

Gospel Therefore Gospel Confidence

Living Today in Light of That Day

2 Peter 3:1-18

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, June 10, 2012

Three Reminders of how you can live with CONFIDENCE of God's Word

I. Don't Ever let the Timing of God's Ways Cause You to Doubt the Truth of God's Word

- Don't Lose Sight of Everything that's Already Been Fulfilled

- Genesis 3:15 – God promised to send a Redeemer to crush Satan's head and take care of our biggest problem!
- Genesis 12 – God promised Abraham that He would make of him a great nation
- Isaiah 7:14 – the prophet predicted that Jesus would be born of a virgin
- Micah 5:2 – God promised that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem
- Isaiah 9 – God promised to send a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace
- Jeremiah predicted that Israel would be in captivity for 70 yrs

Psalm 13:1-2 “¹ How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? ² How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?”

Psalm 94:1-3 “¹ O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs— O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth! ² Rise up, O Judge of the earth; render punishment to the proud. ³ LORD, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked triumph?”

Habakkuk 1:2 “O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, ‘Violence!’ And You will not save.”

Revelation 6:10 “And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’”

Don't try to squeeze God onto your timetable.

2 Peter 3:8 “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

II. Don't Ever let the Riches of God's Mercy Cause You to Deny the Coming Terror of His Judgment

2 Peter 3:9-10 “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

You can't just pick and choose the kind of God you want to believe in. This is the God of the Bible in 2 Peter 3... a God of mercy and judgment.

Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed for men to die once but after this the judgment."

“Today many of the skeptics I talk to say, as I once did, they can't believe in the God of the Bible, who punishes and judges people, because they ‘believe in a God of Love.’ I now ask, what makes them think God is Love? Can they look at life in the world today and say, ‘This proves that the God of the world is a God of love’? Can they look at history and say, ‘This all shows that the God of history is a God of love’? Can they look at the religious texts of the world and conclude that God is a God of love? By no means is that the dominant, ruling attribute of God as understood in any of the major faiths. I must conclude that the source of the idea that God is Love is the Bible itself. And the Bible tells us that the God of love is also a God of judgment who will put all things in the world to rights in the end. The belief in a God of pure love – who accepts everyone and judges no one – is a powerful act of faith. Not only is

there no evidence for it in the natural order, but there is almost no historical, religious textual support for it outside of Christianity. The more one looks at it, the less justified it appears.” *The Reason for God*, Timothy Keller, pgs 82-83

Revelation 20:11-12, 15 "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged... and anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

III. Don't Ever let the Priority of What You Say You Believe Come Unhinged from How You Behave

2 Peter 3:11 "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness"

The word 'manner' in v. 11 – literally means 'exotic, out of this world, foreign.'

1 Peter 2:9-12 "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. ¹¹ Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."

A pursuit of holiness will cause you to live with a wartime mentality... taking the road less traveled. You just won't look like everybody else! If that's your goal you might as well quit now.

Holiness is not a sprint. It's a long obedience in the same direction.

"It is not difficult in our world to get a person interested in the message of the Gospel; it is terrifically difficult to sustain the interest. Millions of people in our culture make decisions for Christ, but there is a dreadful attrition rate. Many claim to have been born again, but the evidence for mature Christian discipleship is slim. In our kind of culture anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness." *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, Eugene Peterson, p. 12

If you're still chasing after the same things the world chases after and treasuring the same things the world treasures, you're going to end up looking and living just like the world. You can be religious and spiritually minded and even show up at church a couple times a month, but you'll never be holy. And you'll never end up in heaven.

Hebrews 12:14 "Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."

"Holiness does not come merely by creating a list of moral taboos and then exerting our willpower to resist them. 'Just Say No' alone doesn't work. Of course, we must say 'No.' Please don't misunderstand me. But lasting, meaningful victory will come only if there is something more enticing to which we can say 'Yes!'... We must fight sin with a massive promise of superior happiness. We must swallow up the flicker of sin's pleasure in the forest fire of holy satisfaction. The only thing that will ultimately break the power of sin is passion for Jesus. The only thing that will guard me from being entrapped by sin is being entranced by Jesus. In other words, the key to holiness is falling love!" *Pleasures Evermore*, Sam Storms, p. 31-32

Some of you are losing the battle against sin not so much because you're not focused on fighting hard enough but because you're not deeply in love enough with Jesus Christ.

- Don't just Live for Today

v. 12, 13, 14 all use the word 'Look' – that means 'await eagerly' or 'be expectant.' It describes an attitude of excitement and expectation as we wait for the Lord's return.

Questions to Consider...

- Are you living odd for God? Living for what matters most?
- Are you looking for and hastening the coming day of God – knowing that He's a God of incredible mercy as well as terrifying judgment?