

## *What kind of person should we be?*

*Sunday, January 4, 2009*

Bob Bradley

---

### **II Peter 3:11-14**

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

*12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

*13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

*14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

There are many events going on in our world today. I was talking to an unsaved fellow today. He was very concerned about what was going on. He knew enough about what was going on in our world situation today. He was very concerned. He was concerned about his soul. He was concerned about how he was living and that he needed to be changing his life. When the unsaved can see that then that should stir us. When the unsaved can look around and see what is coming about and seeing that the return of Jesus Christ is at hand; it should really excite us and motivate us to do what we need to be doing.

Peter is writing and he speaks about many things in this first and second book of Peter, but he was writing in a time of great persecution, in a time when the born again people were going through a lot of suffering. Many things were going on. There was a tremendous amount of killing and murdering. It was a time when Christian people were giving their lives because they were Christian people. It was a very serious time. Peter, in his second book, he mentions about scoffers. He is telling the people here about some things that God was going to do. He also mentions a time when people would scoff, mock, or make fun of the things and promises that God had made, and the things that God said He was going to do; people were making fun of that.

We are living there today. We are living in a time today like we have never seen except maybe the days of Noah, but we are living in a time when people scoff at the promises of Almighty God. You can tell them about what God said He was going to do, that Jesus Christ was going to come and return to planet earth and people will laugh at you. They think you are crazy. I'm talking about intelligent people. I'm not talking about people,

that as far as this world goes, that don't know anything. I'm talking about people who have PhDs and those who are smart intellectually in a lot of different ways. However, when it comes to things of God and you tell them about what God is going to do and about what God is about to do; they think you are crazy. They say the Bible should not be interpreted literally. They say they are not expected to believe what God said, and what the Bible says. My friend, we are actually demanded [commanded] to believe what God has said. It our responsibility to believe what God has said because God is a very gracious God.

He talks about the Creation. He talks about the old world that was here and how it was standing out of the water in the world and how that it perished. Just simply at the Word of God, the old world that was in it perished. It was gone.

*7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

That should be a warning for you and me. (We are going to get to verses 11-14 in a minute.) That should be warning not only to us but to all the world. If it was the same word, God just spoke His word and the heavens and the earth that used to be here in the days of Noah, it vanished and the same heaven and earth that we have now is reserved by the same word. In other words the same word is going to be spoken one day and it's going to pass away. That should warn us. That should put us on guard that God is going to do what He said He was going to do. We can depend upon that.

God spoke. There was a flood. People were gone. That was it. The heavens and the earth, by the same word, are kept in store, reserved unto judgment against perdition among ungodly men. Do you know what that is telling me? God is going to do some great things. God is going to judge this world.

They are going to pass away. He tells us now that the heavens and the earth are going to pass away with a great noise and the elements are going to melt with a fervent heat. He tells us that. Doesn't he?

People say, "Well, that can never happen." It's going to happen. God said it was going to happen and it is going to happen; whether you believe it or not, whether you want to accept it or not. The heavens, the atmospheric heavens that we have now where the stars, moon, sun and the air that we breathe; there is going to be a day that it is going to pass away. It is going to be gone. It is going to be done away with. Not only that but also, the earth that we walk upon, the dirt that we walk upon that we go out here and plow up, plant seeds, grow tomatoes, corn, and all kinds of things; there is going to be a day that it is going to cease to be. It is going to vanish away. It is going to melt.

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

Do you know what he is saying here? He is telling us that he wants us to look at something. He wants us to look at what God has done. He wants us to look at what God said that He was going to do. He uses the word “dissolved.” Do you know what he wants us to understand? He wants us to understand that there is going to be a day that everything that we know about the sun, the moon, the stars, the atmospheric heavens and even this earth; it is going to dissolve. It is going to vanish. It is going to cease to be. He wants us to look at that and see what God is about to do. He is going to do that. I don’t know when. My friend, He is going to do it. Since that is going to happen, that should get our attention. Shouldn’t it?

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

The word “dissolved” means “to loosen,” “to break up,” “to destroy,” “to dissolve,” “to melt,” “to put off.”

Seeing that the heavens and the earth that we know now are just going to melt away... There are many folks who think that they are going to live forever. There are many folks who think that this actual earth is going to be heaven, but friend, it is not. It is going to pass away. Seeing that and understanding that it is going to pass away, he makes this statement:

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

When he makes the statement that the heavens and the earth are going to pass away, that is a foregone conclusion. That is going to happen. It is going to happen just as sure as there is a planet earth, just as sure as there are stars and moon out there tonight; it is going to dissolve one day. Peter said, “Since that is a known fact, what manner of person ought you and I to be?” Do you know what he is telling you and me tonight? He is trying to get our attention. He wants us to understand that the heavens and the earth are going to disappear. They are going to go away. Since that is the fact, what kind of people ought we to be?

