Ready For Jesus, Part 2

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 29th, 2023

Text: II Peter 3:12-18

### Intro

1. Jesus will come again!
   1. *John 14:1-6:* Jesus said He was coming back!
   2. *II Peter 3:9-10:* The apostlePeter affirmed Christ’s 2nd Coming, the return of our Lord.
2. The church is depicted as a bride awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom (Mt. 25:1-13: Parable of the Ten Virgins; Rev. 19:7-8: “His bride has made herself ready; her white linen clothing is the righteous acts of saints”)
3. In light of Jesus’ Second Coming and all that will take place, Peter makes a statement…
   1. II Peter 3:9-11: “What sort of people ought you to be” (3:11).
   2. II Peter 3 sets forth at least ten characteristics of the “sort of people” we ought to be!
4. We studied the first five traits last time in Part 1:
   1. Sincere (II Peter 3:1)
   2. Mindful (II Peter 3:2)
   3. Informed (II Peter 3:5-8)
   4. Holy (II Peter 3:11)
   5. Godly (II Peter 3:11)
5. Our character should comprise these traits to be ready to meet the Lord when He comes again!

#### Looking

* 1. II Peter 3:12-13: God’s people should be “looking for” the Lord’s return!
     1. Titus 2:13: “…looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus”
  2. Jesus urged His disciples to look for His return! (Mt. 24:42; 25:13)
     1. Mt. 24:35-36: Man will not know the day or hour.
     2. Mt. 24:37-38: When He returns, many will be unprepared as in days of Noah!
     3. Mt. 25:1-13: Some will be ready and others will not be ready! (Ten Virgins)
  3. Christ will bring eternal salvation to those who look for Him:
     1. Heb. 9:28: To those who “eagerly await Him” (“Look for” – KJV)
     2. Those who look for Him also live for Him!
  4. Paul urged saints to watch for the Lord’s return – I Thess. 5:1-6
     1. Those looking for the Lord will love His appearing – II Tim. 4:7-8
  5. Saints are to look for Christ’s return, being watchful and ready!

#### Diligent

* 1. II Peter 3:14: God’s people should be “diligent” to be found spotless and blameless.
     1. *Gr. spoudazo (G4704):* “to use speed, i.e. to make effort, be prompt or earnest: --do (give) diligence, be diligent, endeavor, labor, study.” *(KJV: II Tim. 2:15)*
  2. Saints need diligence to apply virtuous character – II Peter 1:5-7: “Giving all diligence.”
  3. Those looking for the 2nd Coming of Christ will be diligent to be found by Him:
     1. “In peace” – II Peter 3:14
        1. In peace with God – Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:13-18
        2. In peace with fellow Christians – I Thess. 5:13
     2. “Spotless” – II Peter 3:14
        1. Saints are to keep themselves “unstained” by the world – Js. 1:27
        2. The church is to be found “spotless” and “blameless” – Eph. 5:26-27
     3. “Blameless” – II Peter 3:14
        1. Saints need to be diligent in “real knowledge” (Phil. 1:9-11) to be “sincere & blameless” (Phil. 2:15-16) when Christ returns!
  4. Saints are to be diligent in obedience to Christ to be found ready when He comes again!

#### Alert

* 1. II Peter 3:17: God’s people need to “be on your guard” (“Beware” – KJV).
  2. Saints are to be Watchman, alert, sober, “on guard” for many things:
     1. False prophets – Mt. 7:15; Eph. 4:14-16; II Tim. 4:3-5; II Peter 2:1
     2. Worldly philosophy (human wisdom) – Col. 2:8
     3. The schemes of Satan – II Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11; I Pet. 5:8
     4. In prayer for God’s people – Eph. 6:18
     5. Christ’s Return – Mark 13:31-37 (“Be on the alert!”)
  3. Saints are God’s watchman so must be alert and “on guard” to save ourselves and others!

#### Steadfast

* 1. II Peter 3:17: Saints are to be alert so as to not fall from one’s own “steadfastness.”
  2. I Cor. 15:58: Saints are to be “steadfast” in the work of the Lord!
  3. I Cor. 16:13: Being alert plays a part in being “steadfast,” “firm in the faith.”
  4. I Pet. 5:8-9: Being alert to Satan and “firm in your faith” will enable one to resist him.
  5. Saints must be “steadfast, immovable” when it comes to faith and work for the Lord!

#### Growing

* 1. II Peter 3:18: Saints are to “grow” in knowledge of Christ, to be developing people!
     1. A healthy child develops by growing, not only physically but also in knowledge.
  2. A child of God must also develop by growing in the knowledge of the Lord! *(Eph. 4:14-16: No longer to be children but grow up into all aspects of Christ!)*
  3. Knowledge is the theme of II Peter:
     1. In light of the coming judgment and return of the King (because He had judged the world before – *II Peter 2),* saints are to grow in God’s knowledge!
  4. No substitute for knowing God’s word:
     1. Rom. 10:1-3: Jews had zeal without knowledge and it did them no good.
     2. Heb. 5:12-14: Must apply knowledge or will drift away (needed taught).
     3. II Peter 1:6: Peter urged saints to diligently (1:5) add knowledge to their faith.
  5. II Tim. 2:15: One must be diligent *(G4704: KJV: “study”)* in growing in God’s word to be able to accurately (rightly divide) the word of truth.
  6. Saints are to grow in the knowledge of Christ and apply it to their lives!

## Conclusion

1. Jesus will come again! (II Peter 3:8-10)
2. In light of His 2nd coming, what sort of people ought we to be?
   1. Sincere (pure)
   2. Mindful
   3. Informed
   4. Holy
   5. Godly
   6. Looking
   7. Diligent
   8. Alert
   9. Steadfast
   10. Growing
3. If Christ were to come now, would He find us ready?
4. May we ever be diligent to be found by Him “spotless and blameless” and ready for His Return!
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!