

Jesus Is Coming

Text : **II Peter 3: 3-15**

S# 1.

INTRODUCTION :

A. What motivates you ? Is it positive or negative ?

S# 2.

1. Many people are motivated by the desire to avoid negative things.
 - a. I work at my job so I won't get fired.
 - b. I take the garbage out so my wife won't fuss at me.
 - c. If I don't eat that stuff I may get sick ?
2. Other people are motivated by positive ambitions.
 - a. They work because they desire to get a promotion at work ?
 - b. They do nice things out of a desire to make someone happy ?
 - c. They exercise and eat right because they want to achieve wellness ?

B. It's exactly the same in the spiritual realm; some are motivated to achieve positive goals while others live in fear.

S# 3.

1. Those who are motivated by the negative live in fear.
 - a. They come to church because they're afraid not to, they don't want to go to Hell.
 - b. They avoid sin in their lives for the same reason; *"I don't want to go to Hell."*
 - c. All their good works and service are done so they won't fall short and be lost.
2. Those who are motivated by positive feelings live in anticipation.
 - a. They come to the assembly with joy and anticipation.
 - 1) **Psa. 122:1** – **I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."**
 - 2) They would never ask, *"Is it a sin not to attend on Sunday and Wed. evenings?"*
 - b. They lead sanctified lives out of a desire to please God and to glorify His Christ.
 - c. They seek opportunities to do good to all men because they want to be like Jesus.

C. It all boils down to attitude. ... Are we motivated by fear or by LOVE ?

S# 4.

1. The one talent man was motivated by fear.

Matt. 25: 25 – **'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'**

 - a. His fear robbed him of the joy that could have been his. He had no anticipation.
 - b. He made no gain and had no reward. ***He only thought about himself. .. No love.***

2. It is God's desire that our relationship with Him be based upon love. **S# 5.**
Matt. 22: 37 – And He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
3. When God has this kind of relationship with you, your life will change.
 - a. Stress will yield to serenity. **S# 6.**
Phil. 4: 6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Phil. 4: 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
 - b. Joy will characterize your heart even when happiness evades you.
 - 1) **Gal. 5: 22 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, ...**
 - 2) Joy springs from within, but happiness is a response to circumstances. **II Cor 7:4**
 - c. Fear will be supplanted by anticipation. (cf. - **II Tim. 4: 6-8 / II Tim. 1: 12**) **S# 7.**
I John 4: 18 – There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.
S# 8.

There is no greater illustration of this difference in attitude than to compare the different attitudes toward what the scriptures call "The Day Of The Lord."

I. The second coming of Christ is a major theme in the New Testament.

A. It is mentioned in almost all of the books of the New Testament.

1. It is directly references in 24 of the 27 books.
2. Though not directly discussed in Gal. 5: 5 and II John 8 it is referenced in both.
3. The only books where it isn't referenced are the brief books of Philemon and III Jn.

B. The second coming is one of the most often repeated doctrines in the entire bible.

1. It is mentions more than 300 times in the New Testament.
2. Jesus promised that He would return to fetch His own. **S# 10.**
John 14: 2-3 ... I go to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.
3. The Apostle Paul warned that Jesus would come in Judgment. **S# 11.**
Acts 17: 30-31 ... God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

4. Peter warned that the return of Jesus would mark the end of the world. **S# 12.**

II Pet. 3: 10 – But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

S# 13.

II. Modern atheists are nothing new; there have always been scoffers and deniers.

- A. Peter addressed the heresy being taught by the mockers. **S# 14.**

1. **II Pet. 3: 3** – Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,
2. The mockers (KJV = scoffers) were making two arguments.
 - a. The stability of the earth, it just goes on and on with no change.
 - b. It has been a long time and nothing has happened.

S# 15.

- B. Peter was not referring to a future event, he realized he was in the last days.

1. Peter quoted Joel's prophesy about the Holy Spirit poured out "*in the last day.*"
 - a. **Acts 2:16–17** This is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: **17** And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind;
 - b. Therefore, the last days had already begun on that day of Pentecost.
2. The Hebrew writer spoke of "**these last days**", putting them in the then present.

Heb. 1: 1-2 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
3. The **last days** began with Christ's death and resurrection and ends with His return.

S# 16.

- C. Those who scoff at the thought of Christ's judgment coming because nothing ever changes ignore the fact of the global flood. *That was a major change !*

1. When God spoke the world into existence, the earth was covered with water.
 - a. The first day God created light.
 - b. The second day He created the land mass above the waters. **Etc.**
2. Since God created the earth and all that is on it, it all belongs to Him.
 - a. **Psa. 24: 1** – **The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.**
 - b. Since both the earth and the world belong to God, He may do with them as He pleases.
3. Thus, when man became evil at heart God destroyed the "world" by water.

D. Notice that it does not say that God destroyed the “earth”, but the world. S# 17.**1. II Pet. 3: 6 – through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.**

- a. All that man considers “his” world was destroyed, .. society, life as we know it.
- b. Man, all his works and all living creatures were destroyed from earth.
- c. HOWEVER, the earth itself remained and man rebuilt his “**world**.”

