

SERIES: 'RECALL THESE THINGS'- -9/29/24 (#6) PASTOR LEE

- Pastor Lee: bringing you, this morning a message of encouragement and hope and relief.
- Briefly reviews recent teachings on 'Judgement'....both the 'Bema Seat' for Believers and the 'Great White Throne Judgement' for those who disbelieve and rely upon themselves; the latter will be separated from God for all eternity.
- In the context of 'end times', Peter writes a connective, encouraging passage- - which serves to reflect two of many characteristics of God: 1. GOD IS ETERNAL!; 2. GOD IS INCREDIBLY PATIENT!

2 Peter 3: 8-14- - But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, , that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years , and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (10) but the Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. (11) since all of these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, (12) waiting for and hastening the coming of the Day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

- So, to God, a day is like a 1,000 years and vice versa.....Jesus, as God, has existed from 'eternity past' to 'eternity future'. As difficult as it is to conceive, therefore, He lives *outside* of time even as the Creator of time in which we are confined. From God's viewpoint, then, the length of our lives is truly like a 'poof' of momentary vapor.
- While recognizing the enormity of God and contrasted to our own 'smallness', astonishingly, **GOD LOVES US SO MUCH AS TO ENTER INTO OUR WORLD!**. Conceptually, get this right and all else starts to fall into place.....ie...our 'center' is on God, not ourselves.
- A.W. Tozer, great Christian author wrote in "the Knowledge of the Holy".....(*Chapter 1: "Why Must We Think Rightly About God"*):"The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its IDEA OF GOD".
- So, our intensity of worship, reverence and obedience, etc. are relative to our perception of God. (Pastor Lee always reminds us that we serve and worship a BIG GOD!) And understanding God helps us interpret everything else around us.
- By way of example, we are dominated by upcoming election news and worry about potential outcomes.....yet per Romans 13, don't worry.....: God is in control of anyone who wins these elections and presumes control....ultimately, things are in His hands.....He is on the Throne!

- As theologians ponder God's characteristics, they note that most are incommunicable.....not transferable to us! He is indescribably and unfathomably unique.

Job 38:4- -Where were you when I laid the foundation for the earth? Tell me, if you have an understanding.

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- Again, we recognize how truly **BIG GOD IS!** A God we, therefore, can trust!
 - So incredibly comfortable to know that **1. OUR GOD IS ETERNAL AND IN CONTROL; 2. GOD IS PATIENT!** (SEE V-9)'**NOT WISHING ANYONE TO PERISH'**.....
 - Peter, this Letter's writer witnesses Jesus' teachings, miracles, etc.- -yet later denies Him three times!- -and yet ultimately, Jesus reinstates him and gives him still another chance-as a great/influential leader of the early Church! God's patience: Peter understands!

Exodus 34: 6-7- - The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, (7) keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

- Eventually God comes to a place where He must deal with sin, but with patience and love!
- In 1 Peter 3: 20.....speaking of Noah's time, God waited in patience as the Ark was being built. People watched and mocked and were unaccepting for the whole 120 year period. Then the door shut with just eight saved!
- Patience IS one of those communicable attributes of God....and though, we ourselves love to receive patience, we sometimes struggle to show it. The fruit of the Spirit...that is God working in our lives is : **LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE**. These attributes impact all aspects of life!

1 Timothy 1:16- - But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life.

- Paul is saying, as an 'ultimate' sinner, if our Lord showed perfect patience with *him*, then that is who our God is.
- Still in verse 9...He is patient in anticipation that all might accept His invitation to repent.
- 3 elements in repentance: 1. See it; 2. own it; 3. turn from it (sin).
- Who needs to repent?....All of us!! All the time....all our lives. Do so and He will replace your deserved punishment with Himself on the cross....don't repent and stay separated from God. No...repent and seek righteousness. Don't let pride prevent your repentance!
- God has given you, today, another chance to repent. Acknowledge His patience and repent while the 'door' is still open. Pray for that person in your lives whose yet to do so.

Psalm 103: 8-17- - The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (8) He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.(10) He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. (11) For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; (12) as far as the east is from the west, so far does He move our transgressions from us. (13) As a father shows compassion to his children , so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him; (14) For He knows our frame, He remembers that we are dust. (15) As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; (16) for the wind passes over it , and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. (17) but the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to ever lasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.

THE 'DOOR' IS STILL OPEN!

ACCEPT GOD'S LOVING PATIENCE.....AND REPENT!

PRAISE HIM!