

# The Soon Coming End – Part 3

2 Peter 3:1-13

<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. <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. <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.  
(2 Peter 3:9-12 (NASB))

I had intended for us to continue from last week's message on into passages in the Old Testament and the New that speak directly about the events of the "end times". But as I have observed the behaviors and the responses of the American people during the national elections process that has been taking place over the past few months, and especially over the past week, the utter depravity that has been exhibited on all sides of the political arena, it seems that perhaps we should first go back and take a closer look at how the people of our nation have descended into the condition that we are in today, a condition that is so corrupt that it could bring our God to the conclusion that the days of humanity on this earth should soon come to a final end. And so, may we take that look back for most of this message today.

First, it seems clear that when strong and stable people, and strong and stable institutions and governments begin to crash and burn, as our society and our nation is perilously doing right now, it seldom ever comes from one single catastrophic event. Rather, that collapse comes most often when the undergirding and the underpinnings have slowly eroded away leaving nothing to support it. Yes, "events", some of them catastrophic, do take place in amongst the erosion, but those "catastrophic events" are most often not the cause, just simply an evidence of the erosion that has already taken place.

Our nation, our culture and our society has been declining for several decades now, erosion taking place in the underpinnings of all that we once called good and wholesome and loving and kind. And the "catastrophic events" that have accompanied that erosion have been a clear evidence of that decline, one of the biggest of those events being the removal of prayer and the removal of any reference to God out from our schools and our public marketplace. Another of those big events has been the heartless slaughter of over 60 million of our precious and helpless unborn children. Do those "events" not clearly reveal the decay and crumbling of our nation and its people.

And the “slow erosion” still continues daily, with minute shifts taking place away from the “paradigms” of God’s righteous order, bringing us further and further down that path of “reprobation” spoken about in Roman chapter 1, us choosing to take a next step of reprobation, and God going ahead and giving us over to the next. What a perilous path we are on!

Unfortunately, being a child of the 1950s and 60s, and now living in the current days over a half-century later, I now have the vantage point of being able to look back and to see how time and events have unfolded and helped propel the unsuspecting people of our nation towards this very sure and certain climatic end that God has spoken about here in our scripture passages. And yes, many bad things did also take place in earlier times and generations, but nowhere in the history of our nation has such events as these of our day taken place in such a short period of time that so vividly declare the “soon coming day of the Lord”.

And while we can only see and hear the uproar that is taking place up here on the surface of reality, as believers, you and I really do know that the real battles that have brought us to this point in human history have not only been those that we can see, but also were those being fought “below the surface”, deep within those realms of “powers and principalities and dark forces of evil” spoken about in the Book of Ephesians, that place where the evil ones are able to influence and control the hearts and minds of mankind, forming within men and women new and destructive “worldviews”, “worldviews” that were not there before, “worldviews that beguile men and women to say and to do things they have never done before, and would not have done otherwise. And it is from within those “worldviews” that the very worst of depravity and corruption is able to foment and then erupt and flow.

What then is a “Worldview”? Is it a word that you use often? “Worldview”? It was not a common word for me until these recent years. But now, as I have taken time to study its meaning and impact, I have found that it can explain much of why people think and say and do the things we do. There is a “power” that is resident within our worldview, a “power” that actually dictates most all of the reactions, responses and behaviors that we experience. And as those “worldviews” within people “change” and “shift”, so also will go the whole culture and society that we live in.

And there have been some very dramatic changes taking place in the “worldviews” of our nation’s people especially over these recent decades, changing America and its people, and changing most all of the Western world.

What then is a “worldview”, and how can a “worldview” impact and change us the way that it has? Simply put, a “worldview” is a framework of thoughts and decision-making that forms how each of us view all the things and the events that take place around us each day, the way we make sense of life, and the way we make sense of the world in general.

And worldviews are very often different for each person. One person might sit and watch a “gay pride” march or a “same-sex wedding” take place on their television and approve and cheer those people on, while another person might see those same events and be disgusted by the depravity of it.

On another front, one person may fight for a woman’s right to choose to abort her unborn child, while another person may be sorely grieved by her ungodly decision.

And as we have been observing recently in the realms of politics and government, “worldviews” dictate each participant’s agenda, defining some as being conservative and others as being liberal, making some to be Republican, some to be Democrat and for those in-between, to struggle to know what to choose. And then, out from those varied “worldviews” flow all the agendas that shape the norms of society.

On a personal level, it is important that you and I realize and accept that each of us do also personally have a “worldview” of our own. And like all the other people, our personal “worldview” is made up of all those things that we personally believe to be true. And our “worldview” shapes and dictates all the decisions that we make and the behaviors we show.

Let me say it a little more plainly for us! The “worldviews” that you and I hold dear affect and dictate every behavior and every response that we have to everything that takes place in every area of our life, from religion, to philosophy, to science, to economics, to law, to politics, to social order — to everything.

And again, coming out of the “worldviews” that have developed over my lifetime, and especially since the 1950s and 60s, I can clearly look back and see how those worldviews have shaped all that has taken place since, both within my own heart, and also in other people’s hearts, and then also in the heart of our nation as a whole.

