

**2 Peter 3:1** Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle, in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder.

**Beloved** dear friends He is writing out of a caring heart compassionately- He is emphasizing the importance of brotherly love to continue especially in the times the church is facing such hostility from within and from without. His heart is revealed in that He uses the word '**Beloved**' 5 times in the chapter. This phrase **I now write** shows that he had written another, or that this was the second letter, and that it was addressed to the very same people. *I stir up your pure minds*; or, sincere minds. Your minds that have been renewed by the new birth. Remember all I have taught you in all the letters.

**Our Subject today** Scoffers Mockers and the World system in these **LAST DAYS** - Peter writes Godly Wisdom how we live among them.

**Let's just review some** to the **truths in 2 Peter Alone**. We know there are many more in 1Peter the first letter.

The Apostle has emphasized and taught us in **Chapter 1- growth in grace** and holiness and **knowledge**. He Exhorted us to **add those virtues to our Faith** – Exhorted us to increase in Knowledge of the Truth the Living Word of God- Giving us the antidote to false teaching.

He warned against the error of false teachers in **Chapter 2**; We saw the way False teachers can be recognised. We saw their mode of operation. **We also saw that God will keep us from them if we desire to be kept**. As we walk in His ways.

**As we now come into Chapter 3** There is a reminder of the certainty of the **second return of Jesus Christ**. Peter points out that there will be those who scoff at the second Coming. These scoffers hate the very thought of the second coming. They resist the thought of the coming Judgement.

**The Day of the Lord will come** – While scoffers can't bear to think about it, **the Godly look forward to it, and take comfort in thinking about it**. Peter is making known to us **Eschatology** - The study of the events that occur at the end of the world is called eschatology. It comes from the Greek word 'eschatos,' which means last. So, Eschatology is a study of the Last things. **When a Christian is mindful of His Coming it** serves to help us Christians grow in grace and holiness, and to protect their hearts from temptations. To maintain a full supply of oil and to have trimmed lamps brightly shining. They live with the expectation the **Bride groom cometh**. **His coming is of enormous comfort to the believer**- because it is the fulfilment of all that God has provided for us in salvation. It is the **deliverance from all Sin** and all **our troubles**. It is the fulfilment of all of **our hopes**. Knowing about the end times, makes known to us, the wonder and the glory of the fullness and the finished nature of the saving work that Christ has done, and is going to do. As a Christian we should not have the attitude I just need to know the Love of Jesus Christ; I don't need to be aware of end time events - Our Salvation finds its conclusion in the second coming

of Christ. Therefore, it is essential that every believer understand and embrace the biblical teaching on the second coming of Christ, for having knowledge of it lies both comfort and his confidence regarding the final outcome of our life and our individual salvation. **We are comforted that at the end there will be perfect Justice.** At the second coming of Christ, **the wicked will be cast into hell.** And then they will suffer the just retribution for their sins. Without a second coming and without a final judgment, there would be no justice in the world. There would be no righting of the wrongs that have been done.

Today we will see in **Chapter 3 The Apostle Peter turns to writing about the profane,** disrespectful Irreverent **mindset in society at large.** That's the subject of this

*2 Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That ye 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 Saviour: 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

**In this chapter The Apostle focuses on the great attack against God,** and against His Church that is waged by the world. **Great Spiritual warfare.** Fierce and continuous spiritual warfare. Profane scoffers lost and unregenerate people and their twisted and wicked views. **The views of society in general.** Views that are exulted above the Holy Word of God. Sometimes they can even be cultural views that pop up their heads at weddings or Funerals.

We know from the writing of the apostles that in the last days **men will make a mockery of sin,** *If someone is living righteously the world calls tries to belittle them, oh you think you are holier than me, you just one of those holy rollers, the worldly have a looking down upon that which is pure and Holy and right.* **they will jeer and mock at all religion,** *do you mean you waste your Sunday by going to church. You are weak your religion is a crutch.* They **will mock ministers of the true gospel,** *looking down upon them, making fun of them in various films or TV the minister is seldom the hero, rather just a fool.* some mothers will warn their daughters never marry a minister or you will live a poor life. and **they will reject the gospel of grace.** Especially **they mock the second coming of Christ,** the **resurrection of the dead,** the **torments of hell,** and the **joys of heaven.** Isn't this the view of the World? **The World is always against the truth of God.**

**Peter provides a reminder to keep our guard up against these scoffers, and persecutors.** ... Instead of being drawn aside, and pulled down, and polluted by these scoffers the **Apostle takes great care to stir up our pure minds.** That we must resolve or decide to hold fast and not let go, and treasure scriptural truth in Christ's strength. **When we** are faced with these fierce ways of thinking of the world view all around us, we may be startled, even frightened, and tempted to forsake the truth or faint, and compromise in holding our ground.

