

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Stay Together When the World Comes Apart
SERMON REFERENCE:	2 Peter 3:10-18
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1627

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2023 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) This present Earth, as we know it, is going to be destroyed by fire.
- b) There is coming new heavens and a new Earth.
 - i) There will be a new birth for planet Earth.
- c) 2 Peter 3:10-18
 - i) The word “elements” in verse 10 speaks of the components by which matter is put together.
 - (1) This is speaking of the atomic structure of the universe.
 - (2) The components into which matter is divided are going to come apart.
 - ii) The word “dissolved” in verse 11 literally means “to untie” or “to loose.”
 - (1) For example, John the Baptist said that he was not worthy to “unloose” Jesus’ shoelaces.
 - (a) He was not worthy to “untie” His shoelaces.
 - (b) Mark 1:7
 - (2) When Lazarus came out of the grave wrapped in graveclothes, Jesus said to “loose” him and let him go; that is, “untie” him.
 - (a) John 11:44
 - (3) The elements that make up matter as we know it are going to be untied.
 - iii) Verse 10 tells us that the elements will melt with fervent heat.
 - (1) The word “fervent heat” here is a medical term.
 - (a) It literally means “fever heat,” that is, internal.
- d) The Bible says that the heavens and the Earth are stored with fire.
 - i) 2 Peter 3:7
 - (1) They are literally stored or packed with fire.
 - ii) The nuclear nature of the universe is that everything is made of electricity, which is fire or electrical charges.
 - iii) When the elements are loosed, everything that we know and call the heavens and the Earth, by a spectacular chain reaction, will be burned up with “fever heat” or “internal heat.”
- e) 2 Peter 3:11
 - i) Peter is not asking a question; he is making a statement.
 - ii) The word “manner” in this verse means “from what other world.”
 - (1) It has the idea of being a stranger or an alien.
 - (2) What out-of-this-world kind of behavior ought we to have?
 - (a) The idea speaks here of exotic behavior, or something that is not normal.
- f) When we know what we know, we can’t be like everyone else.
 - i) Our behavior is not of this world.
 - ii) We are to be different because we are strangers and pilgrims.
 - (1) A stranger is not at home, and a pilgrim is on his way home.
 - (2) Those who are saved are not citizens of Earth trying to get to Heaven.
 - (a) They are already citizens of Heaven sojourning here on Earth.
- g) Christians ought to be different.

- i) We ought to look differently.
 - ii) We ought to walk differently.
 - iii) We ought to talk differently.
 - iv) We ought to live differently.
 - (1) This is not talking about being odd but different; a peculiar people.
 - (a) If someone is odd, then he will repel others.
 - (b) If someone is different, then he will attract others.
 - (i) They want to know what makes him different.
 - h) We ought to be holy and blameless.
 - i) Holy speaks of our character; blameless speaks of our conduct.
 - ii) This is the way we ought to live.
 - iii) 2 Peter 3:11
 - (1) The words “holy conversation” in this verse means “conduct.”
 - i) What does the word “holy” mean?
 - i) It literally means “to be separated,” “to be different,” “to be set aside for a purpose.”
 - (1) Holidays were once holy days.
 - (a) They were set aside for a special purpose.
 - (2) A holy person is a person who is set aside for a special purpose.
 - (a) I’m not my own; I belong to the Lord.
 - ii) Holiness is not a prideful holier-than-thou attitude.
 - (1) It’s just simply being different.
 - iii) Holiness is not withdrawing.
 - (1) It is not going off to a monastery or convent.
 - iv) It actually means to be like God.
 - (1) 1 Peter 1:15-16
 - (2) God is holy.
 - (a) To be holy, therefore, is just simply to be like God.
 - j) What is godliness?
 - i) 2 Peter 3:11
 - ii) It means to be devoted to and be pleasing to God.
 - (1) If we please God, then it doesn’t matter whom we displease.
 - (2) If we displease God, then it doesn’t matter whom we please.
 - k) In today’s message, we will look at five exciting thoughts that the Apostle Peter has given as to what our character and conduct should be in light of the knowledge of what is going to happen when the world comes apart.
- 2) WE NEED TO LOOK FOR HIS COMING
- a) 2 Peter 3:12-14
 - i) The word “look” here has the idea of anticipation or expectation.
 - b) Every Christian ought to be looking for Jesus Christ to come today.
 - c) His coming is imminent.
 - d) The Word of God teaches that we are to expect Christ at any moment.
 - i) Matthew 24:36

- (1) A date cannot be set for the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- ii) Matthew 24:38-39
 - (1) In Noah's day, people were just living the normal round of life.
 - (a) They were eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage.
 - (2) The flood came suddenly, and it was too late.
 - (a) That is the way it's going to be when Jesus Christ comes again.
- iii) Matthew 24:42
 - (1) We don't know the day nor the hour when Jesus comes again.
- iv) Matthew 24:44
 - (1) When we think that this won't be the day, then it may be the day.
- e) Living in expectancy that Jesus Christ is going to come at any moment is what keeps us pure.
- f) Luke 12:35-37
 - i) Verse 35 means to be ready to travel.
 - ii) We are like servants waiting for our Lord to return home.
 - iii) Verse 37 is a promise.
 - iv) Look for His return.
 - (1) That is a promise to us.
- g) Luke 12:39-46
 - i) We ought to be ready and looking for Him.
 - ii) His coming is at any moment.

