

## Cornerstone Bible Church Picnic

Saturday, July 8, 2023

Pressure, Priorities (did today fit? Some, YES, others—more pressure; where pressure? Financial—youth trip—food bill higher, gas, van rental—where do you notice it? Relational—more pieces to friendships, peace, emotional stability between people—why? asking more from each other even while often saying we aren't—why? we can think, probe, disagree—but while some of it just “life”/must “deal with it”—want to think about HOW we deal w pressure/priority issues; **how do you deal with pressure? Differences in priorities/values? 1. Often narrows window of focus** (ie. Thinking about driving in flash flood) (Short-sightedness) b/c just go from one event to next—tyranny of the urgent **2. Can lead to Deafness** (can't hear anymore or won't survive), **all try to avoid Panic**—unliveable—**HOW do you panic?** (some say they don't panic, but be careful—some who pride themselves about this will hit tough things and years of “handling it” w/o getting to roots leaves bewildered and overwhelmed—often miss sympathy from some b/c blew off their “panic”); whatever call overwhelmed, concerned, troubled, etc., **think what you/others tell you when you panic?** Slow down, breathe, you'll make it—**why does it seem hard to believe this?** b/c told yourself this for some time; **Been thinking about II Peter, not finishing, desire to address what Jim brought up last Sunday night;** couple of things to remember as look at biblical response to pressure/priorities

### I. When pressured, yield to God's Word

2 Peter 3:1–2 (NASB95) <sup>1</sup> This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, <sup>2</sup> that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken by your apostles*. This means, something louder than your voice—(leave me alone, I'm trying, I can't make it), then theirs—hope you feel better, pray you'll make it, you made your own bed—don't be so cynical that can't recognize these things and see that gift to have others weigh in; can you hear another voice besides these? **A. historical word**—before you word—timeless—means others lived and died and this remained—stood test of time—final/firmer than what now; **B. Holy Word**—prophets--spokespeople for Almighty God; apostles (sent ones)—otherness of this word from holy source **C. Living Word**—God Himself (He can't exist and then cease—He IS)

### II. When pressured, look for roots of patience

Patience is accepting/tolerating delay, trouble or suffering w/o going overboard with emotion (specifically anger, disgust, hopelessness, etc.) What keeps from patience? Thinking that HAVE waited, that HAVE endured—want end, justice, light, peace – **but you know reason given for delay of God's word final judgment/destruction?** Mercy of God <sup>3</sup> Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” <sup>5</sup> For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, <sup>6</sup> through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. <sup>7</sup> But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. <sup>8</sup> But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. **When you think of having patience w others, is THIS what you think about?** Wanting their repentance in relationship with God? all the living with, dealing with people who see things differently—conflict, different responses to justice, desires; chaos—remember, YOU are not the only one waiting, He is waiting, but active waiting —**But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserve for fire—think of when you've had to hold seats for someone (take off different pieces of clothes, drape over seats, then run around to tell people that sock represents your mother or dearest friend as they throw it to the floor)** **God is working** (in Him we live and move and have our existence—Matt. 6 do not worry, your Father knows, cares—sparrows, lilies, you are worth MORE . . . ) Pressure/ Priorities—roots of patience? Remember that God is waiting—the mercy that makes Him wait for THEM, is mercy He gives to you—think on more of what He sees as merciful and His promises to oversee now as we wait, and you will have strength

### III. When pressured, remember your responsibilities

Final firm word, not yours, mine, theirs—His—must wait, but that means something moving, determining the next step—means plan--<sup>10</sup> **But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.** THAT is big! **How prepare—are you ready for THIS?** Probably thought, all I wanted was a good night's sleep—for someone to listen—and THIS is what is coming--<sup>11</sup> **Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! <sup>13</sup> But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, **Forward look causes you to look for what is coming**—NOT just negative, NOT just world judged, destroyed, but NEW heavens, new earth—characterized by?**

Righteousness—why? King over all world is righteous—Jeremiah not only speaks of judgment, speaks of what to come **Jeremiah 23:5–6 (NASB95)** <sup>5</sup> “Behold, *the* days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup> “In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The LORD our righteousness.’ Therefore, make every effort/diligent (same as in 1:10, 1:15, related noun in 1:5) preparation includes **1. holy living**—toward God, away from evil—godliness referred to in chapter 1 as one of virtues must pursue; actions in response to reverence to deity--**all you do should reflect his holy character** **I Pet. 1:15-16** like the One who called you, be holy—focus on fellowship--**peace**; spotless/blameless OPPOSITE of false teachers/professors of faith whose lives are full of stains and blemishes **II Pet. 2:13**; **not at war w Him by unholy living**; ie. **Rev. 2:16** repent or he will fight against them w sword; **but don’t think that just by doing/seeking good, you will change people**—GOD changes people—God changes you if it is to be eternally lasting—**II Pet. 1:3-4** divine power granted everything pertaining . . . for by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may escape the corruption that is in the world by lust—but something besides holy living responsible for; live looking forward—God has a plan; trust His living word, in relationship with Him, then seek His plan coming about; **2. Do your part to bring about God’s Word**--**looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God** speed its coming (we can have part in bringing it to pass—rabbis claimed Messiah would come if only all Israel would repent or obey law perfectly for one day; Remember Peter’s sermon in Acts 3? **Acts 3:19–20 (NASB95)** “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; <sup>20</sup> and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, — fellowship/dependence means daily/moment by moment prayer **Matt. 6:10** (your kingdom come, your will be done) and preaching **Matthew 24:14 (NASB95)** <sup>14</sup> “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. —don’t just think destruction—find hope in renewal THAT’s where this all leads; --THIS is prescription for right response to pressures/overwhelm—**1. Yield to God’s Word, 2. Look for roots of patience 3. Remember responsibilities**-- are you doing work of the kingdom? Holy life (your actions reflect your fear of God), and praying for His will/kingdom and living/proclaiming mercy of God to others **it will give hope under pressure and realign your priorities**