

A Practical Study of 2 PETER:

A Winner's Game Plan

“What It Takes to Break the Tape”

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

“But the God of all Grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, shall himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation.”

Study Number Seven – “Here’s What’s Going to Happen” – 2 Peter 3:8-10

Remember I read just a little bit to you from the *Just Like Jesus*, the book by Max Lucado that we’re using for the men’s conference? Early this morning I was reading Day #3:

(Just Like Jesus Devotional: A Thirty Day Walk with the Savior by Max Lucado) Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson. Copyright – Max Lucado, 2002.

“The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it” (Jeremiah 17:9). Our hearts seem so far from His. He’s pure and we’re greedy. He’s peaceful and we’re hassled. He’s purposeful and we’re distracted. He is

pleasant and we're cranky. He's spiritual and we're earthbound.

The distance between our hearts and His seem so immense. How could we ever hope to have the heart of Jesus? Are you ready for a surprise? You already do. You already have the heart of Christ. Why are you looking at me that way? Would I kid you?

If you are in Christ, you already have the heart of Christ. One of the supreme yet unrealized promises of God is simply this: If you've given your life to Jesus, Jesus has given Himself to you. He's made your heart His home. It would be hard to say it more succinctly than Paul does: "Christ lives in me."

At the risk of repeating myself, let me repeat myself. If you have given your life of Jesus, Jesus has given Himself to you. He's moved in and unpacked His bags and is ready to change you into the likeness of one degree to another.

Paul explains it with these words. Strange as it seems, we Christians actually do have within us a portion of the very thoughts and mind of Christ. Strange is the word. If I have the mind of Jesus, why do I still think so much like me? If I have the heart of Christ, why do I still have to have all those hang-ups? If Jesus dwells within me, why do I hate traffic jams?

Part of the answer is illustrated in the story about a lady who had a small house on a seashore of Ireland at the turn of the century. She was quite wealthy but also quite frugal. The people were surprised then that she decided to be among the first to have electricity in her house.

Several weeks later after the installation, a meter reader appeared at her door. He asked if her electricity was working well. And she assured him it was.

“I’m wondering if you can explain something to me” he said. “Your meter shows scarcely any usage at all.”

“Certainly” she answered. “Each evening when the sun sets I turn on my lights just long enough to light the candles then I turn them all out.”

She tapped into the power but didn’t use it. Her house is connected but not altered.

Don’t we make the same mistake? We too with our souls saved, our hearts unchanged, are connected but are not altered. Trusting Christ for salvation but resisting transformation.

(source unknown)

That’s the phrase I wanted you to get this morning.

Trusting Christ for salvation but resisting transformation.

We occasionally flip the switch but most of the time we settle for the shadows and our meager candles—my own interpretation of that this morning.

Let’s turn if we will to Lesson #7 this morning, moving along the same pattern of last night.

Peter turns to prophetic things. The thing that is so beautiful about it, he’s saying this because you and I are going to have to benefit from what he understands before he dies, of what the future holds.

And so it’s going to be really instructive this morning to have

a very key verse and that is verse 9 in chapter 3.

Here's What's Going to Happen—chapter 3:8-10.

Now there are only 3 verses this morning but as I tell my audiences when I have a shot passage, you are not getting out early.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord of the promise is not delaying, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not desiring for any to perish but for all to make room (or to come to) repentance.

The picture you have here is a picture of all of these events happening. But as you'll remember, one of the verses last night made it quite clear that people were excusing their urgency and concern about Christ because it had been so long and everything was just the same.

And so all of a sudden, out of the darkness comes the light. All of a sudden, before you can even think about it, it's all over. In a split second, in the twinkling of an eye, everything can be dramatically changed.

Let me say, there are two things that you have to hang onto when you're living in a time of delay in your life.

1. God is in control of your life.

2. He has a plan and a purpose and He knows when to stop and to start.

And if you're in delay, you still haven't learned what you needed to learn from what He has for you so it's all on hold until you get that together. And then we'll move on to the next stage.

So it's not God's delay because He doesn't like you. It's not God's delay because He doesn't know what He's going to do. And it's not God's delay because He can't do it, rather it's God's perfect timing in what's going to take place.

