

## **The Imminence of the Day of the Lord**

### **2 Peter 3:10-18**

**Theme: If you need motivation to surrender to God's desires consider the imminence of the Day of the Lord.**

2 Peter 3:10

*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.*

**The Day of the Lord:** the future time of God's judgment and ultimate restoration including the rapture, the tribulation, the first and second resurrections (of the lost and of the just), the Millennial Kingdom, the Beast and the Antichrist, Armageddon, the chaining, loosing, and ultimate doom of Satan, the cleansing of the heavens and earth by fire, the new heaven and new earth, the wedding supper of the Lamb, the reign of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit over a righteous humanity

**Imminence:** able to occur immediately; may occur at any moment

**Question:** When and under what circumstances can a thief show up?

**Question:** How do you prepare for the imminent activity of a thief?

**Question:** Since the rest of this passage tells believers how they ought to live in light of the imminence of the Day of the Lord, how might the above Theme Sentence play out in your daily life? What might it look like if a lone Christian, a Christian family, or a Church were completely surrendered to God's desires? How might complete surrender impact our Impact Groups? What would Sunday Morning Worship look like?

1. **2 Peter 3:11-14**

**Since the Day of the Lord is imminent we should be motivated to...**

Read verses 11-14.

Notice the phrases *live holy and godly lives* and *be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him*. These tells us what we should look like when Christ returns, so once again...

**Question:** When might he show up ?

**Question:** And what circumstances ultimately will come about during the era known as The Day of the Lord (description found in verses 10-14).

**Question:** Just how final and imminent does this sound? Is it creating any motivation for you? Why or why not?

**Since the Day of the Lord is imminent we should be motivated to...**

- A. ...holiness
- B. ...godliness
- C. ...be found by him spotless
- D. ...be found by him blameless
- E. ...be found by him at peace

These five characteristics seem fairly straight forward. In fact...

**Question:** What part of *holy, godly, spotless, blameless, and at peace* indicates sort of, kind of, a little bit, or not quite, but almost *holy, godly, spotless, blameless, and at peace*?

**Question:** Since we know from other parts of the Word of God that present perfection is not a complete option—because we sometimes let our flesh have its way—how can we still be faithful to Peter’s admonition?

**2. 2 Peter 3:15,16**

**Since the Day of the Lord is imminent we should be involved with evangelism.**

Read verses 15 and 16.

Go back and read verses 8 and 9.

Notice the beginning phrase *Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation*. This is a second way of expressing the truth of verses 8 and 9. It simply means that while the coming of the Day of the Lord is indeed imminent, God is on his own schedule. Every second, every minute, every hour, and every day of every month of every year that he chooses to tarry means that someone else can choose Jesus Christ for salvation.

This is why our purpose statement reads: Our purpose is to glorify God by producing followers of Christ who are passionate about God, his word, his church, and the lost. Call it P<sup>4</sup>. Memorize it. Live by it.

**Question:** Given the urgency of Peter's description regarding the imminence of the Day of the Lord, in what ways do you see the Church of America or WSCC sharing this all out passion?

**Question:** Given the urgency of Peter's description regarding the imminence of the Day of the Lord, why do you suppose the Church of America does not share his passion?

**Question:** What should we do about it?

**3. 2 Peter 3:17,18**

**Since the Day of the Lord is imminent we must remain vigilant.**

Read verses 17 and 18

**Question:** From what exact phrases in verses 17 and 18 did we derive the following two areas of vigilance?

- A. We must be vigilant to spot error.
  
- B. We must be vigilant about our walk with Christ.

As we wrap up our time in prayer, let's focus on these two areas...

**Question:** How can we pray for one another regarding A.?

**Question:** How can we pray for one another regarding B.?