2. When the day of the Lord comes, He will destroy “the earth.” S# 18.

- a. **II Pet. 3: 10 – But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.**

- b. After the “**the day of the Lord**” there will be nothing left to rebuild upon.

3. In the original two different words are used with two specific meanings. S# 19.

- a. **World** [*kosmos*] **1** an apt and harmonious arrangement or constitution, order, government. **2** ornament, decoration, adornment, ... **7** world affairs, the aggregate of things earthly. **7A** the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments riches, advantages, pleasures, etc, -- *Strongs Enhanced Lexicon*

- b. **Earth** [*ghay*] **1** arable land. **2** the ground, the earth as a standing place. **S# 20.**
3 the main land as opposed to the sea or water. **4** the earth as a whole. **4A** the earth as opposed to the heavens. **4B**, the abode of men and animals. - *ibid*

WHY is this important to understand ? (*Perfect illustration of our previous lesson*) S# 21.

- A. There are false teachers who come to your door advocating false doctrine based on this chapter.
- B. **Jude 3** tells us that it is our responsibility to :
Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints..
- C. These false teachers teach that the earth will still exist after the “**day of the Lord**.”
 - 1. They compare it to the destruction of the world by fire to the destruction by water.
 - 2. They teach that the righteous will then live on this earth. (*renewed by God*)
- D. This doctrine denies our eternal home in Heaven with God.
 - 1. They teach that there will only be 144,000 accepted into Heaven and that that quota has long since been filled so all the righteous after them will be on earth.
 - 2. They deny that man will be resurrected, but teach he will be created again.
 - 3. They convince many people about this doctrine because people do not know the scriptures and our English words for earth and world are used the same.

*** This illustrates the importance of Christians studying to know the doctrine.**

S# 22.

III. The fact of His coming is irrefutable, but the day and time is unknown.

A. Peter disproves the scoffer's second argument as easily as the first.

1. The timing of the coming of the day of the Lord is irrelevant to its coming.
2. God dwells outside the realm of time as we know it. *ALL time in NOW.* S# 23.
 - a. **II Pet. 3: 8** – But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.
 - b. Taken literally, that would indicate that it has only been 2 days since Calvary.
3. Thus, in God's eyes it has not been a long time since Jesus returned to His side.

B. Each day God delays His judgment is a day of mercy and an opportunity.

1. **II Pet. 3: 9** – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, S# 24. but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
2. A wise person would use this time to prepare, but the scoffers do not.
3. *The day of the Lord is like the day of our death. We know it's coming, not when.* S# 25.

C. No one knows when “the day of the Lord” will come, but it WILL certainly come.

1. God has already set a specific date. S# 26.
Acts 17: 30–31 ... God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness ...
2. No one on earth knows when that day will occur. S# 27.
Matt. 24: 35-36 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. ³⁶ But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of Heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.
3. It will come when men do not expect it. (*God is not dangling signs to be interpreted.*)
 - a. **Matt. 24: 42** – Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. ... In the parable of His coming ... ⁵⁰ the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,
 - b. Christ's return is consistently spoken of as coming “as a thief in the night.”
 - 1) **I Thes. 5: 2** – For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord S# 28. will come just like a thief in the night.
 - 2) **II Pet. 3: 10** – But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, (*No warning*)

D. When the day of the Lord comes it will be while life is going on normally. S# 29.

1. **Matt. 24: 37-39** For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.
³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; **so will the coming of the Son of Man be.**

*** Compare Sodom and Gomorrah, they did not expect judgment.**

2. The people of Noah's time remained willfully ignorant.
 - a. Noah preached while the ark was preparing. (**II Pet. 2: 5**)
 - b. They were busy doing the things that made them happy.
 - c. After hearing about the flood some died before it came.
3. Scoffers today ignore the pleas of God to repent and enter the ark of safety, i.e, Jesus.
 - a. The message of warning and rescue are being preached, but people ignore it.
 - b. Their lives are centered around doing whatever makes them happy.
II Pet. 3: 3 – Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come S# 30.
with their mocking, following after their own lusts, (seek pleasure)
4. Millions will die before the “day of the Lord” comes. (**Lose all hope, opportunity**)
 - a. All of them could have been saved, but all will be lost.
 - b. **Heb. 9: 27 – And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,**

CONCLUSION :**A. Knowing the “Day of the Lord” is coming should motivate us. S# 31.**

1. **II Pet. 3: 11-12** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, ...
2. Anticipating our reward we should “hasten” the coming of our Savior. **Pray for it.**
3. It should motivate us to plead with others to accept the salvation Jesus offers.

S# 32.

B. What is your attitude toward the return of Jesus ? Do you long for it or fear it ?

1. If you're in Christ you joyfully anticipate the “**new heavens and a new earth.**”
2. If you are outside of Christ you have cause to live in great fear.

S# 33.

II Thes. 1: 7-9 Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **S# 34.**

Lesson Text :**II Peter 3: 3-15**

3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, **4** and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” **5** For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, **6** through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. **7** But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. **9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, **12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! **13** But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, **15** and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,