And the majority of individuals are so hard-hearted and so ill-prepared for either death or for the rapture of the church that we talked about last night.

May God just soften your heart. May every time you come to the table, like you're going to do tonight, may you just say "Lord, it's just one less time I've got to do it without You."

Sure He's going to be there with us. We just don't see Him. But there is a day when we gather around the throne, that He's going to serve us and we're going to celebrate it with Him in the kingdom.

Do that with your life, like I shared with you the other day. When you come to birthdays and when you come to anniversaries, mark down how much time you've had together

and then what you have left.

All that does is enrich what's going on right now. And it makes you understand that you certainly don't want to spoil the day by getting ticked off at somebody and ruining the rest of the day because that's the day the Lord has given you. And it's one that's going to be passed very quickly and very soon.

I think all of those feelings this morning describe what's going on in Peter. He wants to make a strong finish. He wants to do what's right. His life has been so splattered and shattered with failure. His pride has caused him to make some pretty big mistakes. And we have seen that. But, oh for grace of God. Oh to see what God is able to do is just beyond human comprehension.

So this opening verse that we have today is really from the bottom of his heart how he feels. And he's expressing the Lord's heart.

I'm going to let the Lord express His own heart here for just a second. I want to read a little bit from Matthew 24 because it will set the stage for what we're going to do. I'm picking up at Matthew 24:31.

Matthew 24:31, 33-35

And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the fourth winds. From one end of the sky to the other. ... “even so

you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.” Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word shall not pass away.”

Now some Christians look at that and say “Yeah, this generation’s been gone for 2,000 years.”

Did you ever stop to think that what Christ was referring to was the Transfiguration? They were going right up the mountain. And to be seeing the Christ glorified, Peter’s already mentioned that earlier.

What I want us to see today is that we are closer than we’ve ever been before. I want to use some of the prophetic studies and knowledge that God has given me over the years in studying His Word, to help you see some of these things that make me so, so excited that we indeed might be the generation that’s going to be alive when the rapture of the church takes place.

“How to Win the Game of Life: Written by One Who Did”:

1. You’ve got everything pertaining to life and Godliness in Jesus Christ.
2. You’ve studied the seven virtues.

3. You've understood the power of encouragement because Peter, even though he was going to die, continued to instruct and to minister.
4. We looked at our enemy (study number four)—the certain swift judgment that's involved.
5. Study number five, we got the full description.
6. And then our study last night: Here is What You Need to Remember.

If you're going to win in the game of life, you've got to understand the terrain. You've got to understand the distance and the trail.

Pick up with me at verse 8.

v. 8 But do not let this one fact be escaping your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

I put chapter 3, verses 3 and 4:

2 Peter 3:3, 4

Knowing this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own desires, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" For ever since the fathers fell asleep all things

are remaining just as it was from the beginning of creation.

So right now he wants you to understand, you're dealing with an eternal being. And this verse is just an answer to the mockery and the criticism.

He says:

“Don't let this one fact be escaping your notice.”

And what does he use?: “beloved.”

Hard-hearted fishermen filled with pride and a sense of stubbornness would call these people “beloved.”

You know, so many people are trying to look for the signals of the presence of the Lord among believers. To me the presence of the Lord among believers is the preciousness in manhood.

Men are so strong and so proud and so self-sufficient, and so staunch and stubborn and tough and don't want to get emotional. But when you see a man who's soft and tender and he has a compassionate heart.

I can't wait for you to read the Fall *Grapevine*. Norm Walker is in our flock. He's a colonel. He had a career in the military forever. He ended up in the Pentagon. I have never seen a military man so tender and so kind and so gentle in his compassionate concern, not only for people but to me that's

the presence of God. The older I get, it's the sweetness. It's the tenderness of manhood that shows love and feelings and compassions toward others. Peter's that way.

“Beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years.”

Now you get an idea? It's only been a couple of days since the death upon the cross because you're dealing with an eternal being.

All he's saying in this verse, don't try to put statistics on that ok and go and try to figure the day it's going to come when He's going to do that. He said don't mess with that. Only the Father knows anyway.

