What Manner Of Persons

Intro: Peter discusses the coming of our Lord and the end of the world in 2 Peter 3:8-14 “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12Looking 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? 13Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”

I. Look

A. A form of look is used 3 times in this section:
   1. Looking; 2 Pet. 3:12 “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?”
   2. Look; 2 Pet. 3:13-14 “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”

B. Look describes an attitude of expectation and excitement.
   1. This is the attitude of the Christian as he waits for the Lord’s return.
   2. We know this world will be dissolved, thus we fix our hope upon Him.

C. Always be ready:
   1. We do not know when He will return.
      a. 2 Pet. 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”
      b. 1 The. 5:1-3 “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”
   2. We must always be ready for His return.
      a. Mat. 24:42, 44 “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come…. 44Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”
      b. Mat. 25:13 “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”
D. Neglecting that hope:
1. We are to be looking for the return of our Lord; Tit. 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”
2. Neglecting that hope brings a worldly attitude and unfaithful life.
   a. Rom. 8:24 “For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?”
   b. If we are not careful, we may end up like the scoffers and laugh at the promised return.

E. The expectant look should make a difference in our personal conduct.
1. 2 Pet. 3:11 “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,”
2. Manner is from a word literally meaning “what soil.”
   a. It was applied as “from what country, race, or tribe” (Thayer).
   b. It was also used relating to the quality of a person, thus “of what sort or quality?” (Thayer).
3. The quality of person we are is to be from a different country.
   a. 2 Pet. 1:3-4 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
   b. We are strangers and pilgrims; 1 Pet. 2: 11 “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”
4. Thus we look for a better city:
   a. Heb. 13:14 “For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.”
   b. Heb. 11:10 “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

F. Thus, what manner (quality) of person ought we to be?

II. We Are To Be Steadfast
A. The Scriptures teach steadfastness or perseverance:
1. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
2. 1 Pet. 5:8-9 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

B. Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
1. Apostles’ doctrine or teaching
   a. Acts 14:22 “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”
b. Col. 1:23 “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”

2. Fellowship
   a. It is used in a limited way of the contribution:
      (1) Rom. 15:26 “For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.”
      (2) 2 Cor. 9:13 “Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;”
   b. It is also used in a limited way regarding the Lord’s Supper; 1 Cor. 10:16 “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”
   c. It is used in a broader way (extending to the ideas, attitudes, purposes, mission, and activities that Christian’s shared—the common participation of religious enjoyments):
      d. 1 Cor. 1:9 “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”
      e. 2 Cor. 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”
      f. 1 John 1:3, 7 “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ…. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

3. Breaking of bread or Lord’s Supper
   a. Acts 20:7 “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”
   b. 1 Cor. 11:26 “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”

4. Prayers
   a. Rom. 12:12 “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”
   b. Col. 4:2 “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”

III. WE ARE TO BE FORGIVING
   A. Forgiveness is necessary.
      1. Eph. 4:32 “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”
      2. If we desire forgiveness, we must be forgiving; Mat. 6:14-15 “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
B. **What is forgiveness:**
   1. It is primarily the releasing sinners from judgment or a freeing them from the penalty of their sin (removing it or washing it away).
   2. It is the absolution of sin; pardon for a fault or offense.
   3. Forgiveness is not necessarily a freedom from the consequences of sin.
      a. David’s sin with Bathsheba.
      b. David is forgiven; 2 Sam. 12:13 “And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.”
      c. Consequences of his sin:
         (1) 2 Sam. 12:11-12 “Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. 12For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.”
         (2) 2 Sam. 12:14 “Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.”
   C. **Forgiveness is based upon repentance.**
      1. Eph. 4:32 “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”
      2. Col. 3:13 “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”
      3. Christ forgives upon the basis of repentance.
      4. Luke 17:3 “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.”
   D. **Our attitude**
      1. A desire for them to repent:
         a. Mat. 18:15 “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”
         b. Gal. 6:1 “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”
         c. Jam. 5:19-20 “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”
      2. We do not have the right to be mean, resentful, hateful, etc., to the person even if they do not repent.
      3. We must have a love for them, bless them, pray for them, etc.
   E. **Indians of New England ended conflicts:**
      1. They would meet with the opponents.
      2. Dig a deep hole on the battlefield.
      3. Take two hatchets.
4. Put them in a hold and cover them up.
5. Thus, the phrase: “bury the hatchet.”

IV. WE ARE TO HUNGER FOR GOD’S WORD
A. We should have a love and hunger for God’s Word.
1. Mat. 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
2. Psa. 1:1-3 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”
3. Psa. 119
B. It should lead us to study and learn God’s Word.
1. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
2. 1 Pet. 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”
3. 2 Pet. 3:18 “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”
C. When we fail to know God’s Word, it leads to destruction.
1. Hos 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”
2. Isa. 5:13 “Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.”
3. Mat. 15:14 “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”
4. So many in the church today are suffering from spiritual starvation.
D. Just as the physical body needs a steady diet of physical food, the soul needs a steady diet of spiritual food.

V. WE ARE TO BE EVANGELISTIC
A. The Great Commission
1. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
2. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
B. It is through preaching that men will be saved.
   1. Rom. 10:13-14 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.  
      14How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they  
      believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a  
      preacher?”
   2. 1 Cor. 1:21, 23-24 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew  
      not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe….
      23But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks  
      foolishness; 24But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power  
      of God, and the wisdom of God.”

C. We are to prepare ourselves to teach others.
   1. 1 Pet. 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an  
      answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness  
      and fear:”
   2. One man said, “Interest in missions is not an elective in God’s university of grace. It is  
      something in which every disciple is expected to major.”

VI. We Are To Be Holy And Godly.

A. Holy
   1. It is from the Greek ἅγιος meaning set apart.
      a. It has the application of being free (freed) from sin.
      b. It has the application of being dedicated to God’s usage.
   2. 1 Pet. 1:15-16 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of  
      conversation; 16Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
   3. Here it carries the idea “in a moral sense, pure, sinless, upright, holy” (Thayer), or “shading over into the sense holy = pure, perfect, worthy of God” (BDAG).
      a. They are to maintain the holy life of separation in which they started in the  
         Christian life.
      b. It is a separation from the world.
         (1) Jam. 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the  
            world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the  
            world is the enemy of God.”
         (2) 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.  
            If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that  
            is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of  
            life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17And the world passeth away,  
            and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
      c. It is a separation to God.
         (1) Rom. 14:8 “For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die,  
            we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s.”
         (2) 1 Cor. 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your  
            body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
   4. It is living a lifestyle that reflects God’s character.
B. Godly
1. It is from the Greek εὐσέβεια and is in the plural.
   a. It means reverence or piety toward God.
   b. It does not mean being like God.
2. It is a reverence toward God that causes us to live a life of which He would approve.
   a. This is the same word in 2 Pet. 1:3, 6 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:... 6And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;”
   b. Piety towards God includes all that we would do relating to our lives of faithfulness to God and our godly living toward others.

C. Both words are plural, thus our holy behaviors and pieties.

VII. We Are To Seek First God’s Kingdom And Righteousness
A. God must take priority in our lives.
1. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
2. Mat. 22:37-38 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38This is the first and great commandment.”
3. To the church at Ephesus; Rev. 2:4-5 “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

B. Since this world will be dissolved, we should live our life seeking spiritual matters, not physical.
1. Phi. 1:20-21 “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. 21For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
2. 2 Cor. 4:18 “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”
3. Heb. 11:10, 13 “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.... 13These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

Conclusion: Christians should be different because we have different goals, purposes, life, etc. We are not like the world even though we live in the world.