

2020.12.06 Sunday Sermon <Do Not Forget This One Thing>

Psalm 11:7

For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face.

2 Peter 3:8-13

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ^[a]

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. ^[b] That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Let's start with sharing an image - why do you think I am sharing an image of an arrow? A flying arrow moves fast, just as time goes fast. Already we are entering last month of year 2020. As we end this year, we can ask ourselves, where are we right now and what are we doing? Let us look into our scripture today and see what Our Lord tells us.

1. The Lord is Counting Remaining Time

- **2 Peter 3:8**

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

- Abraham lived 175 years. Isaac lived 180 years. Jacob lived 147 years. The World Trade Center before 9/11, stood for 28 years. The Lord Almighty has the ability to change time for us. He can make the time be 1000 years or he can make the time be just 1 day.
- Even powerful kings don't know how long he will reign or live.
 - When we look at book of Daniel, we see how powerful Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians. However, in chapter 5, we also see the end of his life.

Daniel 5:30

³⁰ That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, ^[a] was slain,

- As we look into both Second Book of Kings and Second Book of Chronicles, Hezekiah was a righteous king of Judah. He reigned for 29 years. Zedekiah was the last king of Judah. He was born in 617 BC, being twenty-one on becoming king. Zedekiah's reign ended with the siege and fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar II, which has been dated to 587BC. The prophet Jeremiah was his counselor, yet he did not heed the prophet and his epitaph is "he did evil in the sight of the Lord" (2 Kings 24:19-20; Jeremiah 52:2-3).
- As we look into our own lives, we can compare our years to time of the day. Our 20s can be compared to 10:51AM. As we reach 25, it is compared to be at 12:40PM. Our 50s can be compared to 6:08PM and our 70s can be compared to 11:00PM.
- Time is given by Our Lord. We have no control and only the Lord has full control over how much time we have left.

2. The Lord is Patiently Waiting

- In today's scripture, Peter is writing a letter to the church and it seems like they have done something wrong and needs to ask for the Lord's repentance. He is reminding them that the Lord is patiently waiting.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*

- In the Bible, the first coming of Jesus Christ is mentioned 456 times. However, the second coming of Jesus Christ is mentioned 1518 times.

2 Peter 3:3-4

³ *Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.* ⁴ *They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."*

- Even as the Lord mentions the message several times in the Bible, we as humans tend to ignore His message.

2 Peter 3:5-6

⁵ *But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water.* ⁶ *By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.*

- As we continue to ignore the Lord and His message, what will this world become and what will our children believe?

2 Peter 3:7

⁷ *By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.*

- **Story of Ingersoll's Lecture**

Ingersoll was an atheist philosopher and was lecturing one day. Near the end of the lecture, he stated there is no God. He continued by saying, "I will curse you and if you are alive come and punish me in 5 minutes." He stood for 5 minutes and nothing happened. As people were leaving the lecture, one old man came to Ingersoll and said, "The God I believe rebukes and disciplines His children when they are against Him. God's silence today proves that you are not child of God, but an outcast."

- **Story of TV Host**

Recently, a famous TV host past. He was known to be a great philanthropist and believer of God. However, in his recent biography, he said the following that sparked attention -

"We are God and God is us. How do I know this? It's not that I know it. It's that I feel it. But do I pray to a specific god? Do I anticipate a particular version of the afterlife? No, I do not."

As children of the Lord and believe of His Son Jesus Christ, we know there is heaven and hell.

Matthew 10:32-33

³² *"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.* ³³ *But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.*

3. The Lord Will Suddenly Arrive

- We do not know when the Lord will arrive. As we wait for Him, we must think about our sins and how we must live our lives with God.

2 Peter 3:10

¹⁰ *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.*

- **Story of Lake Nyos Disaster (Image)**

On 21 August 1986, a limnic eruption at Lake Nyos in northwestern Cameroon killed 1,746 people and 3,500 livestock. The eruption triggered the sudden release of about 100,000–300,000 tons (1.6 million tons, according to some sources) of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The gas cloud initially rose at nearly 100 kilometers per hour (62 mph) and then, being heavier than air, descended onto nearby villages, displacing all the air and suffocating people and livestock within 25 kilometers (16 mi) of the lake.

Just as the disaster of Lake Nyos came as a surprise...the Lord will also arrive suddenly. Who would have thought that this year would be hit with COVID-19 pandemic and so many lives would be lost?

- **2 Peter 3:11-12**

¹¹ *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives* ¹² *as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.* ^[b] *That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.*

- Enoch and Methuselah - When we look into the Old Testament, we know that Enoch lived for 365 years and Methuselah lived for 969 year. As we look into Book of Hebrews, we can see that Enoch's shorter life is more valuable than the longevity that Methuselah had.

Hebrews 11:5

⁵ *By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away."* ^[a] *For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.*

In Summary:

1. The Lord is Counting Remaining Time
2. The Lord is Patiently Waiting
3. The Lord Will Suddenly Arrive

Prayer:

*Some day the silver cord will break,
And I no more as now shall sing;
But, O the joy when I shall wake
Within the presence of the King!*

*And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story, saved by grace:
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story, saved by grace.
Amen.*