What you need to understand is He's an eternal being. And time is irrelevant to Him. The only thing that's relevant to Him is the faithful fulfillment of the promise. And every promise He has made ever, ever, ever, has already been fulfilled or is going to be fulfilled because He's never broken or failed to fulfill anyone of them.

That's the first thing you have to get ahold of when you study Biblical truth.

Four-fifths of Bible prophecy has already been fulfilled—literally. One-fifth remains. What do you think the Lord's going to do with the one-fifth that's left in comparison to what He's already done with the four-fifths that's been fulfilled? He's going to do it. And Peter doesn't have any question about

that.

Even at the time of his death he would say something like this:

“[To] the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as one day.”

Psalm 90:4 is just a real good verse to put here:

Psalm 90:4

For a thousand years in thy sight are like yesterday when it passes by or as a watch in the night.

You're saying, “I understand that now. I'm dealing with an eternal being. How am I supposed to handle it?”

There was one old codger who said it the best of all:

“Live each day as though it were your last and one day you'll be right!”

I mean, you put it in that perspective then everything you do in that day is to contribute to your well-being—to your thoughtfulness—to your love—to your kindness and to your concern.

Now here comes this great verse, verse 9. Oh I'm so glad that Peter included this in the scripture. Because now he's talking

to the guys that are saying “Hey, everything is just the same.” But it isn’t and now he tells you why.

v. 9 The Lord of the promise is not delaying, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not desiring for any to perish but for all to make room for (come to) repentance.

“The Lord of the promise is not delaying,”—BAMM!—“as some count slowness, but”—CONTRAST—“is patient toward you, not desiring for any of you to perish but for all of you to make room (or come to) repentance.”

“[This] Lord of the promise is not delaying.”

The reason you are still sitting here and I’m still sitting here is He loves us so much, that He wants to be sure that each of us have come to repentance and have received the Christ as Savior.

It would be very interesting in this room to listen to every one of your stories and to find if each of us as we talk together could come to peace that if the rapture occurred, you’d go and you wouldn’t still be sitting here. Or are you living on false premises that would embarrass you at the time of the rapture because you wouldn’t go? Because you’ve never had your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

You’ve been around it for years but you’ve never made that decision.

Every time I do one of these conferences I get this far along, I get very emotional because I know I'm going to be held responsible for you before the throne. If you're not there, it was certainly my responsibility to see to it that the gospel was plainly presented so that I could tell the Lord at least I gave it my best shot.

And I hope and pray today you realize that the delay in your life is only the grace of God. We are alive with the gift.

What's that telling me? You can lose it all! The promise has been made and when I don't respond the potential to perish is very real in God's eyes.

Look at His promises. Has He ever broken one? Has He fulfilled them all so far? Now I'm pushing you into the corner aren't I?

Judging by past performance, shouldn't we have a present certainty for a fantastic future? Yes! And no, no, He's never broken one! Yes! He's fulfilled every one so far. You can't accuse Him of neglect.

Now Peter's going to defend the Lord in this situation, who is an eternal being with whom a day is as a thousand years, and the promise has been made. And all the delay is involved in having others come to know Jesus Christ as Savior.

Do you remember that passage in the book of Revelation when

you had the Seal Judgments and you had the fifth seal and you had these martyred Christians under the altar saying “How long, O Lord, before you’re going to vindicate us?” And the Lord says, gave them a white robe or branch or something and said, “Just hang on for a while because there’s still some believers that are going to die yet.” And then the time is going to come when all that we’ve been promised has been fulfilled.

There are a lot of people, that if they died today and if Christ came today, they’d spend eternity in hell. They die without Christ.

One of the most emotional emails I got from Dody before she died—she had this incredible ministry all over the United States with ovarian cancer patients. Writing letters and encouraging each other. And of course, Dody was the biggest example after 19 years of survival. And she said one day: “Do you know where Gig Harbor is?” And I said yeah, it’s just down from Bremerton and that’s where we had our first ministry out of seminary.

She said “Well, Shirley’s in Gig Harbor and Shirley’s not a Christian.” She said “I’ve shared and begged and pleaded and presented the gospel and begged her to consider but she’s so liberal and so arrogant and so self-sufficient and so wealthy.”

