



“What Sort of People Ought You to Be?”

Peter has given us two facts: First, no one knows when the day of the Lord will be. Second, when that day comes, all physical things will be destroyed. Peter’s next statement is powerful, “**Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be**” (2 Peter 3:11). It is almost as if Peter invites us to observe our surroundings. Knowing that everything around us will be destroyed, and knowing that we have no idea when that will happen, how does that change who you are?

This knowledge ought to change our lives! These physical things are merely kindling for the intense heat that will one day overtake this world. Why should we give our lives completely to the pursuit of temporary things? We cannot know when this great day will occur. Why should we not live every moment in eager expectation?



this physical world, then everything we have will be burned up. However, for the one who has truly followed Christ, this is not nearly as troubling. Jesus teaches us not to “**store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven**” (Matthew 6:19-21). Do we truly “**seek first His kingdom**” (Matthew 6:33), or are we to busy serving wealth (Matthew 6:24)?

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ISSUE

15.45

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

November 10,
2013

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow



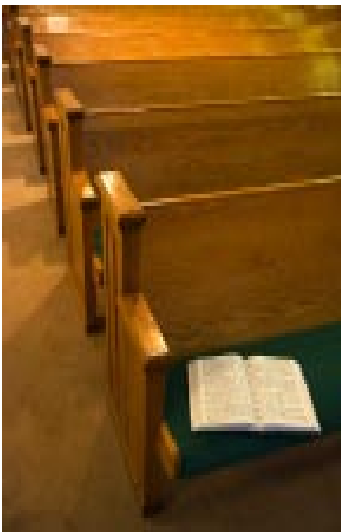
“What Sort of People Ought You To Be?”

(2 Peter 3:10-13)

By Andrew Dow

At the close of his second epistle, Peter gives his reason for writing: “**that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles**” (2 Peter 3:1-2, NASU). Above all the things he had reminded them of in this letter, he writes, “**Know this first of all, in the last days mockers will come with their mocking**” (2 Peter 3:3). He points out that these mockers will say, “**where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation**” (2 Peter 3:4-5). With the constant attacks against our faith it is easy to see that we are currently living in these last days described by Peter. Now, almost 2000 years after Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9), it seems easy for some to conclude that everything will continue just as it always has.

However, Peter continues, **“Do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you”** (2 Peter 3:8-9). Regardless of what those around us are saying, the inspired apostle as-



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sures us that which the Lord has promised will come to pass. To strengthen our faith Peter goes on to describe certain facts concerning that day. **“The day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up”** (2 Peter 3:10). Let’s quickly note what these facts are and how they affect our lives.

“The Day of the Lord Will Come Like a Thief”

Peter informs the recipients of his letter that **“the day of the Lord will come like a thief”** (2 Peter 3:10a). This image is not original to Peter, but was almost certainly drawn from the teaching of the Lord. Jesus said, **“Be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into”** (Matthew 24:42-43). The point is so simple a child could understand it. Thieves do not announce when they will strike. In fact, they intentionally break in when they are least expected. If thieves did not take this precaution, they would immediately be caught. Jesus teaches that the day of Lord will come unexpectedly. For this reason, we need to always be looking for that coming.

Paul also is led to use this imagery. He wrote, **“You yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly... But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief”** (1 Thessalonians 5:2-4). Again, the thief will come when his targets least expect him. Yet we, like the young Christians Paul addressed, “know full well.” We should not let this event surprise us, but rather we need to be ready.

It is puzzling to me how anyone can have the arrogance to attempt to predict when the day of the Lord will be. To do such is to miss the plain meaning of Scripture. Peter, along with others, taught emphatically that the day of the Lord will come without notice and without prediction. It is our responsibility to be ready.

“The Elements Will Be Destroyed”

The day of the Lord is unknown to us, but the events of that day are explained. Peter continues, **“the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up”** (2 Peter 3:10b). A good friend of mine, in commenting on this verse,



described everything as “firewood.” Think about that. The chair underneath you, the phone in your pocket, and the walls around are simply firewood waiting to fuel the “intense heat” of that day. Job famously said, **“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return there”** (Job 1:20). There is no earthly possession we have that will not be subjected to the destruction described by Peter. To those who have invested in this world, that is an incredibly unpleasant thought. If we have put everything into