

# 1 PETER



Day 326

## “TRINITY”

November 22 - 1 Peter 1:1 - 2:3

I Hope You Have A Sunny Day,  
Getting to know God is a lifetime pursuit. A person may say he knows God, and I think that is a fine thing to claim, but to what degree do we really know Him? I do not mean to discourage you in any way, because I do believe He is knowable; all I want to say is that there is something about God that is incomprehensible. God, by definition, is beyond our understanding.

What we can do is take what God tells us about Himself and learn to appreciate that knowledge. We call it revelation when God makes something known about His character. God reveals things that we can only know if our ears are spiritually in tune with what God is saying. For example, I have always enjoyed the wonders of creation, but before I came to Christ I never connected the creation with a Creator. It just never came into my mind. After Christ came into my life I began to link the creation with my Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible is another example. As a kid I really did treasure the old King James Bible my grandma had given to me. The problem was I didn't understand much of what I read in there. Part of the problem, of course, was that we didn't use King James English where I went to school. Every now and then, especially on Sunday mornings, I'd pull the Bible out of my drawer and begin to decipher what I was reading. I soon put it away again. It takes light to see light, I found out later. It isn't until you come to the source of all spiritual light that you can understand or even see what you are reading. Jesus said, "Unless a man is born again

he cannot see the kingdom of God." He means that spiritual things are perceived in the life of a spiritually alive person. The Psalmist said, "In Thy light we shall see light."

Part of the revelation of God is the relationship between God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit; He is also called the Spirit of Christ. The relationship between the persons of the Trinity (Three Persons/One God) is a fascinating study. They are one in nature but different in function, yet they act in unison. There is perfect oneness in the Godhead. Now, how God was who He was in the "beginning" our finite brains cannot comprehend. It gives me goose bumps to think about God pre-existing. God always was, no beginning, no ending, He just is. For example, in Exodus 3 God makes Himself known to Moses as the great "I am." Again the emphasis is on eternal existence, without beginning of days or end of days. In John Chapter 8 Jesus says to his adversaries, "Before Abraham was, I am." Jesus identifies Himself as the great "I am." Then in John 14-16 Jesus teaches about "another comforter", one like Him who would be with the disciples until the end of the age. All three persons work together. They are involved in creation and redemption. And so Peter brings each Partner into perspective in the beginning of his little letter.

Peter addresses "God's elect" who are distinct from the world and have been exiled from their homes. He says that they have been "scattered." This is probably a reference to the dispersion due to persecution; the rest of Peter's writings attest to this. Then

Peter gives us information about each member of the Trinity.

"Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father." This means that God picked us before we were His. He loved us so much that He selected us out of the rest of humanity that we might be His very own. Remember Romans 8:29, 30—"For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified."

"Through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit." It is the Spirit Who brings us into a relationship with Jesus. Jesus said, "All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that He (The Holy Spirit) will take what is mine and declare it to you," (John 16:15). And Paul warned, "And do not grieve the Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." The Spirit puts the spotlight on Christ, matches us with Him and speaks to us in His name. He is a wonderful comforter.

"For obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by His blood." It was the Spirit who brought us to Jesus and it was Jesus who forgave our sins by His work on the cross. Peter would say later in this same letter, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the

Spirit," (3:18).

Let's talk practically for a moment about how we relate to the Trinity. God is our Good Daddy. He loves us and invites us to call Him Father or Abba (meaning "daddy"). We come to Him the way we would approach a good earthly father. We need to spend time with Him and get to know Him by reading His words and talking to Him through prayer.

Jesus brings the Father's love into focus through His sacrifice for us. Jesus gives us confidence that we can come to the Father because He has paved the way for us by the cross. Both the Father and the Son live in the believer by the Holy Spirit. "...I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you," (John 14:20). "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him," (John 14:24). "The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you," (John 14:17).

Another important way to view the Trinity is in the practice of prayer. We pray to the Father through the Son in the Spirit. God the Father is the One to whom we direct our prayer. Our prayer is heard because of the Son. The Holy Spirit guides us on what to pray for.

May the God of all, live in you today and may you experience His power as you go about your day.

God's blessings come from the Trinitarian God,  
Pastor Steve



## "Precious"

November 23 - 1 Peter 2:4-25

**T**he Top Of The Day To You,  
I love the word "precious." Besides its use in Lord of the Rings, the word brings me thoughts of the things and people that are near and dear to my

heart. What is precious to you? One thing that's precious to me is fellowship with others in Jesus. I think the Spirit of Jesus is close to those who meet in His Name. There is a great joy when we come together

and emphasize the Name of Jesus. I just love that.