I said “Why don’t we pray for her?” I began to pray for Shirley and in the email she said “A Christian friend from Tennessee has just visited Shirley in Gig Harbor and we have talked and I’ve shared with her my burden to share with Shirley the

gospel.” But then the email came: “Shirley died this morning.”

And it was just a matter of fact, there was no statements. But I have one hope that when I go I’ll find her there because in the last moments she invited Jesus into her heart.

That’s the passion that you and I ought to have for the lost and dying world around us, that so many people whose lives are so broken and so devastated that you and I can bring Jesus to them. There’s a real certainty here. Judgment’s going to come. It’s just on hold. It’s in perfect timing.

You’ve had the illustration of the flood. You had the illustration of Sodom and Gomorrah. You had the illustration of the angels. All of them describe there’s two alternatives in the verse, aren’t there?

1. “to perish” or
2. “[to] (come to) repentance.”

Having our early ministry in the Northwest we loved the mountains, just like we do love the mountains in Colorado.

I’ll always remember the story of old Harry Truman—not the president.

Harry Truman owned a lodge just a few miles from the peak of Mount St. Helen’s. On Sunday morning that May morning, Mount St. Helen’s blew up. And old Harry made national

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television. “That mountain don’t dare blow up on me! I’ve lived here for 40 years and I’ve got 30 cats and I’m just enjoying myself, thank you!”

On that Sunday morning he was buried under 800 feet of mud and water.

You know, those stories just are so impressive to the news media. And they love to tell the story of hard-hearted old goats that are going to sing with Frank Sinatra “I did it my way.”

And then you get a story like this that vindicates the Lord Himself who is in control and the perfect day and the perfect timing for what was going to happen at Mount St. Helen’s.

I found this the other day and I believe this is very relevant for this particular audience, myself included. I’m so thankful that Russell started the song over again this morning, weren’t you? Because it made you feel inside that he’s like you. And you heard me struggle last night to try to speak with my voice gone and my throat tickled and everything. And I thought God just must laugh at our human frailties. This one is so good.

I find that one of the most disturbing aspects of aging is my growing inability to recall important information like the Greek alphabet, the gross national product of Lebanon, and where I left my glasses. This becomes particularly pronounced when I go upstairs to get something. Halfway up I realize I have no inkling of what it is I was going upstairs to get. Should I go back downstairs and try to remember what it was

I needed? Or should I continue on up and look around for something that needs to be brought down? Unable to decide, I resort to sitting on the landing, only to discover after three minutes that I have completely forgotten whether I was going up or coming down.
(source unknown)

You know, that made me laugh because as Christians it's hard to remember back. If I ask you today when were you born again, and describe it for me, you'd have a hard time because you know it happened but you just can't remember when. And we need to come back to the word and be reaffirmed that the decision was made and that back in that time, God honored that. And even if you forgotten about it for a while, maybe it needs to step on center stage here this morning so that you can rejoice in it.

What he says here is return to "repentance." I studied that word for a little while.

Repentance is the key to change. It means to turn around. And Peter is an authority. As I was looking at his biography again this morning, think of all the times he repented, even though it's not recorded. Think from a human point of view, how do you think he felt in that boat when it was full of fish and he bows on his knees and says "depart from me, I'm a sinful man oh God"?

That's part of the breaking process. That's the acknowledgement of reality. And then, what about the time

when he was walking on the water to Jesus and he got all concerned about the winds and waves? And he started to sink. Do you think that was a moment of brokenness when he reached up and said “Lord! Save me!” I mean to him, that was something where he realized he was in danger and his life was going to be lost. Do you think that he might have shed a tear of repentance when he told the Lord He wasn’t going to go to the Cross and the Lord said to him “Get thee behind me Satan”?

Oh, that had to crush and to break and bring repentance.

We’ve already discussed the Upper Room. “You aren’t going to wash my feet!” And then in brokenness he says “Give me the whole bath.”

I mean, those kinds of things in his life makes this all so meaningful.

“Going to the Garden and I’m going to slay them by myself!” Hacks the high priest up the side of the head and cuts off his ear. And the Lord says “Put up your sword Peter. I don’t need deliverance. I’ve got 72,000 angels on alert status.”

