

Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter
Wk #44: Being Prepared For The Fight

2 Peter 3:1-7 NKJV

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,⁶ by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.⁷ But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition (destruction) of ungodly men.

“Knowing this first”. With everything that Peter has said in chapter 1 & 2, he communicates in a first things first approach.

Let me be straight up with you and not sugar coat things.

People of this world will be walking through life based on their own lusts.

We should live differently. Galatians 5:16-18 NKJV ¹⁶*I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.* ¹⁷*For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.* ¹⁸*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

“Scoffers” Greek **ἐμπαίκτης** emp-aheek-tace' meaning a mocker or scoffer but in this verse expanded to mean derision or mockery. Deriding someone or mocking someone

Derision (Merriam-Webster) noun

1. a: the use of ridicule or scorn to show contempt
b: a state of being laughed at or ridiculed; a state of being derided
2. an object of ridicule or scorn

Deride (Merriam-Webster) verb

1. to laugh at or insult contemptuously
2. to subject to usually bitter or contemptuous ridicule or criticism; to express a lack of respect or approval of

If you are believing in, following, and standing up for Jesus, then you will experience “push back” from people around you.

1 John 2:15-17 NIV ¹⁵ *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father (the Father’s love) is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.*

I have had many conversations the past three weeks regarding the difficulty of the teaching on Sunday morning. Peter is not (and I am not) trying to be hard for the sake of being mean.

He is trying to help prepare and strengthen brothers and sisters in Christ for the reality of the battle of faith and fellowship.

To truly be committed to the transforming image of Jesus creates a battle line in our lives.

We must be willing to honestly evaluate ourselves.

We must understand the world where we reside is hostile territory.

We must not be naïve about the fight but rather prepared for the fight of faith.

We must be internally strong.

It takes incredible strength to love in the face of ridicule, scorn, contempt, bitter criticism, disrespectful sarcasm, personal derision, and just downright nasty vulgar harassment.

These scoffing people make a willful, conscious choice to push things out of their minds. They make a decision to forget or choose not to look at the reality of facts that are right in front of them.

They know enough to ridicule and criticize but they purposefully will not take time to consider the depth of what is right in front of them.

----- His return, what does it matter? Nothing has changed since the creation! How has your faith made any difference in anything? The world just keeps on going as it always has since the beginning! -----

Romans 1:18-25 NLT ¹⁸ *But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. (by their wickedness prevent the truth from being known) ¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*

²¹ *Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshipping*

the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴ So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. ²⁵ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

It is a reality that people make a willful decision to push God out of their thinking and make a choice to worship other things.

<https://calvinrosser.com/notes/coddling-of-the-american-mind/>

The Coddling of the American Mind by Jonathan Haidt & Greg Lukianoff

Summary and Takeaways by Calvin Rosser:

This book explores the spread of a potentially dangerous set of ideas being adopted on college campuses and beyond. The ideas are making people more fragile, subject to emotional reasoning, and comfortable using an “us versus them” lens to view the world. The authors discuss how and why these ideas have developed a stronghold, the ways in which they’re manifesting, and the potential harm to human progress and happiness.

Three Great Untruths

The book defines, contextualizes, and problem-solves three bad ideas gaining traction today.

1. **The Untruth of Fragility:** What doesn't kill you makes you weaker.
2. **The Untruth of Emotional Reasoning:** Always trust your feelings.
3. **The Untruth of Us Versus Them:** Life is a battle between good people and evil people.

We now live in a culture where people see other people as evil simply because there is an opposing belief or position.

NLT

You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. ² For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. ³ They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. ⁴ They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. ⁵ They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

So many scientific details and facts that are willfully overlooked. There is so much detail that we could focus on but we will save some of this for our next study. I will highlight that the worldwide deluge is a phenomenon that is recorded in so many different cultures around the globe.

Colossians 1:15-20 ESV

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Jesus Christ is architect and the adhesive that holds all of this together.

Peter is not trying to be harsh and mean just as I am not trying to be harsh and mean. It is out of a heart of love that Peter is pouring his heart out because he has been living the fight. He knows that there is a fight and he is preparing people for the reality of the battle.

In the same way, I am teaching verse by verse through Peter's epistle to help us be prepared for reality. I am trying to prepare us for the reality of the spiritual battle. We are in a fight whether we want to acknowledge it or not.

Seeing the greatness and the glory of God displayed through the glory of His Son helps us face the harshness of the fight.

Have you ever allowed yourself to see Jesus for who He is in your life?

Are you able to keep Jesus in the forefront of your thoughts?

John 14:6 is a relationship entrance verse as well as a relationship sustaining verse; Jesus is our way, our truth, and our life with the reminder that no one comes to the Father without coming through Jesus.