We will guard what is precious to us. We will protect it and cherish it unto death. If we lose something precious we plummet into the grief process. We can be having a great day, then find out that something precious is gone and become instantly depressed.

Remember, Jesus said that we shouldn't fear man, who can destroy our bodies; we should fear God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell. I haven't talked much about hell in my e-mails. I guess it's not a subject that I enjoy discussing. Anyway, hell essentially is the loss of all that is precious to you. Hell is eternal separation from God. Hell will not be a pleasant place. If you value and hold precious the things God despises, then you will lose your soul in the end. If you lose those things in this life, then in the end you will gain your life.

People sell their souls for the basest of pursuits. How many people have sold their soul for a bottle of alcohol? The number is countless. Alcohol has claimed more souls for the fiery pit than almost any other addiction. Paul said in Corinthians that no drunkard will enter the kingdom of heaven? Why? Because his allegiance is to Jack Daniels and not to the Lord.

Many have cashed in the potential for spiritual freedom for the sake of money. Jesus said that you cannot serve God and money. Both are masters that demand your all.

The list of diversions is endless. How hopeless people must feel when they realize they have lost their soul because of their addiction. What was most precious to them becomes the thing that trips them up.

I remember a time when I first realized what is precious to God. It was midnight, but still about 90 degrees, and I was having trouble getting to sleep. My two friends and I were sacked out on the ground under the stars in Palm Springs, Ca. My new faith was still a mystery to me, but I knew that Jesus must be real because I had never experienced such an outflow of love before. Love was coming my way from God, I

thought, and also from a new found family of believers. This experience was different than any other trips I'd had to Palm Springs. This time it wasn't about drinking and carousing. I think the friends were a bit put out with me because of this, but I couldn't help it, I was a different person than the one they knew just months before. Maybe that's why I was a bit restless; I don't know.

Then something came to me. I heard a voice. The voice wasn't an audible one, like the one in that movie "Field of Dreams." This was an impression in my mind—strong, persistent, unmistakable, mysterious. "1 Peter 2:4." Then again, "1 Peter 2:4." Honestly, I had no clue what that was. I did not know that there was a 1 Peter in the Bible. I turned over and closed my eyes. "1 Peter 2:4." Then it dawned on me. I had my old King James Bible in the back of my little orange VW bug. I got up and went to the car, rummaged around for the Bible and sat with it under the faint dome light in the front seat. I searched the index and there it was, 1 Peter.

I turned to the page and looked for chapter two. I perused the page until I found verse four. "To whom coming, as unto a living stone; disallowed indeed by men but chosen by God and precious." Then I heard, "You are precious to me." At that moment a flood of peace overwhelmed me. I was precious to God. I was loved beyond reason. I was a child of the living and loving God. At that moment the world could have come to an end and I would not have cared. I was loved. I was precious to my Maker. Praise the Lord!

You are precious to God. He does not want to lose you. He treats you as the apple of His eye. He watches over you to keep you in all of your ways and He guides you in the way He chooses. God keeps us by His own power. Remember Jesus' prayer in John 17, where He asked the Father to keep us from the evil one and to secure us in His Name. This truth is the single most important thing for you to grasp: God values us.

God's blessings in Jesus' Name,  
Pastor Steve

**“Be Understanding”**

November 24 - 1 Peter 3: 1-22

**W**ho understands you best? It's probably someone who has spent a great amount of time with you, listening intently to the things you express. It is someone who takes what you say with a grain of salt, not being too judgmental when you spout off about some bothersome part of your life. This person has most likely been with you through thick and thin. This person knows your personality, your likes and dislikes, your hopes and dreams, your goals, and your quirks. But most importantly, despite knowing you in and out, this person still accepts you.

If you are married, then wouldn't it be nice if your partner was this special person? The intimacy in marriage is much more than physical intimacy. It is about the oneness you work on as you navigate your way. You share personal things. You talk about confidential things. Your partner should know you better than almost anyone else. Isn't that why divorce can become so nasty? One or both partners take the unknown things that are to be kept secret, and he or she makes them into the missiles that hurt so deeply. We know things about our partners that could be very damaging if they were known publicly. That's the nature of intimacy.

