

MESSAGE # 4: AVOID COMPLACENCY AND LETHARGY

Biblical Passage: 2 Peter 3:1-12

I. Introduction to the Study:

One of great dangers of the age is that of complacency (a false sense of security) and lethargy (an unwillingness to exert oneself in anything other than a desperation cause). I guess we could call these "social sins" in that they are largely matters of attitude more than a frontal attack like the misleaders in chapter 2. The dangers that come with these things are in the area of losing sight of our goal or becoming lazy in our performance. No team can win contests with this lack of energy and spiritual battles, although somewhat different from athletic contests, and not well fought when encumbered with these problems. You will see in vss 1-2 how Peter reminds us of our duty, warns us of the impact of the scoffers in 3-7 and speaks against our own indulgence in 8-12. In the language of Romans 13, it is a time to be awake and alert and not a time to be "asleep at the switch."

II. Discussion: Surveying the content of the passage cited, it becomes plain that the guarding of ourselves against this danger is on these lines:

A. Remember how God works: v 5-7

God works mercifully, patiently, and justly but with purpose in mind and Peter uses the flood as an illustration of this. The fact that God does not always work at our speed should not discourage us since we know He is working to a purposeful end. Remembering how He works will encourage us in our service for Him. We need not dash wildly ahead but we will continue in testimony know that this is what the Lord wants and what He will use in the accomplishment of His purposes.

B. Remember what God is doing---v. 9 in particular

God is at work in the redemptive business. He is not slow or indecisive in what He does. He is preparing for a great future victory over every foe and in the meantime is offering salvation and grace in accord with His love and purposes. When we think of what God is doing we are challenged to be part of the