*2 Peter 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.* **We learn that there is no peaceable time, no easy time, no trouble-free time promised for the Church**, or for Gods people in these **last days**, these days upon the earth. **Some think that** when Christ comes again, He will find a world which has been completely restored by the activities of the Christian church so that all nations are lifted up at a social level. Better people, lifted to a higher esteemed position, better off economically. Yet we don't see any of that in the scripture. Rather we see the apostle Peter is saying, let me stir up and awaken your minds You're in a battle. This is a battle all the days of your life even unto to the death.

The spirit of God expressly warns us as we saw last week **persecutors and heretics false teachers will arise** and wax worse and worse. The church will never reform this fallen world, Never

**But then in the last days, there shall come scoffers.** Men who clearly are slaves to sin and to their lusts, how they love and enjoy their sins in this present world, they fight against any thought it will end and ignore that there will be a day of judgement. They want to continue in their sins that they so enjoy.

Also, when God abandons people to evil ideas because they continuously refuse to accept the truth, **they are often fight against and twist the truth even more.** Many are very intelligent **and create their man-made defenses**, which may even sound convincing certainly to themselves and others like them.

These first mockers based their blasphemous opinions on the idea that **"Where is the promise of His coming?** What has become of the promise of His return We see nothing... - **since the fathers died, everything continues as it was,"** **Scoffers always insist upon "instant proof"**, like the people who claimed they would believe in Jesus if He would come down from the cross (Mrk 15:32).

Peter is writing this letter more than 30 years after the Lord's ascension, and the first generation of Christians was rapidly passing away. **Their argument was** – These believers hoped in the coming of Jesus Christ, and he did not come, why should we give thought to such hopes? **They understood the scriptures wrongly**, but also they are totally blind to Spiritual truth, **all truth** and the truth concerning the Second Coming. **Their wrong thinking was** - that Jesus was supposed to return within the lifetime of the first generation of Christians or Apostles, but He didn't, therefore the doctrine of the Second Coming was untrue.

**Even today there are many many areas - the awful scoffing views attacking every area of life.** Views try to affect our Children even in schools. Unbiblical things taught. Evolution – Views that give no credit to a creator saying everything is governed by laws of nature. What about marriage – Oh it's not necessary to marry these days. We can just live together we don't have to obey Gods outdated laws. Isn't this the world view among so many. **And it's getting worse and worse-** 2

*Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.* **Just look at the entertainment industry** 60 years ago there were no lewd

scenes, no bad language but today its almost every production released is full of filth and shameful things and bad language is just normal. Has it got worse? Will it get worse still? Men of corrupted minds, reprobate concerning the faith systematically fighting against the truth and purity of God Hating and showing great contempt for God. Ultimately satan inspires them. They are satans little helpers.

**How do we cope... No, we want to do more than just cope, the question is how do we overcome,** living amongst such a strong and ungodly and twisted views? **The apostle gives us clear help, the only way, in our very first verse.**

2 Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which **I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:**

**I am attempting to stir up your sincere mind** The purest minds need stirring up at times. It's not enough to hear the truth just once in your life. *Suppose a person had the thinking I showered once in 1999 and there is no need to shower again, no its normal to wash often and every day.* **Pure minds may be stirred much,** Pure minds should be stirred very often, even every day, and the more the better. Simply because every day we are confronted with terrible lies and attacks.

**How is our pure mind stirred. by a reminder** There are Holy memories in the minds of all Christians, **Holy deposits of Gods Truth.** It's so easy with all that is going on around us the truth slips and is forgotten. **By reminding ourselves what Gods word says,** it rings the alarm bell and wakes up the memory of Gods Word within the believer's heart. **Paul is being a good teacher going over, and over what they already know- He says,** I call to your remembrance important truths which you have already heard, but **also truths you are in danger of forgetting, or from truths you are in danger of being turned away from,** by all of the error, and strong world view around us.

**What are we thinking on?** What consumes our thoughts. By a continual focus on the prevailing worldview, even a renewed mind, or even a proven mind can become weak, we can lose our vigor and zeal or Gods ways. We can lose discernment and become blinded, and decieved to seeing what the world is saying is wrong, **and contrary to Gods ways.** It is so easy to be consumed and swallowed up by all our duties and responsibilities in the world, it's so easy to become more accepting, and have more tolerance towards the wrong views and opposition to Godly ways. We can take too much interest in worldly things and causes which would make us unproductive Christians.

**The Apostle Peter exhorts us to stir up our pure minds,** *'arouse the mind, stir up, render active'* Wake up- 'awaken, by way of reminder'. The Apostle believed in the power of repetition. In **V13** *Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance.* There is a rich truth here worth noting – often we think we need to hear new things. But it is very important to stir up what we already know the established and foundational truths.

*\* I heard of a pastor who went to a church just to sit and listen and heard a sermon he himself knew and had preached many times on Not a single sparrow falls to the Ground apart from the Fathers will, that every hair upon your head is numbered. He knew these truths- yet he said. Oh it did my soul good to be reminded of these again.*

**We need to be stirred up by way of remembrance**, woken up to the fact that there is a vicious warfare against the truth of Jesus Christ. Opposition to the ways of Christ. The world view is the worlds campaign against Christ, is relentless .