Have you ever just needed to unload a truckload of baggage that was bothering you, so you tell the hair stylist because you have always felt comfortable with her? You feel better and acknowledge her caring attitude. Then it happens. Later that same week it gets back to you that you said such-and-such. You unloaded on the wrong person. She told all and now your few moments of venting are coming back to haunt you.

We all need a confidant. We need to be able to be ourselves—good, bad and ugly—with someone we can trust. We cannot afford to hold in what is sizzling inside. When we do, it will become much bigger in our

own mind than it is in reality and it will tie us in a knot. Have you been there? Are you dealing with this right now? I hope that you can develop a relationship with someone who holds your trust absolutely sacred.

Peter instructs husbands to be considerate toward their wives. We husbands are to respect our wives by being understanding. We need to appreciate the differences between us. It is so natural to treat others with a “get it together” attitude. So we give quick advice, bark out commands and offer criticisms without thinking about what the other person is thinking.

Just the typical emotional differences between husbands and wives should wake the men up to listen more intently. Now I realize that not everyone fits into a mold. But there are needs that women have, needs that are connected to the physical differences between the sexes, which we men must appreciate if we are going to have harmony. Don't women need the assurance that they are going to be taken care of and protected? Isn't the woman often weaker in the physical sense, and doesn't she need her man to do most of the more physically demanding jobs?

My wife's grandparents were, before their recent deaths, pillars of their community. Grandpa never met a stranger and grandma constantly did works of service for family and friends. To me they were a model couple. Grandpa had a remarkable sense of humor. He was always making quips and playing practical jokes on perfect strangers, not to mention those of us in the family. Well, on the front of their home out in the desert of southern California, in big wooden cut-out letters, were the words “HERS” and “HIS.” On the house portion it said “Hers” and on the garage it said “His.” That was the way things were, too. He was the fixer and mechanic and project guy and Grandma managed the house. She was so efficient; if you got up early in the morning to use the bathroom, by the

time you got back, the bed would have already been made. On the other hand, if you needed an oil change or a brake job, Grandpa would be at it before you had stopped in the driveway. That was just the way they were.

They were both strong in their own way, but I think they fulfilled their roles like Peter says here. He helped her where she was physically unable, and he treated her as a co-heir of the life God had given to them. I have never met someone as considerate as grandpa. He treated his bride like a queen. They were married more than 60 years. They lived in harmony and their prayers were heard because they did not hold a grudge or put each other down in public. I never once heard them return an insult for an insult, but I did hear many mutual blessings. Those of us who are

married ought to do likewise.

A word to the unmarried: I think we learn to be good partners (if that is God's will for us) by learning to submit to authority before we are married. The chances are, if we are generally rebellious before we marry, then we will show the same attitude afterward. Learn to depend on others and ask for help when you need it. Also, practice returning a blessing for an insult. It is so easy to give tit for tat, but God wants us to be like Jesus and return a blessing to those who put us down. It may be hard to do—maybe even supernatural—but try it on for size and see if it doesn't make for a better life. Jesus knew how to live well, and we would do well to follow in His footsteps.

God's blessings make us understanding people,  
Pastor Steve

**“How to Serve & How to Suffer”**

November 25 - 1 Peter 4: 1-19

**H**ave A Great Day, Peter is practical. I love learning from people who make things clear to me. They talk about the day-to-day matters that affect my life. I need that, because I tend to get wrapped up in the details and lose sight of the big picture. When someone comes along and helps me organize the details, soon enough the bigger picture becomes more clear.

All too often I major on the minors and neglect the majors. The minors have a way of yelling for our attention. But when I give my attention to them, I am drawn away from the really important things. Jesus said that the Pharisees ignored the important things, like mercy and judgment, and instead focused on the less important things, like rules they had concocted about tithing.

One of the important things Peter teaches us about is suffering. Peter says suffering is God's tool to

teach us to live right. Let's face it, when we feel horrible we can either turn to God or turn away from Him. God's purpose is that suffering will cause us to throw ourselves on the Lord. When we suffer, we are partaking in the sufferings of Christ. Hardships are designed by God to help us focus on our spiritual lives and not run to the world's medications to numb our condition. Suffering brings us back to the heart and soul of life, where we turn from sins and live in trust of God.

Others may not understand why you are now attending Bible studies and going to prayer meetings instead of going to the parties that you once lived for. These people are still driven by their ungodly lusts. They cannot fathom that you are now interested in doing God's will and living a godly life. To them, it seems boring and old fashioned. They do not see the benefit of a life in pursuit of the Holy One. You, on the other hand, were once blinded like them, but now you

see spiritually and are driven to do what God wants for you to do.

