

The Prophetic Message

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. 2 Peter 1.19

Peter's interest in the Transfiguration in his second letter is _____ to his interest in correcting the false teaching that was rising up in the Church. He uses his experience on the Mount of Transfiguration to witness to his personal knowledge of Jesus as God's anointed Who would one day judge and rule the nations.

False teachers concluded that the hope of the Second Coming was not based on God's promise but on the Apostle's own _____ beliefs.

The false teachers were disparaging the doctrine of the Second Coming so they could _____ their own lusts whether it was money, sex or power. Freedom was their catchword: freedom to live as they pleased, without fear of judgment

But this raises another question! What did the doctrine of the Second Coming have to do with one's _____ behavior?

The belief that Jesus would come again as ruler and _____ put a damper on the lifestyle of the false teachers with the emphases on judge because the false teachers dismissed the judgment of God in light of their own licentious behavior.

With the doctrine of the Second Coming almost lost to the contemporary Church, like the early false teachers, we too have lost the doctrine of the judgment of God. We emphasize grace over judgement today, failing to realize that God's judgement is an act of _____ meant to bring about repentance in order that we may more fully be *participants in the divine nature*.

God has woven this phenomenal tapestry which tells His Story from the beginning of history to the end when Christ returns. My story, your story, our story, is _____ up with God's story. If we pull out one of the threads of God's Story, such as the hope of the Second Coming, or the judgment of God, the narrative becomes distorted; the portrait on the front of the tapestry gets tangled and messy.

The hope of the Second Coming of Christ was not an abstract theological proposition for the early Church; it was woven into the very fabric of their faith. The Story of Christ is not a _____ story without it. Our story as followers of Jesus is not complete without it. We would do well to attend to it ourselves today as a lamp shining in a dark place, until He comes again as ruler and judge, and makes everything right!