

SERIES: 'RECALL THESE THINGS'- -9/22/24 (#5)

PASTOR LEE

1 Cor 11: 26- - For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

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- **Embracing our proclamation embraced in Communion, Pastor Lee emphasizes the phrase "...until He comes again." He came once 2000 years ago...was real...lived a perfect, sinless life...yet mankind hung Him on a cross....and, in doing so, took on our sins unto Himself. Then, victoriously over sin, He resurrects and ascends into Heaven, sitting at the right hand of the Father. And he says....'I WILL COME AGAIN'. Everything we do surrounds the anticipation of that unknown date that He is coming again.**

1 John 2 :28- - And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming.

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- **So we know He is coming....we anticipate this glorious event...and we need to be prepared! So....with this built into our faith.....it changes how we live right now.**

1 Thes 4: 18- - Therefore encourage one another with these words. (See V- 13-17)

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- **So, as Jesus returns, we- - both the dead and alive- - will rise and meet Him....a glorious anticipation! So despite the challenges of our world, this is our future...be encouraged!!**
 - **Peter recalls the ancient prophesies, as well as our Lord's promises, regarding end times:**

2 Peter 3: 1-7- - This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, (2) that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, (3) knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. (4) They will say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." (5) For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, (6) and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. (7) But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgement and destruction of the ungodly.

- Peter is lovingly reminding us of prophecies -Jesus' appearance-and promises regarding 'last days' and the return of Jesus. Jesus Himself spoke of 'preparing a place for us' and spoke of his return and our re-uniting with Him (face-to-face!)....an unbelievable, amazing, wonderful, overwhelming, radical and ungraspable transformance....that happens in a 'twinkling of an eye'. (See 1 Cor 15: 52....read all of Chapter 15 for more perspective)
- In 1 Peter, he said:....'your Lord and Savior spoke to it as did the apostles'....now he's writing you a second book to remind you again!
- In V-3 -5 and referring to end times, he tells of the scoffers who will come. Pastor Lee: 'indeed, they are already here'. As this 'scoffing becomes more and more aggressive over time , how do/will we handle it? The source of this scoffing, based on convenient philosophies, 'accepted' science, etc. is the devil. While there is undeniable evidence that He (Jesus) was here once, these people refuse to even entertain the possibility that He is returning. They have, for all these centuries since Christ, made a grand presumption that things can't change...that the sun will rise, seasons routinely come and go...life just goes on and on. No!
- Don't let scoffers affect or condition you....their stubbornness in resisting such faith is rooted in their own proclivity and comfort toward their sinful ways. Maintain your faith....keep the excitement.....your eyes on victory over death.
- If we knew we were leaving this life on a specific day in the near future, how would we react? How about if you knew Jesus was coming back in your lifetime? What are the warning signals.....eg. Christ impersonators, false prophets, wars, famines, earthquakes, more demon believers, truth deniers, increased hatred against Israel, one world government, etc...all of which we see today.
- **BE ALERT...BE PREPARED.....BE READY. SEE LUKE 12:40- - JESUS: "YOU MUST BE READY, FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COMING AT AN HOUR YOU DO NOT EXPECT." ALSO SEE REV 3: 11- - "I AM COMING SOON. HOLD FAST WHAT YOU HAVE, SO THAT NO ONE MAY SEIZE YOUR CROWN. " (Bema Seat)**

2 TIMOTHY 4: 7-8- - I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH. (8) HENCEFORTH, THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE WILL AWARD TO ME ON THAT DAY, AND NOT ONLY TO ME BUT ALSO TO ALL WHO HAVE LOVED HIS APPEARING.

- Pastor Lee questions.....are we all taking this as serious as we should? Are we perceiving it as the "Great News" that it is. Yes.....some far greater is coming (Jesus!!!). The most significant time even remotely paralleling present times was the Flood.....every warning was ignored...people went on their merry way in lives.....and the whole population of earth was lost save Noah and seven family members. Only eight were preserved from Judgment and God is saying to us....**JUDGEMENT IS COMING!**
- The Great White throne Judgement...all non-believers will be judged. God's patience will have an end...just like the Ark and the closing of its doors.
- If you think you can get to God 'on your own' and without Christ (ie. 'I'm a good person'), think again. See Rev 20: 11-12 on next page.
- So be concerned about your loved ones, friends, neighbors, and others, who have never met Jesus. God is merciful, gracious and patient....**BUT THE DAY IS COMING! (RE-READ V-7)**

Rev 20: 11-14- -Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. From His presence, earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the Books, according to what they had done. (13) And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. (14) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death, the Lake of Fire.

- **For those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus, their names are in the Book of Life... for all others, your lives and works will be judged. Remember the price of sin is death-separation from God for eternity. BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ.**

John 3: 36- - Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

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- **THE CHOICE IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR.....BELIEVE/OBEY AND RECEIVE SALVATION ...ORNOT.**

**“SURELY I AM COMING SOON”
(REV: 22:20)**

******* CHOOSE CHRIST! *******