Peter exhorts us to use the gifts God has given us to reach out to others. First of all, we must be clear-headed so that we can pray. Then we are to love one another in a way that guards the integrity of our friends. Love covers a multitude of sins, in that we are to welcome notorious sinners who come to Christ; their sins can be forgiven no matter what background they may be from. Then we are to speak God's words to one another so that the church may hear the Lord speaking to them. There is no other guarantee of God's clear voice besides the clear communication of His Word.

At crucial times in my life I have had others speak God's Word to me. It brought a sense of clear direction and purpose. God used them to direct me and shed light on the way before me. Those who know the Word of truth can open it at any given time and speak the Word of God to you, guiding you on your way. Don't ever isolate yourself from the Word. The Word is a lamp and a light and will give you the kind of direc-

tion you need to make your way in this dark world.

When we have the Word of God in our lives, we can be patient when difficulties come. James talked about letting trials have their perfect work. The result would be a more patient Christian. Peter says we will be more like Jesus. He also says that we shouldn't gloat about our sufferings if we bring them on ourselves. If we have broken the law or are meddlers in the affairs of others we ought to repent of those things rather than grumble that we are suffering so much. True suffering occurs when you take a stand for Jesus in some way and then receive flack for it. In the days this letter was written, the church was being persecuted on all fronts. Peter wanted his flock to remember that God had a purpose even in suffering.

Are you suffering? God wants you to be patient. He desires that you continue to use your spiritual gifts to reach others, and He expects you not to grovel if your suffering is self-imposed.

God's blessings are sometimes painful,  
Pastor Steve



## "God Humbles The Proud"

November 26 - 1 Peter 5: 1-14

**I**t's a Sweet Jesus Day, The king looked over the vastness of his kingdom and marveled at his own creation. He was pleased that he had excelled above and beyond the average mortal. He felt invincible. He was the sole power on the planet. What he said was law and his audience was desired by all. How much greater could one man get? There was no one to compare with him. Then...

God humbled the man. The Bible records that he was put out to pasture for seven years, eating grass like the beasts of the field. He descended from riches

to rags. He was brought low, so low that his humanity was reduced to that of a beast. Who ran the kingdom in the meantime and how his subjects responded to this is not recorded. What we do know is that for the time being, the king was out of commission. The man was Nebuchadnezzar.

Every great kingdom throughout history has had its day, but in the end each of them ended. The superior became inferior. The mighty became weak and subservient. The powerful militaries were reduced to slaves of other nations. The Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, the Romans, and others., have

all had their day. Those "invincible" peoples are now reduced to a story on the yellowed pages of archaic history books. No human endeavor lasts by its own sovereignty.

When the king came to his senses seven years later, he praised the God of heaven, who alone is sovereign. He honored the God of heaven and gave Him the credit for all that was. This was a far cry from where he had been seven years before. Now he had a clear view of God and he humbled himself, even though, of course, God had first brought him to his knees through the process. God humbles the proud and gives grace to the humble.

Peter also recognized the sovereignty of God. Just think about his life for a moment and realize that he was a very proud man who was humbled by the truth and love of Jesus Christ. Peter was, in his own flesh, a warrior of sorts. He was ready to fight for what he thought was right. Jesus assuaged him and made it clear to him that His way would be different than any human method. The picture of Peter weeping on that cold, spring morning after he had denied his Lord is a reminder to us that God humbles the proud. Peter's brash and dominant personality would follow him throughout life, but he would also learn the lesson of humility and he would begin to live a life of grace and love.

Peter now applies the lessons he has learned to his position of elder in Christ's church. He considers himself a fellow elder with those who are spiritually on the front lines taking care of the flock given to their charge. Each of the qualities he asks the elders to

demonstrate is flavored with humility. For example, elders are to serve willingly and not for money. Leadership among many of the elders would be a vocation, but they are admonished to lead with a good attitude, working from the heart and not out of compulsion.

Elders are to be examples and not lords over the flock. People will naturally want the elders in their life to tell them what to do. Peter says that the elder is to lead the way while giving the sheep the tools to make their own decisions. The biblical elder is a follower of Christ; not perfect, but centered on his own relationship with the Lord so that his daily life is guided by the Great Shepherd. Elders follow Christ, and the sheep follow their example and follow too.

