

WHOSE PERSPECTIVE MATTERS MOST

II Peter 3:8-9

December 27, 2020

"Faith orients a person to eternity whereas the scoffers remain children of time."

- Leland Ryken

Perspective – An Introduction

- Art
- Social Media
- Ourselves
- Scripture
 - God's Word continually seeks to shift our perspective away from the _____ and toward the _____ perspective

KEY: God wants to shift our perspective to think as he thinks, see as He sees, and live as He lives.

God's perspective – the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021

KEY: Look forward to Jesus' _____ !!!

- I. In both I Peter and II Peter, the future return of Christ is proclaimed as a motive for living _____.
 - a. **I Peter 5:4** → *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*
 - b. **I Peter 4:7** → *The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.*
 - c. **II Peter 3:14** → *Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.*
 - i. I Peter (encouragement to those who suffer) vs. II Peter (the seeming delay)
- II. II Peter is a warning to _____ that their judgment day is coming as well as a _____ to believers to "confirm" their salvation by living according to their calling in Christ.
 - a. **Skeptics** – II Peter 2:12, 14
 - i. Unsteady souls: – astēriktoi (ἀστήρικτοι) Adjective that means unstable or unsteadfast.
 1. Background in Peter's life (Luke 22:32)
 - b. **Believers** – II Peter 1:10, 12
 - i. Established: – stērizō (στηρίζω) Verb that means to make stable, to render constant, or to confirm
 - ii. Not stability as the world defines it but as Scripture teaches. Stability by being anchored to the _____ of Christ.

God's Perspective on the Passage of Time

- I. **LAST DAYS** (3)
 - a. We are in the last days. And we are waiting. But with what perspective?
- II. **ALL THINGS ARE CONTINUING AS THEY WERE FROM THE BEGINNING OF CREATION** (4)
 - a. This statement not only sneers at the timing of God's promised return, but it assumes that God has left the world _____ since creation

III. **DELIBERATELY OVERLOOK THIS FACT** (5-7) →

- a. God acted to create the world out of water and through water (5)
- b. God acted to judge the earth through waters of the flood (6)
- c. God will act to judge the earth again but this time not by water but by fire (7)

IV. **GOD'S CALENDAR** (8-9)

- a. Verse 8 is a restatement of the prayer of Moses in Psalm 90:4
 - i. *All time is as nothing before him, because in the presence as in the nature of God all is eternity; therefore nothing is long, nothing short, before him; no lapse of ages impairs his purposes.* (Adam Clarke)
 - ii. *God sees time with a perspective we lack; even the delay of a thousand years may well seem like a day against the back-cloth of eternity. Furthermore, God sees time with an intensity we lack; one day with the Lord is like a thousand years (??).*
- iii. **Heavenly** → We see delay when we think of 2,000 years of waiting. God's sense of time is heavenly in that he sees it, recognizes it, works within it...BUT HE IS NOT BY IT!
- iv. **Moral** → Don't misunderstand delay as _____ to what is happening upon the earth.
- v. **Evangelistic** → God guides all human history as salvation history with his _____ plan fully at work for Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, adult and child so that all should reach repentance.

Conclusion:

Knowing who our God is and his authority over our world accomplishes three perspective-shifting works in our hearts.

- 1. It reminds us that the fullness of our life in Christ calls us to set our thoughts and our affections toward _____ and avoid the idols of this world.
- 2. It _____ our souls upon Jesus Christ so that we are not blown about the never-ending human urge toward glorifying self
- 3. It moves us towards rest and peace in his perfect _____ which is especially needy when a year like 2020 rolls around that dramatically exhausts our spirit.

John 14:3 – *If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.*