

The VCF Way Ahead in 2020

(Sermon)

Philippians 3:13 - Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 - I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 - Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16 - Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. 17 - Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

As we have now entered 2020, let us at VCF look forward to what God has for us this year. The VCF 2020 theme is "Preparing for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ" found in **2 Peter 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, 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?" To best prepare for His return, Christians ought to follow the instructions of the Apostle Paul in **Ephesians 5:8** – "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 - (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 - Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11 - And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

To prepare for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, Christians must walk daily in holiness and righteousness. When Christians walk in this manner, they will have no need to worry when He returns because they will always be prepared. The Apostle Paul writes further in **Ephesians 5:12** – "For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13 - But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. 14 - Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. 15 - See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 - Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 - Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 - And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 - Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 - Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." Flee from the days of darkness and have nothing with that sinful life and environment.

Noah lived in a world that he was surrounded with evil and God told him that He would destroy the world. Noah continued to live in holiness and righteousness and found favor with God. In **Genesis 6:5** – "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 - And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 - And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. 8 - But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Noah found grace in God's eyes because he walked in righteousness. In fact, Noah was a preacher of righteousness. In **2 Peter 2:5** – "And spared not the old

The VCF Way Ahead in 2020

(Sermon)

world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly..." In truth, Christians ought not to follow or love the world as in **1 John 2:15** – "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. 16 - For 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. 17 - And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

During 2020, VCF will learn the deep truths about preparing for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ by studying the book of 2 Peter. The Apostle Peter exhorts the Christians to leave the things of this world and be prepared for His return. We will learn how to remain pure in this polluted world and walk in holiness and righteousness so that we will not be ashamed when Jesus returns.

Sermon

5 January 2020