I’ll tell you what kind of people we ought to be. We ought to be people who are living right. We need to be people that are looking for the return of Jesus Christ. Do you know what kind of people we need to be? We need to be people who believe Him and know that He is going to do what He said He was going to do. He is going to do that. What manner of person ought we to be?

The word “manner” means “what kind of person” ought we to be. “What possible sort of person should we be since we understand, since we believe the Bible that God is going to destroy the heavens and the earth? What sort of people should we be? Is that a fair question? It should stir us. It should remind us of something. We are not in control of these things. Whether we are presidents, kings, queens, or whatever we may be; we are

not in control of the destiny of planet earth or the heavens and the earth that here. We are not in control of their destiny. It is in the hands of Almighty God.

We live on planet earth. We fly through the atmospheres. We need the sun, moon, and stars to make us to be able to live on planet earth. However, we don't control it. We don't control its destiny. Since it is all going to dissolve, since it is all going to vanish and be done away with, what possible manner of person, what kind of a person should we be? Do you think that is a fair question? That is what Peter is asking here. He said, "Folks, look around. God said He was going to destroy the old world and He did. God said that He is going to destroy the heavens and the earth that is here now. He is going to do that. Since God is going to do that, what possible sort of person should we be?"

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

Do you remember what the word "ought" means? It means "duty," "responsibility."

It doesn't mean the "ought" that we use today. We use the word "ought" as either we want to do it or we don't want to do it. It actually goes back to the word "commitment" that we have been studying about. It is actually part of the definition of "commitment," "ought" is. What kind of a commitment should we have if we believe that God is going to destroy the heavens and the earth, and that He destroyed the old world that was back there? If we really believe that, what manner of person should we be?

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

Do you know what the word "holy" means? He uses the word "all" holy conversation. Every part of our lives should be holy.

The word "holy" means our behavior is "to be sanctified." It means that we are "to be set apart" to God, set apart from this world. It means giving our *all* over to God.

It means that. However, every aspect of my and in your life, whether we are sitting at the pews at church, whether we are sitting at home, or a ball game; where ever we are at, every aspect, all of our lives needs to set apart to Almighty God.

If we really believe that the heavens and the earth are going to be gone, it will motivate us to live a separated life. Truth?

Do you know why people act like idiots? There are many reasons, but one reason they act like idiots is that they don't really believe that Jesus Christ is going to destroy the heavens and the earth. They don't really believe that He is coming back to planet earth.

One of the things that the enemy uses on unsaved people is the behavior of Christian at functions other than church functions. What I mean is just like ball games, NASCAR

aces, playing golf, fishing, or whatever it may be; people completely lose control around sporting events. Do you know what they do? They not only ruin their testimony, if they ever had one, but they also put a damper on the church as a whole. In sporting events, when pastors of local churches are led out by those who are in authority there because they scream and holler at the referee so much, when a local pastor is led out and thrown out because of that, it hurts me and you. The unsaved sees that. That has happened right here in our community more than once. More than one pastor has let their emotions get [out of control.] I know we all have emotions. I love my kids and I love my grandkids, but if I got wrapped in it that much, I would just stay at the house because I wouldn't make an absolute idiot out of myself screaming and hollering over that.

Do you know what we do? Our lives should be set apart from that enough that we can control our tongues. It gets quiet when you talk about that. Don't it? If we are not careful, we can all be guilty of that. We ruin our testimony a lot.

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

The word "holy" means to be "separate," "sanctified unto God," "separated from the world." The word "conversation" means, "our behavior." My behavior should be in a way that it is set apart from this world.

If I really believe that Jesus Christ is going to destroy the heavens and the earth that are now by speaking the word one day and they are going to pass away; then my "conversation," my manner of life should back that up. Do you know why it does not many times? It is because we really don't believe it many times. If we really do believe it, we might say, "Well, it is not going to be in our lifetime. It will be in some other lifetime." There are going many people who will get caught in that.

Our manner of life, our behavior, in all holy conversation—our lives as Christian people should be holy. It should be separated from this world. It should be set apart from this world. It should be set apart for God. There is nothing wrong with going to sporting events. I love to go. Don't you? I love to go and watch kids play.

Our conversation, not only there, but also with our kids, on our job, in the grocery store or where ever we may be at; our conversation should be, our manner of life should be that we are separated from the world. Our actions, our speech, our body language, our dress, the way we act, where we go, and what we participate in; all should be separated from the world.

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

Do you know what the word "godliness" means? It means that we need to live like God. It means that we need to live and act like God would live and act if He was walking here

upon planet earth today. We need to live and act like Jesus Christ if He were living and walking here on planet earth today. That is what that means.