3) WE SHOULD LABOR FOR HIS COMING

- a) 2 Peter 3:12
 - i) In this verse, the words "hasting unto the coming" may literally mean "hasting His coming."
 - ii) A Greek scholar has said that "hasting" here literally means causing the day of the Lord to come more quickly by helping to fulfill those conditions without which it cannot come.
 - (1) We can do things that will cause Him to come more quickly than He ought to come.
- b) One of the chief labors that will cause Jesus to come more quickly is prayer.
 - i) We are taught to pray that Jesus will come.
 - (1) God has commanded us to do it.
 - (2) We know that the kingdom is going to come.
 - (a) Yet, Jesus taught us to pray for it.
 - (i) Matthew 6:10
 - ii) We know that one day Jerusalem will be the glory center of the whole world, and Jerusalem will have peace.
 - (1) Yet, the Bible teaches that we are to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
 - (a) Psalm 122:6
 - iii) God implores the prayers of His people to do His work.
 - iv) We can move the coming of Jesus Christ closer by praying for it.
 - (1) That is the reason the Bible ends with a prayer.

- (a) Revelation 22:20
 - c) Another way that we can hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is through soul winning.
 - i) The only reason Jesus Christ has not yet come is because He is waiting for more people to be saved.
 - ii) 2 Peter 3:9, 15
 - (1) The longsuffering of God is that He doesn't want any to perish.
 - (2) The longsuffering of God is salvation.
 - iii) Acts 15 tells us that God at first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.
 - (1) Acts 15:14
 - (2) Then, He said that He will return and rebuild the tabernacle of Jacob.
 - (a) This simply means that God, right now, is on a program of building the bride, the church.
 - iv) There is a number known to God alone.
 - (1) When that last person is saved, then the fullness of the Gentiles will come in.
 - (2) Then, Jesus will come back for His bride.
 - d) Revelation 22:20
 - e) As we bring souls to Christ, we hasten that day.
- 4) LIVING FOR HIS COMING
- a) 2 Peter 3:14
 - b) We are to live in peace.
 - i) This means peace with God, peace with ourselves, and peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - ii) We are to have serenity.
 - iii) Many people today get nervous and upset when they hear a message like "the world is coming apart."
 - (1) These things are not meant to disturb anyone.
 - (2) It is meant to give comfort and peace.
 - (a) 1 Thessalonians 4:18
 - iv) We can have peace because we are the only ones who really know what is going to happen.
 - (1) There are three categories of people in the world:
 - (a) Those who are afraid.
 - (b) Those who don't know enough to be afraid.
 - (c) Those who know their Bibles.
 - v) When we know the Word of God, then we don't have to have headline hysteria.
 - c) We are to live in purity.
 - i) 2 Peter 3:14
 - (1) When Jesus comes, we want Him to find us blameless.
 - (2) This verse doesn't say sinless; none of us are sinless.

- (a) 1 John 1:8
 - ii) We can be blameless.
 - (1) To be blameless means to be living with a heart desiring the Lord Jesus, loving Him, serving Him, and confessing our sin to Him.
 - (a) There should be no unconfessed and unrepented of sin in our hearts and in our lives.
 - iii) The only way to stay pure, blameless, and peaceful is to keep our eyes on Jesus Christ.
 - iv) 1 John 3:3
- 5) LEARN OF HIS COMING
- a) 2 Peter 3:15-16
 - i) The Apostle Paul wrote over and over again about the second coming of Jesus.
 - ii) Peter, an apostle filled with the Holy Ghost, said that it is not easy to understand what Paul wrote.
 - (1) He said that these things are hard to understand.
 - (2) We are not supposed to read it and automatically understand it.
 - iii) Notice the word “wrest” in verse 16.
 - (1) Sometimes people jump into the Word of God, and they “wrest” the Scriptures.
 - (2) The word “wrest” means “to twist” or “to distort.”
 - (a) It literally means to put on the torture rack, as a person would torture someone in a medieval torture chamber; to be put on the rack.
 - (i) That is what some people do to the Word of God.
 - 1. They make their own personal chamber of horrors out of their ignorance and their instability.
 - 2. They take the Word of God, and they twist it, distort it, and wrest it.
 - b) We can make the Bible say almost anything if we misapply the Scriptures.
 - i) Scripture can be twisted to make it say something that it doesn’t say.
 - c) We need to study to show ourselves as workmen who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.
 - i) 2 Timothy 2:15
 - d) 2 Peter 3:16
 - i) Don’t deal lightly with the Word of God.
 - ii) It is a two-edged sword.
 - (1) It’s a saber of life unto life or death unto death.
- 6) LOCK ONTO HIS COMING (2 PETER 3:17-18)
- a) 2 Peter 3:17
 - i) Be steadfast and grip onto the Word of God on this truth.
 - ii) “Fall from your own steadfastness” does not mean falling from salvation.

- (1) It is speaking about falling from steadfastness.
- b) 2 Peter 3:18
 - i) The way not to fall from steadfastness is to simply keep on growing.
 - ii) The Greek language here literally says, “Just keep on growing, just keep on growing.”
 - iii) Grow in grace and knowledge.
 - (1) Grace without knowledge will make a person too soft.
 - (2) Knowledge without grace will make someone too hard.
 - (a) A lot of people get saved, and then they stop growing.
 - (i) There is no wonder that they fall.
 - iv) The way to give Him glory is now and forever.
 - (1) In the sweet by-and-by and in the nasty now-and-now.
 - (2) Just give Him the glory.
- 7) CONCLUSION
 - a) Are you ready for Jesus Christ to come?
 - i) 2 Peter 3:11
 - b) It is foolish to live for this world only.
 - c) If you are following Satan, then you are following a loser.
 - d) The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ.
 - i) “To Him be glory both now and forever.”
 - (1) 2 Peter 3:18
 - e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16