

Refuge City Church — May 16, 2021
“Vigilant Life: Cracked Pot or Crack Pot?” (2 Peter 3:1-9)

Introduction/Verses 1-3

“This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am **stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder**, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.”

- A reminder to keep your mind like a steel trap to the truth of God’s Word.
- But it is up to us to determine what we decide to infiltrate our thoughts.
 - **1 Peter 1:13**, “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
 - **2 Peter 1:13**, “I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder,”
- **QUESTION:** Have you been “sun-judged”?
 - Pottery salesmen would use wax to cover up cracks and weak places in pottery.
 - Only by the light/heat of the sun will the weaknesses be revealed.
 - Pottery marked as “sine cera” was pure, without wax or cover up. **[where we get our term ‘sincere’]**
- When we step in to the light of God’s truth, our weaknesses will be revealed and we are to make a decision:
 - Change our ways to conform to God’s truth. **[repentance]**
 - Change God’s truth to conform to our lifestyle. **[foolishness]**
 - **SIDE NOTE:** What defines someone who promotes ludicrous beliefs, while willingly dismissing evidence and arguments to the contrary = *a crack pot*.
- What Peter proceeds to speak to is the denial of Christ’s return and ultimate judgment of mankind.
- The return of Christ and God’s judgment has been promised.
 - The prophets spoke plainly.
 - **Daniel 12:1**, “...And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.”
 - Jesus spoke plainly.
 - **John 14:1-3**, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” **[Matthew 24-25]**
 - The apostles spoke plainly.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”

Verses 4-7

“They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.”

- **PROBLEM:** For well over 2,000 years, Christians have been speaking to the return of Christ.
 - Humanity fails to take God’s Word seriously, because it doesn’t fit within their concept of time or shallowness of understanding.
 - They deny creation, and replace it with evolutionary theory.
 - They deny God and replace Him with humanistic beliefs and ‘uniformitarianism’ **[the world has operated by the same principles from the beginning of time]**.
 - Ultimately that God does not intervene in the world or human affairs **[deism; agnosticism; humanism]**
- These ‘scoffers’ *deliberately* overlook the creation of the world.
 - How does God intervene?
 - He created the world... by His Word.
 - **Genesis 1:6-7**, “And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so.”
 - **Hebrews 11:3**, “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”
 - When mankind became corrupt beyond repair, He flooded the world... by His Word.
 - Those who scoff/mock at God’s Word do so because His Word reveals their sin, and promised judgement does not cause them fear.
 - **Romans 1:25**, “because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator...”
 - God’s desire, Christ’s sacrifice, Holy Spirit’s nudging, and my prayer is for the unsaved listening to this now... Hear the Word of the Lord!
 - God destroyed His creation once with water for their ungodly ways.
 - What will be His ultimate and final intervention?
 - He has promised to do it again, not with water, but with fire. From which, there will be no third chance.
 - **Isaiah 66:15-16**, “For behold, the Lord will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire will the Lord enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the Lord shall be many.”

- **Malachi 4:1**, “The day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”
- **LET ME BE CLEAR:** As sovereign Lord, God has the power to intervene at any time...He has, He does, and He will, in His timing. [Psalm 115:3, “Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.”]

Verses 8-9

“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

- “Do *not* overlook”: What’s the name of our series? = Vigilant Life
 1. We must remember that God operates outside of our finite understanding of time.
 - To place God in our timetable, reduces Him to humanity’s level.
 - **Psalm 102:25-27**, “Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.”
 2. God is faithful, patient, and just.
 - He has no desire that anyone perish.
 - **Ezekiel 18:32**, “[verse 23] Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?... For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”
 - He desires all to come to repentance [**change your mind; turn around and pursue God**]
 - **John 5:24**, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”
 - Unfortunately, some will ultimately perish. But understand, it is not because God sent them to hell. It will be their choice to reject His mercy, grace, love, and salvation.

Conclusion

- God’s Word makes clear that there will be many in the last days who reject God.
 - **Matthew 7:13**, “...For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.”
- Crack Pot
 - If you find yourself choosing not to believe [**mock**] God’s Word, or aspects of it, you’re simply waxing over the cracks and weak spots in your life.
 - You’re finding comfort in your sinful lifestyle, and are denying God’s revealing truth.

- Understand that God sent His Son to die for you so that, despite your cracked pot, you can live in strength and freedom.
- Cracked Pot
 - The Japanese art of 'Kintsugi'
 - They see beauty in brokenness, by not waxing over imperfections, rather filling in the gaps with gold. Thereby emphasizing the brokenness with our most precious metal.
- **EXAMPLE:** Just like the woman who had a blood disease [Mark 5]. She spent all she had on doctors to bring healing to her body. Yet nothing worked. Until she heard about Jesus.
 - **Mark 5:28**, "If I just touch his clothes, I'll be made well."
- **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness." Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."