Inventory your life just a little, in the last 24 hours and see how you have done. There have probably been a few times that you have not measured up to that standard. Our manner of life should be holy. Our manner of life should be that which becomes Christian people. Our manner of life should be like the life Jesus Christ lived and would live if he was walking upon planet earth each day. If Jesus was walking here, our lives should mirror what He's doing. What I am saying is that we should be carbon copy of what Jesus Christ was doing. Can we do that? Sure, we can. Do we do that? Not a lot of times.

What sort of person should we be in all holy conversation and godliness?

It is important how you live. It is important how I live.

*12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

We need to be looking for Jesus Christ's return. Do you really think that He is going to return to planet earth? Do you really think that as the world situation is today and all the chaos that is going on today with the wars, fighting, and the rest; do you really think that Jesus Christ, one day, is going to return to planet earth? He is going to, my friend. He is going to. He has not forgotten about this place. He has a plan. He has a will. Do you know what everything is doing? Everything is working after the counsel of His own will.

Is He orchestrating all the evil and the wickedness? Absolutely not, however, He knew the end in the beginning. He knew what mankind was going to do. He knew exactly what was going to happen and His plan is working out just exactly like He said it was going to do.

*12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

The work "look" means "to look for," "to wait," "to wait patiently," "with expectation."

Are we really looking today for Jesus to return? Are we really anticipating His return? Are there any expectations there? Does it really excite us when we think about Jesus returning? It should. When we read it in the Bible and when someone talks about Jesus Christ returning; it should excite us. If we are ready to go, if our sins have been forgiven, then that should excite us. We need to have some expectations, some anticipation, eagerly anticipating Jesus Christ return. We should be doing that.

*12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

They are going to pass away. Heaven and the earth, not where God is at, but the atmospheric heavens and the earth that we are walking today is going to be gone. It will cease to be. It will vanish and everything here that goes with it. It is going to be gone.

*13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

Even though that is the case, even though the heavens and the earth are going to pass away, and Peter says we know that and understand that; nevertheless we know that is going to happen.

*13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

Even though heaven and earth are going to pass away, "...we according to his promise..." Peter says, "We have some promises here. He has made us a promise here "...that we look for a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness." That is really the thought I wanted to talk about tonight. There is a wonderful thought in that verse. Even though this heaven and earth are going to pass away, God's people who are eagerly anticipating His return; we have a promise. We have a promise.

The heavens are going to pass away. The earth is going to pass away. However, we have a promise. That is awesome to think about that we have a promise.

Do you know what that promise is?

Get this.

*13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

Get this.

People today, use us many times. They really do. They use us and sometimes they even try to abuse us. They do things to get their own will. They take advantage of us and sometimes we recognize it and sometimes we don't until it is too late. Then we are made idiots of. However, we are going to a place...

I really don't know you guys and you really don't know me. I mean, I see you. I know most of your names—sometimes. I know what you look like, but I really don't know you. There have been people in my life before and probably some today that are deceiving me or trying to deceive me. You have the same thing. You know what I mean. They will tell you that they love you but in honest reality, they cannot stand you. They may pat you on the back and tell you that you are great, but in reality, they don't like you at all. They do that to use you to bring about their will. That happens on planet earth. That is everywhere. That is in a lot of people's homes.

It is sad when husbands and wives can't be honest with one another. It is sad when husbands and wives won't be honest with one another. They lie to one another. They deceive one another. That is bad. That happens on planet earth.

When we look out here in the atmospheric heavens there are storms and all kinds of issues that we are looking at today because of issues out in our atmosphere. There is going to be a day, Peter said:

*13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

We have a promise. All the chaos that we see out here in the atmospheric heavens today, there is going to be a day that there is not going to be any chaos out there. There is going to be a day when we are not going to have to worry about a lot of things that are going on out here today. Even in the air around us; the air around us is filled with demons everywhere. They are there. The Bible says that they are there. We know that they are there. However there is coming a day when that is not going to be. There is coming a day that the atmospheric heavens are going to be as pure and clean as possible. Completely pure, completely clean of any infirmities, anything that would destroy, and anything that would try to deceive you and me is not going to be there.

Not only that—this is the good part... The promise that you and I have is this. We are going to a place that Christian people are going to go to; saved people are going to go to where we will never be deceived again, never mistreated again. People will never lie to you again. Does that sound like a good place? As I said a minute ago, I really don't you guys and you really don't know me. We talk to one another and we go to church with one another. You listen to me a lot and I listen to you a lot. However, we really don't know one another. However, we are going to a place that I am going to know you just like I know me.

