

SERIES: - - 'RECALL THESE THINGS'- -9/15/24 (#4) PASTOR LEE

2 PETER 2: 4-9- - (4) For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgement; (5) if He did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; (6) if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example what was going to happen to the ungodly; (7) and if He rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (8) (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds as he saw and heard); ***** (9) THEN THE LORD KNOWS HOW TO RESCUE THE GODLY FROM TRIALS, AND TO KEEP THE UNRIGHTEOUS UNDER PUNISHMENT UNTIL THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT*****

- Pastor Lee: We will start with V-9 which is the pivotal verse that we need to hear and focus upon.
First key word: “RESCUE”- - When we reach our depths in life, so important to know there is a God who can RESCUE you! And He stepped out of Heaven to do this!- -Why??—because He loves you so much!!!
- Second key word: “JUDGEMENT”- -A reminder that if you are not in Jesus (ie. rescued), you are in JUDGEMENT (note: it is one or the other!). Recall last week’s Scripture about false teachers; ‘their judgement is certain’! We tend to avoid the word/notion but it’s as real as ‘Rescue’.
- 3 Bible examples of how God brings judgement on sin.....noting also how He rescues the righteous. (Begg the question:.....since we’re all sinners, who’s righteous?)
- See Verse 4....Example #1 of judgement...the angels sinned and were judged/punished (hell) (See Gen 6:4 re: Nephilim for explanation; see GotQuestions.org for further explanation). The Nephilim were the offspring of fallen angels/demons who engaged in sexual relations with human women.
- See Verse 5.....Example 2 of judgement...this was all part of the evil world that God dealt with via the Flood (Gen 6). Indeed, He only found Noah and his 7 family members ‘righteous’ amongst all humans and thereby, RESCUED them.....the rest (‘ungodly’) perished.
- NOTE: Noah and family were NOT sinless but were ‘righteous’ because they believed in God! Noah preached/warned and was ignored/laughed at. Just as that door closed for all but the seven in those times.....there is a time, today, for everyone before the proverbial ‘door’ closes. Up until that very moment, God gives the opportunity to believe in Him and be rescued, escaping deserved judgement. THAT’S HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US!.
- We are judged all day/every day in our lives....by other people...but God, in His love, can rescue!!
- Verse 6....Example #3....Sodom and Gomorrah.....Lot and family lives there...but...while certainly sinful, he is deemed righteous by his faith in the Lord. Lot and his two daughters heed the angels’ warnings and survive the City (s)’s destruction. (see 19: 1-29) In the course of this story, he and his daughters show their sinfulness, yet they are RESCUED. Important bible story/lesson....referred to 28 times throughout Scripture; the epitome of sin and lust judged.

- See Ezekiel 16: 49-50.....these events in Scripture are meant to train us on how to respond.....and to avert the depraved culture that we/our children are exposed to every day... and our responsibilities as parents. Ezekiel's warning resonates with today's culturereferring to Sodom's people as arrogant/prideful, overfed/overindulgent and unconcerned....unhelpful to the poor/needy and doing 'detestable' things. Sound familiar? COMFORT IS YOUR ENEMY!!!!!!! A 'me-focus' is an ungodly focus.....and many are perpetuating this onto their children as kids are garnished with every abundant comfort that parents are able to provide. We need to turn our attention away from ourselves and more on those in need.....and model that for the next generations.
- Verse 7....Lot, sinful in his own right, was troubled by the sins of Sodom.....and was RESCUED BY HIS FAITH ALONG WITH HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS as it manifested itself in his disdain for Sodom's degenerate behavior. So, understand, whatever 'goodness' was in Him, LOT (and us), fall short. BY FAITH ALONE, WE ARE RESCUED!
- Verse 8.....as He will do (RESCUE) for ALL who have placed their faith in Him.
- WRAP UP: **1. JUDGEMENT IS REAL AND IT WILL HAPPEN.**
2. GOD JUDGES THE UNRIGHTEOUS.
3. GOD WILL RESCUE HIS CHILDREN
- SEE HIS EXAMPLES! HIS WORD IS SURE! HIS LOVE IS SURE!. WE NEED TO BELIEVE HIM- - HE WILL RESCUE US!

1 Thes 5:9- - For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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- God is giving you salvation through Jesus.....RESCUED by Him/His grace, through your faith.
 - We have two options....#1 Pay for our sins ('the wages of sin is death') ...Hell!!!! Separated from Christ forever. #2 Put your faith and trust in Jesus who took on all your sins and paid the punishment in full on your behalf.....exchanging our sin for His righteousness!!!
 - Remember, Jesus is our Judge and we will ALL face Him at the 'Judgement Seat'....'the Bema Seat'.

2 Cor 5:10- -For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

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- True Christians will go before this judgement.....not about heaven or hell...but about what we in here....what we did for Jesus.... that lasts for eternity. This appearing is NOT for condemnation but, rather, for rewards. (See Romans 8:1)

Rev 22: 12- - Behold, I am coming quickly, my reward is with Me, to render to every man according to his work.

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- If you love Jesus, you want to please Him....reflect His loveand anticipate His reward. If you don't- - perhaps you didn't genuinely put your faith and trust in Him in the first place.

1 Peter 4:17—18 - - For it is time for judgement to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (18) And, “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

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- So, we make make it through that ‘time’ (salvation) but don’t we want to have rewards too? Judgement begins in the house of God....Pastors that are humble, repentive, encouraging of the Church lead the way and we are all part of it. LET’S LIVE AS HOLY PEOPLE WHO LOVE JESUS....AND LET REVIVAL BEGIN HERE/NOW!

1 Cor 11:31-32- - But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. (32) But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

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- Paul is talking to believers here...Evaluate ourselves....deal with the sins that are in our lives....get right with God. Two options: #1 Refuse to cease a sinful path, reject repentance and be condemned with the world (are you a Christian???), or #2, Respond/listen to the Holy Spirit, repent....fight sin....walk with Jesus.

BE RESCUED - - - - - - - -WALK WITH JESUS!!!!!!

