

KNOW BETTER
KNOW THE PREDICTION: NO JOKE
2 Pet 3:1-3
4.28.24

Christ's return will come to some as a long-awaited comfort and to others as a shocking terror;
but one thing it will never remain to anyone is just a joke

Four readiness measures to help you take Christ's return seriously:

#1 DIG INTO GOD'S WORD: THE SURE SCRIPTURES WE CAN EARNESTLY RECEIVE (1A)

Six relevant elements involved in rightly receiving the Scriptures:

#1 Their Historical Context: Trust how they come *temporally* — '*...This is now....*' (1a¹)

#2 Their Theological Sequence: Trust how they come *progressively* — '*...the second....*' (1a²)

#3 Their Textual Substance: Trust how they come *palpably* — '*...letter*' (1a³)

#4 Their Authorial Purpose: Trust how they come *purposefully* — '*...that I am writing*' (1a⁴)

#5 Their Original Audience: Trust how they come *particularly* — '*...to you....*' (1a⁵)

#6 Their Relational Significance: Trust how they come *personally* — '*...beloved*' (1a⁶)

#2 TAKE NOTE OF GOD'S WISDOM: THE KEEN REMINDERS WE CAN CAREFULLY PONDER (1B)

Four qualities of God's wisdom to ponder:

#1 His Continuity: God doesn't change — '*...In both of them*' (1b¹)

#2 His Intentionality: God knows we do change and that we need help not to settle into complacency — '*...I am stirring up*' (1b²)

#3 His Dignity: Even so, God knows that his followers still do genuinely care — '*...your sincere mind*' (1b³)

#4 His Consistency: So God will keep reminding us as long until we don't need it anymore — '*...by way of reminder....*' (1b⁴-2a¹)

#3 GIVE HEED TO GOD'S WITNESSES: THE BOLD MESSENGERS WE CAN RESPECTFULLY AFFIRM (2)

Two aspects of authority we can affirm:

#1 Affirm His Clear Messages: Heed the authoritative nature in which God speaks (2a², 2b¹)

Two clear examples of the authoritative nature of his messages to affirm:

#1 His Bold Predictions: Heed the providential authority God claims — '*...that you should remember the predictions*' (2a²)

#2 His Bold Commandment: Heed the moral authority God claims — '*...and the commandment*' (2b¹)

#2 Affirm His Chosen Messengers: Heed the authoritative sources through which God chose to speak (2a³, 2b²)

Two chosen sources as authoritative messengers to affirm:

#1 His Chosen Prophets: Heed the prophetic messengers to whom God gave authority — '*...of the holy prophets*' (2a³)

#2 His Chosen Apostles: Heed the apostolic messengers to whom God gave authority — '*...of the Lord and Savior through your apostles*' (2b²)

#4 HOLD ON IN GOD'S WAITING: THE SNIDE CHALLENGERS WE CAN PATIENTLY ENDURE (3)

Six ways we can biblically prepare for the challengers God expects us to patiently endure:

#1 Knowingly: Grab hold of the prophecies God gave — '*...knowing this*' (3a)

#2 Confidently: Grab hold of the priority God sets — '*...first of all*' (3b)

#3 Carefully: Grab hold of the sobriety God shows — '*...that scoffers will come...with scoffing*' (3c)

#4 Understandingly: Grab hold of the clarity God gives — '*...in the last day*' (3d)

#5: Solemnly: Grab hold of the difficulty God describes — '*...following their own sinful desires....*' (3e)

#6 Compassionately: Grab hold of the empathy God expresses — '*...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.....*' (9)