

All Things Made New

Long Beach Alliance Church • August 14th, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

~2nd Peter 3:13 (NASB)

1) Remember God's Word To You!

- A) When Peter began his letter, he emphasized the importance of an increasing knowledge of God through Jesus Christ (2nd Peter 1:2), which provides an authentic relationship producing "life and godliness" (1:3).
- B) This true knowledge of Jesus Christ comes through knowing the "Jesus stories" of Scripture which have come through the teaching of prophets and apostles by the Holy Spirit of God (1:16-21).
- C) Dangerously though, false prophets and heretics were adding and subtracting from the teaching of Scripture, with devastating results in the lives of those who were ensnared by their false teaching (2:1-22).
- D) Peter again returns to his original encouragement to remember the Word of God (both from ancient and apostolic) – KNOW THE JESUS STORIES (3:1-2).

2) God's Patience Revealed

- A) Peter returns to the objections of the heretics, who mock the return of Christ ("the day of the Lord," cf. 3:10), placing doubt on the divine promises of Christ's return (3:3-4).
- B) Peter's contention with the heretics is not one of timing, but one of significance. The "day of the Lord" was a day of judgment for all those who do not stand with God. The heretic is not concerned with the return of Christ, as much as He is trying to live without any concern of future judgment. This is the danger of the heresy!
- C) Peter vigorously contends that God brought the world into being through His Word (3:5), and also judged that world and destroyed it with water (3:6, cf. Genesis 7-8). This is an Old Testament "type" or "example" of things to come!
- D) So also the present world is sustained by God's Word (3:7), and are being reserved for future judgment by fire (3:7). You can choose to ignore these facts, or choose to see this is the way God works, has worked, and will work.
- E) Peter then illustrates God's tremendous patience, noting that God wants all men to come to repentance (3:8-9), but assures them that in fact, judgment (God) is coming (3:10)!

3) All Things New

- A) For the follower of Jesus Christ, these are not words of horror, but words of encouragement for a good and holy life, which results in all things being made new (3:11-13).
- B) Peter stands with Paul's apostolic teaching (3:15-16), noting the complexities of Scripture can be distorted for those who do not take the time for understanding and study.
- C) In conclusion, Peter calls for righteous lives which come by the grace of God, through the knowledge of Christ, by the movement of the Holy Spirit, through careful study of the Scriptures, for the ultimate glory of God, both today and for eternity (3:17-18). Amen!