 22:12 similarly to serve him. be diligent. great incentive not only to evangelism but to faithful service. and as a great incentive here to sound doctrine in Titus 2 we read that we are to abstain from ungodliness. ungodliness and worldly lust. we are to live soberly, righteously, godly in this present age. looking for the blessed hope in the glory the appearing of our great god and savior. so these truths are great incentives to evangelism. to faithful service. to sound and proper sane doctrine. and then beautifully in the fourth place the great incentive to purity of life. purity of life. he that hath this hope set on Christ purifieth himself even as he is pure. first John 3:2 and 3 and Colossians 3:4 and 5. you remember when Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with him in glory. and Paul speaks further in Colossians 3 of the manner of godliness. that should characterize all of our activity on earth in view of these blessed truths. in first Thessalonians 5:23 we are to be found blameless in that our. great incentive to purity of life. and these truths constitute a great incentive to missions. Samuel m zwemer said this hope of Christ imminent personal visible return is the strongest possible incentive to missions. he was called the apostle to the Muslims. he was in the last years of his life. the professor of missions at Princeton
theological seminary. this hope said he of Christ imminent personal visible return is the strongest possible incentive to missions. it sounds the note of urgency and that I would point out in the last place friends that it is a safeguard against apostasy. it's like a lock washer. if it's there, everything's kept in place. if it’s gone, so much else will go. that's why the apostle peter speaks of it. for the matter of steadfastness. for the matter of keeping us in the place of god's blessing in the center of his will. ye therefore beloved seeing that you know these things before, beware lest ye also being led away with the error of the wicked. keeps us from apostasy. not led away with the error of the wicked. safeguard against apostasy. don't be led astray because you’ll fall from your own steadfast but rather grow in grace. not grow into grace. no one can grow into grace. you have to be born again into grace. but one in the sphere of grace, grow therein. yes. and in the knowledge of our lord and savior Jesus Christ to him be glory both now and forever, amen.

safeguard against apostasy. it warns then of carelessness. because in first john 2:28 now little children abide in him that when he shall appear, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him and his coming will not be careless about our doctrine, about what we hold in truth. and it encourages faithful preaching. there's a safeguard against apostasy. knowing these truths and preaching them holding them dearly and living by them. we thank god can know the meaning of second timothy 4:1 and 2. I charge thee therefore before god says Paul to timothy before god and the lord Jesus Christ who shall judge the living and the dead and is appearing in his kingdom. preach the word. be diligent in season out of season. reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. yes, encourages faithful preaching. the preaching of the word in view of what? in view of the lord Jesus Christ’s coming. at his appearing and his kingdom. oh dear friends, what a practical, practical word this is. in second peter the third chapter. our chapter then has a word to the unsaved and to the saved as well. what does it say to the unsaved one? be
saved by trusting Christ while god is long suffering. actually, it's a mysterious thing, strange thing, frankly we cannot understand it fully but there is a sense in which god is holding up all things in his plan. he’s sovereignly doing that in order. there’s a holding operation in order that many more may be saved. if you're listening to this message and you've never trusted Christ, we plead with you. trust him. he is the only source of refuge that your soul rest securely in him. blessed are all they that put their trust, take their refuge in him. psalm 2 verse 12. so to the unsaved, we say be saved by simply trusting Christ as a child while god continues his long suffering toward you. to the saved, if we believe the blessed hope as my friend dr. fance havener has said, if we believe the blessed hope, then let’s practice the blessed holiness. if we believe the gospel lets behave the gospel. belief should be joined with behavior. creed should be joined with conduct. doctrine should be joined with deed. principle should be joined with practice. orthodoxy should be joined with orthopraxy. not only right thinking but right acting and right living. a man one came to the great evangelist DL moody and he began to boast of his spiritual growth and his spiritual insight. his advance in the things of the lord. and he made an unusual expression. he made an unusual statement. he said do you know Mr. moody; I have been on the mount of transfiguration. I've had a mount of transfiguration experience for 15 years. now that was longer of course than peter James and john ever had an experience like that. it was an incident in their life. but this man boasted loudly to moody that he’d been on a mount of transfiguration experience for 15 wonderful years. about that time, DL moody turned to him very seriously. he said my dear friend, do you mind telling me how many souls you have led to Christ as savior? the man didn't expect that kind of a question. and he was smitten dumb. moody pressed his question. and the man had to shamefacedly admit, he had to say finally there wasn't a single one that he had led to Christ in that time of his so called 15 year mount of transfiguration experience.
do you know what moody with all truth and practicality said to him? he said we don't want that kind of mountain top experience. and he was 100% right. beloved, if these things mean anything to us, they ought to mean everything to us. and if they mean everything to us, we dare not hold these things to ourselves. that’s the purpose of putting these messages in such a way. making them available to people far and near so that we may share the things of god and the things of Christ. they're not ours to monopolize. they belong to all. yes, this man had a mount of transfiguration experience according to him. but I want to tell you my dear friends that that mount of transfiguration experience was clearly diagnosed by moody as a spurious one. that was a false one. it was what we call today all together phony. it was not a true experience from god because he would have shared it with others. and when the disciples the apostles went away from that mount of transfiguration experience, the lord Jesus Christ led them into immediate service for others. remember a man brought his son that was possessed of the demon and pled that there might be a release. oh yes there's so much work to be done away from these experiences as we come away from them don't just live on a mountain top experience. see to it that others that are down in the valley get it. were told that a dying soldier once said to a chaplain, if I believed one tenth of what you claim to believe. isn't this an indictment? a dying soldier said it to his Chaplin if I believed one tenth of what you claim to believe, I’d be doing ten times more about it. what a tremendous rebuke. we do not basically let’s face it friends. we do not basically or actually believe any more than we are willing to practice. how much of what we've been thinking about in second peter 3. are you willing, am I willing to put into practice, may god grant that we shall not rest calmly that we shall not rest complacently until we put into operation into practical application. into shoe leather if you will. all of this chapter that god the holy spirit depends, makes dependent on us. these exhortations that are found here indicate that we must observe and
submit our wills in order that these things may be practically openly realized in our life. my god grant that maybe your portion and mine, our father and our god. lord we cannot read study such portions as this and then go away glibly as a man who looks into the mirror and sees his face so clearly there. a proper estimate of himself and then goes away and immediately forgets what manner of man he is. may that not be true of us. may we be characterized by godliness by holiness and then may we be encouraged unto purity of life. kept from apostasy, interested in getting the word out to the ends of the earth in missions. may Christ be magnified hasten the hour of his coming. and in the meantime may our zeal be quickened to snatch many branch from the burning to the glory of Christ that he may see of the travail of his soul for them and be satisfied. we pray in his ever blessed all prevailing name with thanksgiving, amen.