Do you know what that means? I know about me. I know me. I have lived with this guy. There is not going to be deception there. We are going to know one another like we know ourselves. We are going to be known even as we are also known. Do you know what that means? Isn't it going to be a great place to be? When you talk to people you can know that they are being honest with you. Isn't that going to be an awesome place to be? Not only are we going to be able to worship God, but no deception, no lies, no body doing anybody wrong, no body having any ulterior motives, no body deceiving anybody, and no one leading any astray. That sounds like heaven to me. Doesn't it to you? It is going to be a wonderful place.

You might say, "Preacher, that has never happened to me. No body has ever lied to me. Don't kid yourself. You've had people lie to you. You may not know it, but you've had people lie to you. You've had people use you. You've had people make merchandise out of you, but in the place that we are going to we don't have to worry about that. Isn't that awesome to think about? That should excite us. That should get us looking forward to going there. That is a promise that we have. We know this earth is going to crumble.

We know its going to pass away. We know all these things are going to happen, but we have a promise. We have a promise of heaven. We have a promise of going to heaven, being with our Savior and being around people who will never lie to you, abuse you, mistreat you, or mislead you again. There is not going to be none of that there. There are many church members who deceive people. There are many pastors who deceive people. They lie. They cheat. They steal. They commit adultery. They do all kinds of things, but in that place that we have a promise of going to; that is not going to be there. That is not going to be there.

If you are committing and doing those things today—I don't care if you belong to this church, who baptized you or how long you have been going to church—if you are living in that kind of situation today, you are not going to heaven. Those things are not going to be there.

We do some stupid things in the darkness that when we get out in the light makes us look real stupid. We do many things sometimes under the cover of darkness and when we get to the light it makes us look real stupid.

Deb was sick Wednesday night and she couldn't come. She was in our bedroom and we have a closet in our bedroom and that's where my clothes are at. I did not want to turn the light on in her eyes so I got dressed in the dark. I went back and got a suit out of there and put this suit on and thought "Man, I'm getting fat. I'm going to have to go on a diet." I tried to button the pants and I finally did get them buttoned...I had to go down to the store and get her some 7-Up before the service. I went down to the store and when I got out into the light, I saw myself. I didn't look real pretty, I promise you.

I went back home and I looked at myself in the mirror... What I am saying is this. I had a suit that was about ten or twelve years old that I had put on. I'd say probably that if you all would go get the clothes that you wore ten or twelve years ago and try to wear them, they would look the same way they did on me too. What I am saying is this.

Our sin makes us look the same way too. Many times we go in darkness and do things then when we get out in the light, our sleeves come up to here and our pants don't want to button. They just come about half way and we can't get them all the way around us. Our sin does us the same way. It may not be visible in the dark, but when we get out in the light, it is very visible.

Why do we think that we can live ungodly, unholy lives in the dark and not be exposed when we are in the light? Sin in the life of a Christian makes them look just as awkward as I looked the other night with a suit on that came half-way to my knees. The sleeves came half-way to my arms and didn't half-way button. Sin makes a Christian look the same way. It doesn't fit. Sin in a Christian life just doesn't go together.

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

*12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

*13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

*14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

We are looking for a new heaven and a new earth. We are looking to go to a place where there is no sin. No unbelief. We are looking for that.

The word “diligent” means “to be eager” “to strive earnestly,” “to be zealous in seeking after something.”

We need to be seeking the promises that God has made us. We need to be very zealous in our relationship with Him.

The last thought is this.

*13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

The word “dwelleth” means “to be at home.”

Do you know what is going to be at home? Do you know what is going to have permanent residence in the place that we are going? Righteousness is going to have a permanent dwelling place in heaven. Righteousness is going to be at home in heaven. Righteousness, many times, is not at home in our lives because it is foreign to us. Get that. Doing things that are right, many times, is foreign to church people. Many times, righteousness or doing things that are right is foreign to many churches.

However, the place that God has promised us that we are going to go to, righteousness is going to dwell there. Righteousness is going to abide there. Righteousness is going to be at home there.

Isn't that going to be a wonderful place? It will be a place where you will never have to walk around and deal with people with “kit gloves.” You will never have to weigh your words. It gets quiet when you talk about things like that. Doesn't it? You will never have to worry about thinking about what you say before you say it. I'm not talking about saying things wrong. In dealing with some people, it does not matter what you say, they are not going to like it anyway. In dealing with some people you have to treat them with “kit gloves.” You have to “tip toe” around them. As I said the other night, they have a

chip on their shoulder. In that place, everything is going to be right and everybody is going to be right.

Do you want to go there? You should want to go there.

If you are not saved tonight, you need to get saved. You need to clean up your act. I'm not asking if you have been saved. I'm asking you, "Are you saved tonight?" Are you ready to go to heaven tonight? If Jesus should come tonight, are you ready? Are you living right? Are you living a godly life? Are you living a holy life? If you are not, you need to change your life tonight.

Make things right with God tonight.

**Come—**