

Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter
Wk #46: Preparation Should Purify

2 Peter 3:8-13 NKJV

⁸ *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.* ⁹ ***The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.***

¹⁰ *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up (laid bare).* ¹¹ *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,* ¹² *looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?* ¹³ *Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

“Day of the Lord”

“The Return of the Lord”

“The Rapture”

1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 & 5:2-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-11, Revelation 3:10 & 19:11-16

Matthew 24:15-30 are just a couple of over a thousand plus verses to be studied and considered regarding Bible prophecy and eschatology.

Hebrews 9:23-28 NIV

²³ *It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.* ²⁴ *For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.* ²⁵ *Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.* ²⁶ *Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.* ²⁷ *Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,* ²⁸ ***so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.***

Matthew 24:36-44 NASB 1995

³⁶ ***“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*** ³⁷ *For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.* ³⁸ *For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,* ³⁹ *and they did not understand (know) until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.* ⁴⁰ *Then there*

will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ *Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.*

⁴² *“Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.* ⁴³ *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.* ⁴⁴ ***For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.***

I have said this before and I will repeat myself to you this morning.....

We are not called to try to figure things out that we are not meant to understand.

We are called to look for our Lord’s return, anticipate being with Him, and live today like we are prepared to stand before Him.

It is important that you know why you believe what you believe but **you cannot get so preoccupied with a course of study that it takes you off course regarding our mission as followers of Jesus.**

We are called to look for our Lord’s return, anticipate being with Him, and live today like we are prepared to stand before Him.

Followers of Jesus Christ can have differing views regarding “Day of the Lord”, “The Return of the Lord”, and “The Rapture” and yet work in harmony because we are keeping the main thing the main thing.

Yeshua did not commission His disciples to divide and splinter His church regarding the apocalypse.

Yeshua said (Matthew 28:18-20) go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.

We have been given the good news of the gospel to spread to the world and to make disciples of our Lord.

The method to the mission is the reservoir of love: We are to learn to love God and we are to learn to love others.

We do not do this by running from our culture and isolating ourselves. but by living in our culture and shining by our good works.

2 Peter 3:11-13 ESV

¹¹ *Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,* ¹² *waiting 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 (elements) will melt as they burn!* ¹³ *But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

1 Peter 1:3-4 NLT ³ *By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.* ⁴ *And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.*

Titus 2:11-14 ESV

¹¹ *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

Vs 11 “holiness” in the original language means in a moral sense to be pure, sinless, upright, holy. Back to what Peter proclaimed in chapter 1:5-8 virtue or moral excellence.

“godliness” in the Greek for this application has to do with the aims and acts of godliness.

Q: What are we to be doing with ourselves as we are looking for our Lord's return?

A: Engaging our culture through our involvement in our daily lives!

I had the privilege this week to meet a forensic nurse as well as a forensic interviewer at the Child Advocacy Center that provides services to the Hampton Roads area. Both of these ladies are Christ followers and have dedicated over 20 years to helping children & families. Both are incredibly professional, knowledgeable, compassionate, tenacious, and women of faith in Christ. These are front line ladies who are daily dealing with children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual abuse, or human trafficking.

This is what we need in our culture, men, women, and children who are not perfect but learning to be like Jesus.....learning to be holy and godly.....in the context of everyday life.

We are called to help the helpless, the overlooked, the disadvantaged, those who are in need of emergency services. We don't need to create something new but rather make a supernatural difference right where we are living.

Jesus was engaged in His culture. He did not back away because it was going to be hard.

He spent time with His Father in heaven in order to do His Father's will while living among us.

If we are preparing for our Lord's return then it should have a very purifying affect on the way we live our lives right now.