Humility is the key to spiritual leadership. Leaders who are exercising their leadership in their own strength and talents may get much done, but they often wear out because they end up carrying a load that's too heavy. That's why Peter says, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you," (5: 6,7). The proud man will not feel the need to cast his worries on God, because he will be busy trying to do it on his own. The humble man will be conscious of his need for God and put himself under the Lord's hand, where he can give up his worries to the Sovereign One.

Long live the king who acknowledges God's sovereignty!

God's blessings give grace to the humble,  
Pastor Steve

# 2 PETER



Day 331

## “Let’s Add”

November 27 - 2 Peter 1:1-21

**I**t’s A Good Day To Truly Live, Are you looking forward to Thanksgiving? I have so much to be thankful for. Even if I could list everything, I think I would still miss half of it. So much is given to us (by grace) that we are unaware of, most of the time, because of our finite perspective. Ephesians 1 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” How much do I not acknowledge? Much!

Something has hit me pretty hard the last couple of days while reading Peter. Remember when Peter says add to this, that; and to that, this; and so on and so on? I think what he’s getting at is that we can always be growing. In 2 Peter the colorful apostle is preparing himself and his flock for his impending death. Jesus had predicted that Peter would experience an uncomfortable death, and now the time had arrived. Possibly the heat from Rome had been turned up at this point. They were pretty touchy about the Christians calling Jesus Emperor (“Lord”) over and above Caesar.

Peter’s heart beat with the desire that those he knew would be strengthened even after he was gone. A few years back I knew a man who was dying of cancer and only had months to live. He made a video tape for his kids of all the advice he could think of so that they would have direction after he was gone. I’m sure that now that they are in their twenties, they pull out those old tapes from time to time and have a good cry and lean on their father’s words. Peter was like a

father to the believers he was writing to in the Lord. Soon he would be gone, and then what would happen to those in Christ whom he loved so much?

Those of us who have been saved for 15, 20 or 30 years need to hear this. We need to be reminded that fruitfulness is an ongoing process and doesn’t end when we have read the Bible through, or after we have had a lull period in our walk, or after we felt like we had sinned one too many times. Peter says, “Don’t give up, don’t listen to false teaching, grow in the knowledge of Jesus and add to your life these qualities.” What a great challenge!

Don’t these qualities Peter lists look like the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5? Sure they do. Peter wants us to focus on them so that we will have a goal, a spiritual goal, that can be reached only through God’s Spirit working in our lives. But it is our response to do the work of addition. Look again at what he wants us to add. Aren’t these the very things we see in others that we admire? Let’s go ahead and add. Why not? Isn’t it time?

I think, though, I can hear someone saying, “I’m too busy. I can’t add one more thing to my life.” But aren’t all of these qualities things we can do along the way while we are doing our daily things? Sure they are. We can still go to that game our kids are in, we can just be friendlier to the people around us. We still can shop, but let’s smile at that lonely person we just walked past. These are qualities that we need as we go along. So we add without taking anything away.

The more of Jesus and the less of ourselves that we live with, the greater the spiritual maturity we will see. Mark this portion of Scripture and come back to it. The result of this kind of fruit in your life will be

spiritual confidence and growth in the knowledge of Jesus.

God’s blessings add up,  
Pastor Steve



Day 332

## “Filthy Lawless Men (An Accursed Brood)”

November 28 - 2 Peter 2: 1-22

**G**od’s promises will lead us on, There are “bad apples” in the world. This has been true from the beginning and we still experience it today. Sometimes we are fully aware that someone is rotten to the core and at other times we are completely in the dark. Maybe they appear to be caramel-coated on the outside, hiding the worm inside. If you have ever bitten into a rotten piece of fruit you know what I mean.

There is rotten fruit among the believers in the church. There are secret agents of the enemy right in our camp. They are trying to destroy the faith of some by means of bad teaching, the kind of teaching that downplays the superiority of Jesus. These people are bullies. They sound very convincing as they push their way forward, but they do not have the Spirit of Jesus. They are in the game for their own profit and they will exploit you in any way they can.

Over the years I have run into a few men who fit this category. I have seen the guy in the sweaty, double-breasted suit, with fancy jewelry and a hypnotic voice, preaching away about all sorts of things, most emphatically about the offering of money for his ministry. These money mongers use the gospel to squeeze the dollars out of the lives of unsuspecting souls. It’s not long before you read that they have run off with their secretary and have left their wife and children behind. Sometimes musicians will use their talents as a platform to lambaste the church and guilt them into giving large sums of money for their own

pockets.