*V2 That ye 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 Saviour.*

That we are mindful, meaning we can, and have the power to remember, what's more we can be selective what we remember. The passage shows us, that the teachings **of the prophets in the Old Testament and the apostles in the New Testament**, PERFECTLY HARMONIZE. 'God's true word, says the apostle, should be remembered.

We should maintain a balance of what the Prophets said in the Old Testament and the teaching of New Testament. *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:* They are both vital to us living in the **Last days or last time**. Peter clearly believed in the unity of Scripture. God wants us to always remember the prophetic utterances concerning Jesus in the Old Testament. **The lesson is clear, what God predicts will happen!** The Word of God can always be trusted. Even in these last days in which we are living. **The Last days** are interpreted **as the Church age, or the Gospel age**. The last days, last times, all refer to the period between **the first and second coming** of Christ. So, we can say its been the Last Days for 2000 years. We shouldn't think the Last days are refering to only the moment just before Christ Jesus comes. One further evidence **we are in the Last times is, The last time is marked by mockers and apostates who follow their ungodly desires**. By the amount of wickedness one could easily think we are in the very last hour!

We remember that even although we are living in the Last times We can expect in a **period of both spiritual growth, and the salvation of the Elect and the same time great evil** – it's a time of coexistence of good and evil, symbolised by the wheat and the tares. The tares are the scoffers; they are the wicked. And then, of course, there is the wheat, and they are those who do not perish they are the Lords own. *Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." "*

I stir up your minds, that they may be **pure and sincere** Awakening, or stirring our pure minds to be serious, to be doers – not just hearers. So, this is how we keep and **hold on to** the commandment. God calls the entire system of Christianity the Commandment. **we keep them**, why would Gods word be called the



commandment if there was nothing for us to keep, or obey? We see this in- **2 Peter 2:21** *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.* This is a great danger only knowing a truth but not doing it.

**For every hearer and every teacher.** Today there are some who teach with great knowledge, they know the doctrines very well in and very accurately and correctly, but sadly they don't keep what they preach themselves. Peter says they **turned from the holy commandment** delivered to them **after knowing the way of righteousness**. Holding onto justification, without practicing holy duties, (*there were hearers only but not doers*) this made them more guilty than if they had never understood justification, and **no less** guilty than if they had rejected and turned from both. We are still guilty if we hear and know and even speak but don't do what we hear

**In V 5 6 7** we see these mockers offer various excuses; various reasonings- But the Apostle makes it clear they are wrong. He refutes them **using SCRIPTURE**. *We as Gods people draw our conclusions from Scripture not from what the World says.*

*2 Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

The Scoffers willingly forget, they put out of their minds 'they deliberately ignore the facts'. **They overlook the fact that it was by the word of God** that all things were created. The heavens came into existence by the word of God, and the earth was formed out of the waters by the word of God. *They say no no you can't believe that, Don't you know Evolution is how it all happened.*

They overlook **and forget the fact that God did once destroy the world that then existed in Noah's day by a great flood**. The earth was covered by water by the command of God, and by his command it was removed. No says Peter - *All things have not continued as they were.*

They wilfully forget that **by the same word which created the world**, it is **sustained and kept and upheld it** - Yet it is reserved for destruction by fire (2Th 1:7-10). He will not again destroy the world by water, but by fire. As I mentioned the Scoffers can't face the thought of this truth and invent all sorts of reasons why it won't happen. But what is more Sure - Gods Word or man's Word?

**V8** *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

'Peter warned that delay in judgment does not mean that God's word is not going to be fulfilled.' The Apostle, using logic derived from Scripture, has refuted the arguments of those who laugh at Christ's second coming. he presents reasons to reassure the Godly about the delay. **We have time for just one-** the delay should not be judged by our perception of time, but by God's sense of time. Scoffers forget God is not on man's time schedule. The passing of time doesn't affect the promises of God. In contrast to man: **God never dies, God never forgets, God doesn't**

**change His mind or lose His moral resolve.** To God, what seems long to us is simply a day, All He said He would do will surely come to pass. Time is up Let us draw to a close-

Revelation 16:15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Oh, let us heed the apostle Peters exhortation- Let us stir up our pure minds. Let us be serious and watchful in our prayers. AMEN

### Let's pray together

Teach me, O LORD, **the way of Your statutes**, And I shall keep it *to* the end. Help us to live in such a way to be ready for your sure and definite return. **Not bent over by worldly ways of living**, But **righteous and pure and Holy**. How we **long for your return** to be with you and behold your glorious Face. When You **come how we will exclaim the suffering we endure is counted as nothing** compared to the Glory we now see. Grant we go from strength to strength and from grace to grace. **WE LIFT UP those who are not yet saved**. Have mercy upon them and rescue them that they too may have this HOPE and this FUTURE. Open their hearts to understand. Let them bow their knee to you in Surrender.

We ask these things in your precious name.

Amen-