Do you think that might have crushed him a little? In brokenness that his old flesh was coming back on center stage.

Walk from there to the denial. So uncertain, challenged by maids: “You’re one of them!”

“No I’m not.”

“Oh yeah you are. I recognize that Galilean accent!”

“No I’m not!”

And the little other maiden said: “You know, you’re one of them.”

He lost it. He started to curse and to swear and say “I’m not.”

From there to the Cross to, reconciliation of the resurrection, had to have repentance. Tears spilled all the way on that trail. This man knew what it was.

On the Sea of Galilea that morning, when you had the contrast between *phileō* (friendship) and *agape* love, when the Lord asked him that third time “Do you even *phileō* me?” That will get a grown man crying when he has to say “I only *phileō* you. I don’t have the capacity for this other stuff.”

You know the text doesn’t tell us about that private meeting that Peter and the Lord had on Resurrection morning. I think it was the Lord just acknowledging the fact that His man had failed and He didn’t want to embarrass him around others. But they had that private meeting. Awe, I wish I could have been there. I’ll get to talk to him about it a little later and that’ll be fine. But there had to be repentance and brokenness.

You know what came when they did that? Pentecost.

And what is the very first thing he says to the world when the Spirit of God comes in and He preaches that first sermon?

Acts 3:19, 20

Now turn from your sins and turn to God so you can be cleansed of your sins. Then wonderful times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord.

He's saying it to them in the message that he preaches. Repentance was a key to all of it.

Luke 15:7

I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who need no repentance.

The key to the fact that David survived murder and adultery is because of a repentant heart.

Psalm 51, you cannot read it in any other way. Let me just let you peek at a few verses with me.

Psalm 51:1-10

Be gracious to me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; according to the greatness of your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my

iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in your sight; so that you're justified when you speak, and blameless when you judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity; and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, thou does desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom. Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; let the bones which you have broken rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right steadfast spirit within me.

Repentance is the key and that's the only reason the Lord's delaying, that there might be more who will understand and turn to the Savior.

Our last verse this morning has to do with the day of the Lord

v. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens with a rushing roar will be dissolved, and the elements will be destroyed by burning, and the earth and the works in it shall be found [and disappear].

In CONTRAST to what he's saying about the gospel and the Lord's delay, it's alright for him now to turn and tell you that he has got "the day of the Lord" on schedule.

Now what you need to know, of course, is what does he mean when he says “the day of the Lord”?

1 Thessalonians 5:2 will help us with that:

1 Thessalonians 5:2

For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying peace and safety, then destruction will come upon them suddenly, like birth pangs upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape.

What he is talking about here is what the Old Testament prophets spoke of. The “day of the Lord” is a period of time that is marked out, according to Daniel 9, it begins at a certain point. It’s the rebuilding and the return of the people after the 70 year captivity and it will go through the 1,000 year reign of Christ.

So the first part of it is horrible. You have the description in those 70 weeks of Daniel in Daniel 9:24-27, that this one week that’s left is all of Revelation chapter 6-19.

The “day of the Lord” involves **THREE SERIES OF JUDGMENTS** and they’re horrible.

1. You’ve got the **SEALS**,

2. You've got the TRUMPHERS, and
3. You've got the BOWL JUDGMENTS.

That's the wrath of God being poured out upon sin.

I shared with you last night you will not participate in that. As a believer the wrath of God has been poured out on our substitute Jesus Christ. We have appropriated what He has done upon the Cross for us. So as His bride, His church, we will not participate in this horrible holocaust that will take place.

Now there's nothing standing in the way of this either. But when the rapture of the church takes place, the 70th week of Daniel will begin. And you'll have the description of it as you read the story of those seals and the trumpets.

Why does he turn to the "day of the Lord"? You want to know why?

When "the day of the Lord" comes, there's no getting in under the wire. Now there are going to be people who come to know Christ during the tribulation period but it'll be miraculous if it takes place because many of them will have to seal their confession of faith with their martyrdom.

There will be people that will do that. And they will come to know the Savior then. But to know Him in grace, to be taken home with the body of Christ at the "day of the Lord," He isn't

delaying anymore. And that's why he's answering these who are mocking him with the fact that this takes place.

