

“It’s the End of the World as we Know it, and I Feel Fine!” (2 Peter 3:8–18)
GCC, Morning Worship, 10/18/20

Introduction:

- A. Remember that Peter is seeking to stir up your sincere (“pure”) mind by way of reminder (3:1). DWELLING ON THE ESCHATON [NEW HEAVENS/NEW EARTH] DOES SOMETHING TO OUR LIVES IN THE HERE AND NOW
- B. Peter is saying, “It’s the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine.”

Four Reasons to ‘Feel Fine’ at the Prospect of the End of the World

- I. I Feel Fine Because God is Patient with Me and my Unbelieving Family and Friends
Until the End (vv. 8–9, 15)
- II. I Feel Fine Because I have Works that Will make it Through the Fire (vv. 11, 13–14)
 - A. What does the text mean in 3:10b?
The meaning of the text then is that all but the earth and men's works will be destroyed. Everything will be removed so that humanity will stand naked before God.
 - B. The motivation for our conduct is what we shall be in the eschaton
 - C. The eschatological ethic is based on promise (3:13a)
 - D. The promise offers a permanent home for righteousness (3:13b)
 - E. The cure for anxiety is the peace of the eschaton (v. 14)
- III. I Feel Fine Because my Waiting and Hoping Look to that which is on the Other Side of the Fire (v. 12)
 - A. What does it mean to wait for and hasten the coming of the day of God?
Simply stated, it means that I do all that I do with an eternal perspective.
 - B. The mentality of a pilgrim is one that is looking outward not around.
 - C. A pilgrim doesn’t *day dream* about the eschaton. Instead, he has an eye to the eschaton and a hand on the plow.
 - D. So, waiting and hastening the coming of the day of God is not a denigration of the responsibilities, roles, and tasks that I have in this life, rather, it is a reorientation of those responsibilities, roles, and tasks toward the kingdom of God.
 - E. Paul’s Explanation (1 Cor 7:29–31)
- IV. I Feel Fine Because I am maintaining my stability by pursuing the means of grace (vv. 15–18)
 - A. Why do we see so much division and rancor and disagreement in the church today?
 - B. How do we maintain stability?
 - 1. You keep from losing your stability by diligently attending to the means of grace in the context of the assembled people of God
 - C. The Superiority of attendance upon the public means of grace OVER attendance upon the private means of grace

Questions for Application and Discussion:

- 1.) Read 2 Peter 3:1. What does Peter mean by the phrase “I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder?” What does this tell us about how “motivation” works in the Christian life? How do we “stir ourselves up” to greater devotion when we don’t feel motivated to pursue holiness?
- 2.) What is the “eschaton?”
- 3.) Peter’s message in chapter 3 could be summed up by the phrase: “It’s the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine.” Why?
- 4.) Read 2 Peter 3:8–9.
 - a. Whereas scoffers interpret God’s timing as slowness, how does Peter exhort Christians to interpret it? Why?
 - b. How does God’s patience in sending his Son from heaven an encouraging thing for those with unbelieving friends and family?
- 5.) Read 2 Peter 3:10–14
 - a. In 3:10, what does it mean that the earth and the works done on it will be “exposed?”
 - b. Consider this phrase: “The motivation for our conduct now is what *we shall be* in the eschaton.” What does this mean? How does the ethical imperative (command) of vv. 11 and 14 connect to the burning up of all things (indicative) in v. 10?
 - c. What does it mean that “righteous dwells” in the new heavens and the new earth?
 - d. Read 3:14. How is the peace of the eschaton the cure for anxiety?
- 6.) Read 2 Peter 3:12.
 - a. How do we “hasten” the coming of the day of God?
 - b. “Waiting and hastening the coming of the day of God is not a denigration of the responsibilities, roles, and tasks that I have in this life, rather, it is a reorientation of those responsibilities, roles, and tasks toward the kingdom of God.” What does this mean?
 - c. “Some Christians are so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good.” What does this mean? Is that even possible?
 - d. Read 1 Cor 7:29–31. What does Paul mean here?
- 7.) Read 2 Peter 3:15–18.
 - a. How can we practically twist the scriptures to our spiritual detriment?
 - b. According to vv. 17–18, what is Peter’s solution to losing our stability?
 - c. Why is attendance upon the corporate means of grace better than the individual means of grace?