Let’s pull out some of Peter’s phrases that describe these men:

false (2:1)  
heretics (2:1)  
greedy (2:2)  
ungodly (2:5,6)  
filthy and lawless (2:7)  
unrighteous (2:9)  
corrupt and sinful (2:10)  
bold and arrogant (2:10)  
slanderers (2:10)  
blasphemers (2:12)  
brute beasts (2:12)  
creatures of instinct (2:12)  
like beasts (2:12)  
carousers (2:13)  
blots and blemishes (2:13)  
revelers (2:13)  
eyes full of adultery (2:14)  
seducers (2:14)  
experts in greed (2:14)  
accursed brood (2:14)  
wanderers (2:15)  
springs without water (2:17)  
mists driven by a storm (2:17)  
enticers (2:18)  
slaves of depravity (2:19)  
vomit eating dogs (2:22)  
wallowing pigs (2:22)

I guess “bad apple” does not really do an adequate job of describing this kind of person, does it? This person’s moral backbone is like jelly. It bends to any and every whim. It is hedonistic and narcissistic. This person uses God’s holy things to promote his own cause: himself.

Do you know someone in the church who is opinionated and heady and full of himself? A person who always wants to promote his latest faddish idea

and will not take any correction when called on the carpet for his extreme views? If so, beware; you may have one of these rascals on your hands. Remember, be always discerning and do not allow yourself or the body to get taken in by these spiritual villains. They may sound very spiritual, but their motives are all about themselves.

God’s blessings keep us from the bad apples,  
Pastor Steve

that we today might have adequate instruction. Peter indicates that it is the “arrogant and unstable people” who distort the Words of Scripture written by Paul. Those who humbly study his Words will benefit from them, because they are the voice of God to us. They will make us more spiritual and help us to prepare for the last days’ troubles.

Lastly, all of us ought to keep growing in Jesus. We must daily experience His grace so that we can walk in the Spirit and do the things that are pleasing to Him. We must also grow in our knowledge of the Savior so

that we do not end up falling prey to people like the ones listed in the previous chapter. We need to be on guard against anyone who would distort the gospel of Jesus.

And so we look for His coming with anticipation of all that He has in store for us. Allow this to motivate you to be holy as He is holy, and pursue the things that make for a godly life.

God’s blessings will be accomplished with fire,  
Pastor Steve



## “That Day Means Something For Us Today”

November 29 - 2 Peter 3:1-18

**G**od Is At Work In Your Life Today,  
Someday God will make all things new. But before that, “Everything will be destroyed,” according to Peter. The present environment in which we live, the domain of Satan, as Paul calls it (Ephesians 2), will be demolished.

A few years ago I was watching on TV as workers destroyed several hotels in Las Vegas. I also remember when the Kingdome in Seattle was imploded.

What a sight! That huge structure, in a matter of seconds, was brought to its knees. In the same way, the timer is ticking on our world. Someday God will bring it all down in a fiery crash.

Some have disputed this truth ever since the prophets first predicted it. Men use the argument that it will never happen because it hasn’t happened yet. That’s kind of like a Californian saying there will never be a deadly quake because they have survived the ones they have had so far. It is not very good reasoning. Peter makes it clear that God withholds judgment so that people can be saved from the coming wrath. God is patient. God’s heart, His wish, is that all men will repent and turn to Him. He knows, of course, that not all will turn; and so some day, He will pull the plug.

God created this place and He can take it back.

It is His, to do with as He chooses. Peter reminds his friends that God spoke the worlds into existence by His Word. He talks about the first chapter of the Bible to remind them that the very water God used to shape the globe, He also used to undo it at the flood in Noah’s day. He will not do that again, but will use fire to dissolve what we now see.

We do not know when this will happen. Those who say it will happen in our generation only join a long line of prognosticators who have believed the same in their generation. Could it happen today? Yes. But no man knows the day, nor should we hang our prophetic hat on some news headline that appears to indicate that the end is now.

What we can do is respond to the fact of the world’s eventual demise in the way Peter lays it out for us. He simply tells us that in the light of these truths we ought to be ready for the end by living holy lives. We should not live for our own pleasures, but for the glory of God. In Paul’s terminology, we should offer our bodies as sacrifices for God; he calls our body parts “instruments of righteousness.”

Second, we ought to be students of the letters of Paul. Why? Because the Holy Spirit, according to Peter, was inspiring his communications with the church so



