As Christian believers, the “worldview” that most concerns us, is whether or not we are willing to believe and to accept and follow the “worldview” that is given to us within the pages of these scriptures, a “Biblical Worldview”. Let me say that again!

As Christian believers, the “worldview” that most concerns us, is whether or not we are willing to believe and to accept and follow the “worldview” that is given to us within the pages of these scriptures, a “Biblical Worldview”. Or do we want instead to follow some other “worldview”, perhaps a “hybrid” version of “biblical worldview”, a mixture that blends well with some “secular views”. And unfortunately, that is exactly what many within the church are choosing to do.

Those kinds of decisions and choices are the ones that actually have brought our nation and our world into the condition that it is in today . . . and is doing as verse 14 tells us, “hastening” the coming day of the Lord.

And folks, may we recognize that it is within the body and the beliefs of the church that the most severe attacks and changes in “worldviews” have been focused by the enemies of our souls, by those “powers and principalities and dark forces of evil”. And sadly, it is ever so obvious that they have been very, very effective and successful in their efforts.

And as I have been studying and preparing for this message, it has become painfully clear that, for the church, there has been one particular change from the traditional “biblical worldview” that has been especially effectual over these recent decades, impacting and corrupting the very foundations of the church as a whole, and consequently changing our whole nation, a “worldview” dubbed by bible scholars to be “Post-Modernism”, “Post-Modernism”.

You may or may not have heard much about the concept of “Post-Modernism”, but it has become a powerful force for evil within the souls of many of our “churched” people over these past few decades. And sadly, I must confess that it is only in recent times that I myself have begun to recognize just how influential and powerful it has become.

May I give us the definition of what most bible scholars call the “Post-Modern Worldview”. And may I say also that unfortunately for us in the church, it is a “Worldview” by which many, many people of our current generation live and move and conduct their lives each day.

Put as simply as possible, “Post Modernism” teaches that “truth”, “real truth” is completely relative to what each person personally believes and wants it to be. “What is true for you may not be true for me, and what is true for me may not be true for you”. Under that philosophy, we ourselves are always the ultimate authority on what is true, and no one is allowed to dispute us.

And again, this “worldview” has slowly eroded the underpinnings of what used to be the conservative Christian church, and it has corrupted much of what is being preached in many of our churches today.

Just in recent weeks, I have had occasion to listen to a series of messages by one of the leading pastors in our nation, a powerful voice within the modern church, pastoring a congregation in the Atlanta area of over 35,000 members, people who cling faithfully to his every word, but a man who preaches that the bible no longer has to be the “standard” by which we trust God and know that He loves us, that while some of the bible is true, only those portions that he believes to be true are actually true. And cannot we easily see that those views fit perfectly into the designed pattern of the “Post-Modern Worldview”!

It is as in the early days of the people of Israel, when everyone was said to “do what was right in their own eyes.” In those days, they did not look to the “Book of the Law” for guidance and direction, so they did what was right in their own eyes. And as we read the Old Testament we can clearly see that their wrong choices brought them nothing but pain, suffering and failure.

And that same choice of “Worldviews” is now spreading like wildfire through our churches here in America, bringing about the questioning and even the abandonment of the only true and trustworthy source of truth that we have as a church, the “Bible”. And we can see the effects being demonstrated all around us every day. Our most beloved of family members and church members are “doing what is right in their own eyes”. And each one, though perhaps unknowingly so, are rejecting and abandoning the God that this bible reveals.

Simply put, the “post-modern worldview” puts all trust in the god of each person’s own mind, and abandons any and all other sources of real truth, especially God.

And it takes only a fleeting look at our culture and society here in America to see how, over these recent decades, “Post-modernism” thinking has changed almost every setting and every detail of life here, from the family, to views on sexuality and gender, to education, the military, sports, entertainment, literally every area of our daily lives. Simply put, “Post-modern” thinking has the ability to launder sin and make every behavior we can conceive acceptable.

And over these recent decades, post-modern thinking has done exactly that. It has polarized the two major political parties, Democrats and Republicans, and has managed to insert that “worldview” into every venue of the political agenda, especially involving

homosexuality, same-sex marriage, abortion rights, denial of religious freedoms, and on and on.

As we close for today . . . why do I insert all that I have just said into this matter that is being brought to us in this passage of scripture, and in particular, discussion about the “soon coming end of days”? It is because, it is these and other liberal and Godless philosophies like them that have served as the “slippery slopes” on which the people of our day have tumbled into these depths of reprobation that we are in today. And it is no wonder that God is ready to call everything to a close.

You and I may not be able to do much about what is taking place in the rest of the world, but you and I can decide what we believe, personally. And it must not be the “post-modern worldview” heresy that is closing in around us. This bible is the only “truth of God”, the only source of truth that we have. And we must cling to it with all our hearts.

May we close with this reminder about our bible . . .

<sup>15</sup> . . . from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15-17 (ESV))