Now, if the Lord told you something—to warn you about something—would you listen and would you act upon it? Or would you submit to the consequences?

There are three little stories in Matthew 25. These three stories are the end of His public ministry. Remember them?

There were five wise virgins and five foolish ones waiting for the coming of the bridegroom and the bride to the wedding. When the sound of their coming takes place, what's the response? The five who prepared lit their lamps. And the five that weren't were begging for oil from those who lit their lamps and they said "No way José! Go to the 7-Eleven and get your own and come on back." And when they got back, what happened? The king was already in. The door was shut and they were put outside.

So Jesus is saying the urgent, urgent plea of the Christ is prepare for what's going to happen. Don't be unprepared at the time of the coming of Christ.

Well then he turns to the story of the talents. Remember that? There's one guy had one and one guy had two and another guy had five. And the king goes off on a journey. And then he comes back. The five got five more. And the two got two more. And they both got the same blessing: "Well done good and faithful servant." That's the short version.

But the one guy sitting there had one. And all he did was told the king that he knew that he got his money from all of this and he didn't feel like he needed to, so he just went out and buried his. And took it and gave it back to him and said "Here this is yours."

The lord got so angry and so upset that he took it away from him and he was cast into outer darkness.

The picture of being UNPREPARED.

And then you get right down to the end of it and you've got the story of the sheep and the goats—the sheep on the right, the goats on the left. Of course, the goats are those who are condemned for judgment. The sheep on the right have their name in the Lamb's book of life and are ready to go into the kingdom.

Listen to what the Lord says. Don't have any anxiety or uncertainty about these things other than the fact that if you do not feel that you really have closed in with Jesus Christ, there's no better place than right here at family camp.

You know, in studying all of this, why I am so concerned. We have never had a situation where we've got a religion that is concerned about becoming worldwide and destroying everything else but it. And that's Islam.

People just don't listen to Ahmadinejad. He says "I've got one

thing to do and that's to hasten the coming of the Imam—the Mahdi. And the way I'm supposed to do that is to wipe out the little Satan and the great Satan and that's first on my agenda. I'm going to wipe Israel and then I'm going to wipe out the United States of America.”

And for him to sit over there and beg and beg for more atomic potential, put it in a suitcase and run it down the Hudson River and you've blown up all of New York and Washington, D.C.

People just don't understand that the “day of the Lord” can be triggered by a creep like that in a foreign country who has this kind of a religious mentality. And we've never had that before. I mean, we've talked so much about 1948 and the statehood of Israel, that's wonderful. They're on the way back but they're not there in belief like they're going to be—preparation for the kingdom.

But the alignment of nations! In Ezekiel 38 and 39, the complete change of Russia—turning around from what it was when the wall came down to now going back to this arrogant, Godless dictatorial kind of leadership. Let's you know when you've got Ahmadinejad in Iran and you've got this Putin in Russia, they're getting together, they're furnishing weapons. They're going to be that northern alliance that's going to come down and have the purpose of destroying Israel.

We've never had that before. Please, please read. Look carefully at reputable websites and read Joel Rosenberg, Mark

Hitchcock, David Jeremiah, these students of scripture who can help you understand where we are and understand that He's going to come and the "day of the Lord" is going to "come like a thief" in the night. And it's all going to be over from the standpoint of this old world.

I think it would be good if I had just a minute with you and give you a prophetic sequence. Would that help you? You hear so many different things about it. Let me just give you about a six-point—this would be a little kind of sequence that you could hang your study of prophetic truth upon:

1. The rapture of the church.
2. the seven year tribulation period—that's the beginning of the day of the Lord.

That's what Peter is talking about here in the passage—the seven year tribulation period, that's the "day of the Lord," the beginning of the day of the Lord,

And right after that read Revelation 6-19 because all of those chapters just describe the "day of the Lord."

That period is ended by the battle of Armageddon—you've heard that term. And that's when Christ comes back again (Revelation 19) to vindicate His own. We come back with Him in that.

3. The second coming of Jesus Christ.

He comes to liberate Israel. He comes to set up His 1,000 year reign.

4. The millennial or the 1,000 year reign of Christ here upon the earth.
5. The great white throne judgment—that's Revelation 20.

