

Refuge City Church — May 23, 2021
“Vigilant Life: Vigilant Growth” (2 Peter 3:10-18)

“Be Prepared” [Verse 10]

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

- In a continuation of speaking to the end times, and God’s final judgement, Peter clarifies again that all things will come to an end here on Earth.
 - Christ will return like a thief in the night.
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:2**, “...the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”
 - **Matthew 24:42-44**, “Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”
- How do you prepare for the unknown?
 - Secure the house, doing all you can to keep what is not supposed to enter your house on the outside.
 - **2 Peter 1:10**, “...be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.”
 - Faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. [2 Peter 1:5-7]
 - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. [Galatians 5:22-23]
 - Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Spirit of God [Ephesians 6:14-17]
 - These are your locks, deadbolts, alarm system, video surveillance, weapons, and ammunition against a hostile world that wants to invade your mind!
 - In context with what Peter is saying, you’re not protecting yourself *from* Jesus. Rather, your preparing yourself *for* Jesus. Amen!
- **QUOTE:** “For God’s enemies, that future judgement will be an inescapable nightmare. But for God’s children, it will mean the fulfillment of the Christian’s hope, a dream come true, ushering in the dawn of Christ’s rule on earth, followed by the creation of a new heavens and a new earth. And for God Himself, it will mark His total triumph over all who oppose Him, including the final destruction of death and the complete eradication of sin.” [John MacArthur]
- **QUESTION:** Are you prepared, or preparing to meet Jesus, and enter in to His presence?

“Be Holy” [Verses 11-13]

11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening [eagerly awaiting] the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13** But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- Everything on Earth, all of humanity's achievements, the earth itself, and the universe will be dissolved... yet we remain.
 - You're going to stand before the Creator of the world, how do you prepare?
 - Before kings and queens, you might dress appropriately. Ask questions on how to present yourself. To bow or not. Shake hands. How or when to speak. Etc...
 - There are certain expectations when in the presence of royalty.
 - You will stand before the Lord God, and He expects you to have lived and pursued holiness and godliness while you waited for Christ to return.
 - **1 Peter 1:15**, "but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct..."
- **QUOTE:** "It is possible to be separated from sin positionally and yet not enjoy living for God personally." [Warren Wiersbe]
 - This is why John the Baptist would claim, "He must increase, and I must decrease" [John 3:30]
 - This is why the Apostle Paul would claim, "I am the worst of sinners." [1 Timothy 1:15]
 - We need to pursue the character and qualities of Christ so our lives emanate joy, holiness, and godliness.
- **CLARITY:** We don't wait in anticipation for disaster. Rather what God will create new... new heavens and a new earth.
 - **Isaiah 65:17**, "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth..."
 - **Revelation 21:1-5**, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'"

"Be at Peace" [Verses 14-16]

14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. **15** And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, **16** as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

- No matter what may come... be at peace.

- No matter the chaotic nature of political/cultural/world affairs... be at peace.
- No matter your economic standing... be at peace.
- No matter the ultimate cataclysmic destruction of the universe... be at peace.
 - **John 16:33**, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
 - **Romans 15:13**, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."
 - **Colossians 3:15**, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."
 - If you're confident in Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness of your sins... there is peace.
 - If you're confident in His imminent return... there is peace.
 - If you're sustained by His promise of everlasting life... there is peace.
- In all we are to strive for in our anticipation of Christ's return, is Christ Himself.
 - Jesus Himself was without spot or blemish, as our perfect lamb.
 - We are to keep ourselves 'unstained'... spotless.
 - **James 1:27**, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."
 - We are to keep ourselves 'blameless' **[innocent]** in this twisted world.
 - **Philippians 2:15**, "that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,"
- Is God's patience only for the unsaved? NO. It is for those saved as well to continue their pursuit of His holiness, so we may enter in to His presence spotless and blameless... So get to pursuin'!!

"Be Vigilant" [Verses 17-18]

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. **18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- The question is not whether or not you've grown.
 - We can become too content in our faith journey, and the result is to become stagnant.
- The question, and challenge, is "how are you continuing to grow day after day in your pursuit and knowledge of Jesus?"
 - This active pursuit does not end until Jesus returns, and/or you find yourself standing face to face with Him.
 - In our day, we are without excuse when it comes to the availability of God's Word and the tools we can access to grow.
 - Our church app has the Bible embedded in to it, along with weekly devotions for encouragement.

- Download a solid Bible app on to your phone.
- Read daily devotions that are rooted in biblical truth.
- You have internet access to an endless amount of resources, commentaries, bible translations, helps and encouragement.
- HOWEVER: Be vigilant in your growth! Be aware of false teachings.
 - When you're unsure, ask! Don't simply accept as gospel everything offered to you.
- Today is known as "Pentecost Sunday". The day the Holy Spirit anointed the Apostles and ushered in the church age.
- **Verse 18:** "To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity."
 - This is where we are. Watching. Waiting. Anticipating the imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - But we have a job to do. We have a task to perform. Standing in the grace of God, in hopeful vigilance, pursue Jesus, share your faith, make disciples, because...
Revelation 22:20, "Surely I am coming soon."