

THE WHOLE BIBLE: 2 Peter - Jude

2 PETER

The Second Coming of Christ

- central teaching in Christianity | all Christians called to live waiting
- issue of continuity and discontinuity

The Second Coming changes how we live

- holiness and godliness is how we anticipate the return of the King

2 Peter 3:1-13

¹This 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, ²that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

⁴They 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.” ⁵For 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, ⁶and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷But 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.

⁸But 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. ⁹The 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. ¹⁰But 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.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening 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! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells

1 JOHN

- John was the last of the apostles | the “beloved” disciple of Jesus

1 John 1:1-4 | The New Testament documents are eye-witness accounts

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us – ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1 John 4:7-21 | God is love. Therefore, let us love one another.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

The essence of God is love

- chief characteristic of being a Christian is love
- love all people, but especially our brothers and sisters in church

2 JOHN

2 John 1:5

And now I ask you, dear lady – not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning – that we love one another.

Love is a determined practice

- we need to continually recommit to this

3 JOHN

3 John 1:9-10

⁹ I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. ¹⁰ So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

Case of Diotrephes – church authority and church discipline

- balancing exercising authority and guarding against abuse

JUDE

Jude 1:3-4

³ Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

The “faith” has been delivered to us once for all

- there is no on-going revelation
- the Christian faith is unchanging in its essence

The call to contend for the faith

- gospel needs to be defended
- not just doctrinal, but moral – immorality is denial of gospel

Notes:

2 Peter – the Second Coming of Christ

Not a peripheral teaching in Christianity – central

- idea Jesus will return, there will be an end this world, final judgment
- mentioned 300x in NT, once every 13 verses
- crucial teaching of Christianity
- which means, you can't live recognizably Christian life unless not only believe this, but actually think about it, long for it, affects live
- scoffers in early church who didn't think Jesus was returning
- many of us functionally live as if Second Coming isn't going to happen

Continuity and discontinuity

- what is relationship b/w this life and life to come? | Earth and New Earth
- on one hand, radical discontinuity:
 - v. 7, “fire” “destruction”
 - v. 10, “heavens will pass away w/ a roar, and heavenly bodies will burn up and dissolve”
 - all that is evil and unjust will be swept away
- on other hand, essential continuity
 - resurrection not a different body, but a renewed, restored body
 - “new” not completely different, but restored and renewed

Unexpected and imminent return – “thief in night”

- 2,000 years...but for each generation, Christ can return any moment
- don't fall into complacency – Parable of Ten Virgins in Matthew 25

Imagine – getting ready for *night out* with wife

- all dressed and waiting at the door | wife, “I'll be down minute”
- waiting, tell yourself, “wouldn't be great go take jog around block”
- no, that's crazy, because wife come down any minute, so I have wait
- but 10 minutes passes, and think yourself – I couldn't have taken jog
- yes, that's true, but it doesn't mean you can take jog now
- because any minute, she'll be down | then “end of world”

How do we prepare for the return of the King?

- v. 10 – “all works will be exposed”
- imagine: teacher steps out for a moment, but delayed
- do you goof off? | no, teacher can return any moment

Don't say to yourself – “I have lifetime to be holy”

- I'll follow Jesus later on in life
- no you don't | foolish presumption

1 John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

1 John

New Testament documents are eye-witness accounts

Pervasive idea that NT was written centuries after the fact

- myths and legends that evolved over hundreds of years

NT writings themselves claim to be eye-witness accounts

- Mark 15:21 – Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus

Luke 1:1-2 – “Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us”

- NT writers very careful who was and wasn't an original eye-witness

New Testament was written within first century

- open to refutation | early church could not exist in false
- hundreds of living eyewitnesses that started the early church

God is love

Strongest way you could put it

- not “God loves” or “he is loving God” | but “God is love”
- meaning – love is very essence of who God is
- goes to his very nature | very core of who he is
- two attributes of God emphasized above all others – holy and love

If essence of God is love, then to know God, to be his child – is to love

- v. 7 – to be born of God, to know God – is to love
- absence of love is denial of God himself
- if you have not love – no idea who God is
- indispensable mark of a Christ-follower is love

John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Chief characteristic of follower of Christ – love for brother in Christ

- love the church
- love serving the needs of others
- reconcile and forgive brothers and sisters in church

2 John

v. 5 – love one another

- this commandment is repeated all the time – why?
- difficult to love people in church | we sin against each other

3 John

Case of Diotrephes

- conflict exists in the church | false brothers who sow division

Church authority and church discipline

God design church to have order and authority

- as Americans, influenced by our culture – highly individualistic
- example of individualism: Quervo Man

Fall of institutions | loss of trust in authority

- Catholic sex scandals | doping in sports | college entrance
- church isn't immune – spiritual abuse from pastors

Opposite of submission isn't freedom – it's chaos

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 Peter 5:3

³not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

Jude

“contend for faith, delivered once for all”

- “the faith” – core, once-for-all gospel given through apostles
 - what we have in Scripture is the final statement on Christianity
 - not on-going revelation | nothing new to disclose
- “contend” – struggle, fight | gospel needs to be defended
- not just doctrinal, but moral – “pervert gospel into sensuality”
- immorality is denial of gospel, and denial of Lordship of Jesus