It's a sad time when all of those who have refused to receive Christ, are eternally condemned.

6. The new heavens and the new earth.

The old are going to pass away. And you can put Revelation 21 right out beside that because that's the description of the new heavens and the new earth.

I'm excited about that. Let me read a little of it to you as we close.

Revelation 21:1-5

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away; and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them,

and they shall be His people, and God himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall be no longer any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

You can put Revelation 3:3 here.

Revelation 3:3

Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at that hour that I have come upon you.

As you know I'm a fan of *Daily Bread* and this is an oldie from way back and I'd like to wrap it up with this.

Isaiah 55:6, 7

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon Him while He's near. Let the wicked forsake His way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord and He will have mercy upon him. And to our God, for He will freely pardon.

WHEN IT'S TOO LATE!

For an insurance policy to be effective, you must take it out before you have an accident of calamity—not after the disaster occurs. A story is told about a man who was approached repeatedly by an insurance agent and urged to buy fire coverage for his house. “No,” the homeowner kept saying. “It’s well built, and I maintain it properly. You’re just trying to scare me. My house will never catch fire.” But one day it did! As the story goes, while the flames were licking through the roof and the black smoke was billowing out of the windows, the owner was seen running down the street to the agent’s office to purchase [some fire insurance.] You say, “That’s foolish!” I agree. No company will insure a building that is already burning.

The story, however, does underscore the folly of putting off an important decision—for whatever reason. Presumption or procrastination is a serious problem...
(source unknown)

You know what I thought of when I was reading that and I finished? Todd Beamer came to my mind.

You know, when you look at September 11th, how many of those people on that morning knew that that was their last morning? How many of those people that had booked those flights were ready to fly to their business and their activities? Two of them hit the towers. One hit the Pentagon. And the other landed in a field in Pennsylvania because there was one light shining brightly in that plane. And Todd Beamer was not thinking of Todd Beamer but he was thinking of all the people who had already died in the towers and at [the] Pentagon and

he was not going to let the White House get hit.

There are many people today who, when it comes time in eternity, to hear the rest of the story, they're going to be able to say "Thanks for letting me continue my journey because you sacrificed your life and made your young wife a widow and that little child fatherless. And I thank you for your sacrifice, for what you did."

That describes Peter to me to the "T"—the death sentence is on his life, he knows he's going to die but he's still talking to you and to me telling us what we need to do to be ready. Not only for the "day of the Lord" but for our personal relationship with Christ.

LESSON #1: We cannot put time limits on the promises of God.

LESSON #2: A day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

LESSON #3: The Lord of the promise is not delaying.

LESSON #4: God is patient and has no desire for anyone to perish.

LESSON #5: It is His desire that we repent.

LESSON #6: The day of the Lord will come when you least expect it and rob you of any further opportunities to get to know the Lord.

LESSON #7: The present heavens and earth are going to be dissolved, destroyed and disappear.

LESSON #8: Judging by past performance, we ought to have a present certainty of a fantastic future.

Father I thank You for today and Your Holy Spirit is speaking to our hearts. I pray there will be fruit borne from these times we've studied in 2 Peter. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN – “HERE’S WHAT’S GOING TO HAPPEN” – 2 PETER 3:8-10

NOTES

v. 8 But do not let this one fact be escaping your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

v. 9 The Lord of the promise is not delaying, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not desiring for any to perish but for all to make room for (come to) repentance.

v.10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens with a rushing roar will be dissolved, and the elements will be destroyed by burning, and the earth and the works in it shall be found [and disappear].

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Peter 3:8-10 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What one fact should they keep in mind, according to verse 8?

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3. State the Lord's relationship to the "promise" and then His attitude toward us, according to verse 9.

4. What does the Lord want us to do, according to verse 9?

5. What is meant by the term, "the day of the Lord" in verse 10?

6. How will the "day of the Lord" come, according to verse 10?

7. What will happen to the "heavens" in the "day of the Lord," according to verse 10?

8. What will happen to the “earth” in the “day of the Lord,” according to verse 10?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: We cannot put time limits on the promises of God.

LESSON #2: A day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

LESSON #3: The Lord of the promise is not delaying.

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