

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 3

Lesson 35

WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS

3 April, 2015

Verses 1-4 Remember what the holy prophets and the apostles of the Lord and Savior told you before and don't let scoffers (pessimist mockers) cause you to doubt those words because of the passing of time.

Don't let the failure of so many false prophets, date setters, and false teachers deter you from your hope. Remain steadfast in that hope. Keep your faith based upon what is written in the Word of God, not upon what a man or a woman says.

Verses 5-7 Scoffers choose to be ignorant rather than spending some time learning the truth. They choose to ignore the fact that God destroyed earth before and He said He's going to do it again.

Verses 8-9 The reason for the delay: God wants to see people who live on this Earth repent and be saved before He destroys it. That is what is important to God; that is what should be important to us. People are too occupied trying to save things that can't be saved from total annihilation by God. There's only one thing that can be saved: the souls of men. That's what we should occupy our time on earth trying to save.

Verse 10 The day of the Lord WILL come no matter what the scoffers tell you. The heavens shall pass away with a great noise. Therefore space exploration is a waste of money. The earth also—shall be burned up. So we shouldn't devote much time to the preservation of the earth.

Verse 11 Seeing (from the BIBLE!)—that all these things shall be dissolved; if everything God made—except the souls of men—are going to be dissolved —what manner of persons ought you to be? What should we devote our lives to, considering that the souls of men and women and children are the only things that God cares for? Since the destruction of the earth is inevitable, we certainly shouldn't waste our time trying to prevent its destruction. We should occupy our time with what we CAN do: preventing souls from dying without Jesus and going to hell.

Considering this truth, there are two things the Lord wants us to be:

HOLY: pure in heart, in temper, in disposition. Free from all sin and sinful affections. Being conformed to God's image and set apart for the service and the worship of God.

GODLY: a life of careful observance of God's commands, which grows out of a love and reverence for God. In plainer words: obedience that is glad and willing.

Don't let the influence and the allure of this world turn you into a scoffer. Holiness and godliness and souls are important to God so the world is going to try and "help" you not be so interested in holiness and godliness and souls. As time goes by, if you're not careful, you could become a scoffer; disinterested in and pessimistic about the Lord's coming.

Don't get wrapped up in temporary things that don't matter. Look at what God cares about: souls, holiness, and godliness. Occupy your time, expend your energy, and use whatever gifts, talents, and possessions God has given you to help people who don't know Jesus—come to know Jesus.

Verses 12-13 This earth will be burned up, but God has promised there will be a new heaven and a new earth "wherein dwelleth righteousness."
