

THE DYNAMIC OF MORALITY 2 Peter 3:11-14

Intro: The Lord is coming to earth again. First, He will come in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18); and then seven years later, He will come to the earth to set up His Millennial Kingdom. There is a dynamic that comes with belief in the return of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; it is the dynamic of morality. This is the dynamic that Peter is most concerned with in the closing verses of 2 Peter.

Because the end is nearing and the world is rushing onward toward judgment, it behooves us as Christians to live for our soon coming King. The Apostle John spoke of this dynamic in 1 John 3:1-4.

The churches of our Lord Jesus Christ have a real challenge in this Post-modern and Post-Christian culture in which we live. The culture in which we live has many faces, many challenges; it is very real and very dangerous.

In the midst of all this change, God has given to us, believers, the tools needed to face the challenges and to flourish in the midst of a moral desert.

Yes, we have a moral dynamic that faces us. Let us determine to stay the course and not compromise and become like the world to gain a crowd.

I. Vs. 11, HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

A. "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved..." This points us back to the preceding verses, note especially verse ten.

1. When the end of the world comes, the lost will meet Jehovah God (Revelation 20:11-15).
 - a. He will meet Him as creator.
 - b. He will meet Him as judge.
2. Lost friend, heed the warning of scripture: "Prepare to meet thy God." 2 Corinthians 6: 2 says: "Now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation."
 - a. Without Christ, you have no hope; and this affects your entire outlook on life.
 - b. Without Christ, man turns to the flesh, to the pleasures of the world that only enslave him: drugs, alcohol. Thus the epitaph of his life read was nothing: "I am nothing, so you are still alive, eat, drink and be merry."
 - c. Without Christ, there is nothing to live for; thus, man

tends to be completely indifferent. What can matter when the end of it all is utter extinction.

d. If there is nothing to live for, man loses that important sense of being a pilgrim; thus, they have no pilgrimage.

e. When the doctrine of Christ and His soon coming is denied, there is nothing to live for. Moffatt comments: "It was impossible to give up the hope of the advent without ethical deterioration" (Barclay 345).

B. "What kind of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness." The "ye" here is the believer, as is the "us-ward" of verse 9. In light of the coming of Christ and the end of the world, how are we as God's children to live? Are we to live like the world around us, or are we to be salt and light for Christ? The answer for the believer is plain: be salt and light (Matt. 5:13-14).

1. "What kind of persons ought ye to be..." This is a statement about character. It takes character to do right. Anybody can do wrong; anyone can float down stream, even a sick fish! To swim upstream takes spiritual strength. All though the world is in the business of glamorizing sex, drugs, rebellion and all types of immoral behavior, we are to shun the world (1 John 2:15). Character is different from reputation:

REPUTATION	CHARACTER
What you are in the light	What you are in the dark

2. Knowing that the end is coming, we ought to live holy lives. To live a holy life, you must have a pure heart.

a. A pure heart abhors sin- Psalm 119:104: "I hate every false way." The new nature makes a man hate what he once loved. A man who hates a snake seeks the destruction of that snake.

b. A pure heart avoids the appearance of evil- "Abstain from all appearance of evil." The very appearance of evil may ruin a good name. Proverbs 22:1: "A good name is better to be had than great riches." Thomas Watson said: "There are many who have gone with itching ears to hear false teachers and have come home with the plague in their head!" (16)

c. A pure heart labors to be affected by and worked on by the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, there was no sacrifice without fire. Do you have a fire for God? Do you want the fire?

d. It is the will of God that you have a pure heart. 1 Thess. 4:3: "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." God wants you to be holy, to be different from the world. Let God have His will and way in your life by being holy. The old hymn "His Way with Thee" says

in verse one and the chorus:

“Would you live for Jesus, and be always pure and Good? Would you walk with Him within the narrow road? Would you have Him bear your burden, carry all your load? Let Him have His way with thee. His power can make you what you ought to be. His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free. His love can fill your soul, and you will see ‘Twas best for Him to have His way with thee.”

3. Godliness is to be the mark of the Christian.

a. We are to devote our lives to pleasing God.

“Whitherefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”(1 Cor 11:31).

b. We are to be separated from sin.

c. We are to enjoy our fellowship with our God in worship and service.

II. Vs. 12-13, HASTENING ON

A. Vs. 12, We are to be looking for the Savior for He will come again. “Hastening”-- the Greek word is *speudo* which gives the idea of earnestly desiring the coming of the Lord as well as hastening it on.

1. We look for Jesus with expectation and love (2 Tim. 4:8).

2. The saints can hasten the coming of the Lord. This does not mean we shall know the day or the hour; it means we can hasten it on.

a. We can hasten on the coming of the Lord by prayer.

Jesus taught the disciples to pray: “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10).

b. Hastening means to preach the Gospel to every creature. Matthew 24:14: “And the Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” By preaching the Gospel, people are called out by God: “God at first did visit the Gentiles, to take out them a people for his name” (Acts 15:14).

B. Vs. 13, When the present heavens and earth are dissolved, we are to look for “new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

1. Righteousness rules for there is no sin nor curse there (Rev. 21:4-6)

2. Remember, it is according to His promise that we look for new heavens and a new earth.

III. Vs. 14, HAVING PEACE

A. What is recorded in the preceding verses will most certainly come to pass. Seeing that this is true, we need to be diligent to be found in peace. Although the present heavens and earth will pass away, we are looking for new heavens and a new earth.

B. Our goal is to be found in peace, heavenly peace, when these things come to pass.

1. John tells us to abide in Christ now so that we will not be ashamed at His appearing (1 John 2:28).

2. Those who live righteously will not be ashamed when they meet the spotless Lamb of God (1 Peter 1:19). Remember that the false teachers want to disease your spiritual life and blemish your spirit (2:13).

Conclusion: Keep the promise of His coming before your eyes, and it will lead you to a righteous path with light from above (1:19). This is the Dynamic of Morality.