

**"In Preparation of Hope"**

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- ✓ Initial responses to that hope (embraced, rejected, missed)
- ✓ Implications of that hope
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  - Christ is the only one that will satisfy that hope
  - The full expression of what Christ can do in our life is never fully understood
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Today: Attention turns toward the preparation for His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming-It is the theme of our text

**Context:**

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2. His witness was trustworthy

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### 3. Concerned about false prophets/teachers

*But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. 2 Peter 2:1-3 NKJV*

### 4. Knew scoffers would come

*Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 2 Peter 3:3-4 NKJV*

NOTE: *Had forgotten that God had judged before, would again*

*For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:5-7 NKJV*

### 5. God's timing is not ours

*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. 2 Peter 3:8 NKJV*

*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. 2 Peter 3:10 NKJV*

### Great Question:

*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. 2 Peter 3:11-13 NKJV*

- ✓ This question of Peter is about the “moral dynamic” of the second coming
- ✓ IF the world is headed for judgment, then obviously we must live lives of piety and holiness

- ✓ IF there is a New Heaven and New Earth which will be the home of righteousness, then we must serve with all of our hearts to be worthy dwellers
- ✓ Without this hope-ethical deterioration is inevitable

IMPORTANT: if there is no GOAL, no END, to which the world is moving-life, is going anywhere

NOTE: This is the secular position today

- So I can make what I can of pleasure
- Live completely indifferent to others
- Drift in a sense of lostness
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(ILL) The problem of secular young people-take lives, can't get on top

BUT, The Day of the Lord is coming-what does the life of a PREPARED BELIEVER look like?

**I. Believers, who are prepared, live with a confident hope that is rooted in the faithfulness of God.**

***For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalms 100:5 NIV***

A. Confident hope knows that what God has done in the past-He is able to do again

(ILL) The sense of David

*But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. "And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!" 1 Samuel 17:34-37 NKJV*

B. As He was faithful to His word regarding His first coming, so will He be in regard to His second

1. Genesis 12:3-would be a descendant of Abraham
2. Genesis 17:9-would be a descendant of Isaac
3. Numbers 24:17-would be a descendant of Jacob
4. Genesis 49:10-would be a descendant of Judah
5. Isaiah 9:7-would be heir to the throne of David
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(All hundreds of years before Christ)

(ILL) Hundreds of prophesies (hands and feet pierced) but chances of 1 man fulfilling just 8 of them perfectly is 1 in 10<sup>17</sup> (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000)

- ✓ Silver dollars in Texas-2 feet deep
- ✓ 1 marking-finding the one

Compare: Chance of a lightning strike 1-250 million

C. Prepared believers have confidence in hope! He is coming!

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:25 NKJV*

*For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. 2 Timothy 1:12 NKJV*

**II. Believers, who are prepared, live with a focused purpose that is shaped by the hope of His coming**

(ILL) Abraham

*By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Hebrews 11:9-10 NKJV*

Testing our focus:

A. Where have we placed our treasure?

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21 NKJV"*

B. When do we spend our time and energy?

*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16 NKJV*

C. What do I do with my gifts?

(ILL) Talents-5/2/1

*"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. Matthew 25:14"*

*After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Matthew 25:19 NKJV*

*For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. Matthew 25:29 NKJV*

D. Whom do I seek to serve?

- ✓ Those who can help me?
- ✓ Those who need to be served?

Matthew 25-Describes the Final Judgment

- ✓ Context

*"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:31-33 NKJV"*

- ✓ To the sheep

*For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Matthew 25:35-36 NKJV*

- ✓ Question:

*"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' Matthew 25:37-39 NKJV*

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- ✓ Goats as well

Am I focused? (Treasure, time, gifts, service)

If I am prepared for His coming, I am focused!

### **III. Believers, who are prepared, live with an ever-deepening purity that is produced by an expectation of Christ's imminent return**

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1 John 3:1-3 NKJV*

- a. Twin themes of Revelation

- 1. Jesus is coming

- a. Despite the trial, godless culture
- b. Despite the attack of Satan-Jesus is coming

2. Be prepared! (Overcomer)
  - a. By rejecting heresy
  - b. By rejecting compromise
  - c. By rejecting lukewarmness
  - d. By rejecting godless culture
  - e. By having hearts tried and purified
    - b. That purification comes from a throne room encounter
      1. Revelation of Jesus as the Lamb of God
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It is in the worship experience of the throne room that I am purified by the expectation of His return!

**Conclusion:** What manner of persons should we be?

(ILL) Simeon/Anna at the first coming

Preparation for His Second Coming

- ✓ Confident Hope-He is Coming
- ✓ Focused Purpose-Will not get sidetracked
- ✓ Deepening Purity

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