

Radical Jesus: To The Root

2021-09-12 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass at The Well on Isaiah 40:8

Radical Jesus Promo Video

- What DOES Jesus have to do with the challenges we face today?
- Why does our world feel so divided?
- How do we talk to others who seem so sure of themselves?
- What should be done about refugees?
- Is climate change real?
- Is the vaccine safe?
- Can Christians be Democrats? Can Republicans be Christian?
- How do we stand up for the oppressed?
- In a world that pushes us to extremes...we must decide what is worth fighting for...and ask ourselves how...Jesus is calling us to follow Him.
- This is what we are up to this fall at Tallgrass at The Well—*Building community together by inviting people into the Way of Jesus.*
- Why is this task so difficult and yet compelling? Two reasons:
 1. Our world is and feels divided.
 2. There's confusion about the Way of Jesus.

Our Divided World

- We live in polarized times. Some of you say, "No we don't." Case and point. Yes we do!
- Those who divide the world into two groups vs. Those who don't divide the world into two groups
- We have competing factions on either side of multiple issues.
- Twizzlers or Red Vines—You're missing it altogether...Snickers
- Ford or Chevy—Surely there's another option...Tesla or bicycle
- Star Wars or Star Trek
- Marvel or DC
- Lord of the Rings or Harry Potter
- How you slice your sandwich
- iPhone or Android
- How you setup your WiFi
- Coke or Pepsi—Surely there's a Third Way...sparkling water
- Tea or Coffee
- Dimly lit room or Brightly lit gym

Let's raise the heat!

- Toilet paper orientation—Over or Under

LeBron or MJ

Role play a conversation between two people.

- <https://www.sportingnews.com/us/nba/news/michael-jordan-vs-lebron-james-goat-debate/sl8xdozy5u1m1s4t5m3npeqo1>
- 4/10 vs. 6/6
- No retirement vs. Retirement

Jordan Per Game		LeBron
30.1	Points	27.0
6.2	Rebounds	7.4
5.3	Assists	7.4
2.3	Steals	1.6
0.8	Blocks	0.7
2.7	Turnovers	3.5
38.3	Minutes	38.2
49.7	Field goal %	50.4
32.7	3-point %	34.5

83.5	Free throw %	73.3
Jordan Totals		LeBron
1,072	Games	1,310
32,292	Points	35,367
6,672	Rebounds	9,751
5,633	Assists	9,696
2,514	Steals	2,063
893	Blocks	982
2,924	Turnovers	4,592
41,011	Minutes	50,055

Controversial Issues in the Church

- Calvinism or Arminianism
- Dispensational Premillennialism or Historic Premillennialism or Amillennialism or Postmillennialism and everything in between—Of course you also have your Panmillennialists who say, "It'll all pan out in the end!"

Let's raise the heat a bit more!

Old Earth vs. Young Earth

Role play a conversation between two people.

- "God is powerful! He can do whatever He wants."
 - "I think you're making God out to look like a deceiver. He creates the world then tells us that His creation is declaring His glory. In fact, modern science came out of the presupposition that there is a Creator who's created with order. But you're saying when we study creation it doesn't make any sense? For example, the coral reef barriers appear to take millions of years to grow and you're telling me that God just made it look old? Seems a bit deceptive to me. I wouldn't want to accuse God of deceit."
 - "We can't trust the scientists! There's so much money and agendas involved in it all."
 - "We can't trust the church! Have you heard about all those scandals. And do you still think the sun revolves around the earth?"
 - "I'm concerned that you don't even believe in miracles...like the Resurrection of Jesus."
 - "Well, I was taught this when I was growing up...so it must be right." No...
 - "Well, I know a guy who said that...yadayadayada..."
 - "Yeah? Well, I know a guy who said that...yadayadayaday..."
 - "So we both believe God is all powerful...and that Jesus was a real person who is the Son of God and died and rose from the dead?" "Yes!"
 - "And we both care about sharing that Good News with our friends and neighbors?" "Yes!"
 - "Ok, thanks so much for talking. I learned some from you today."
 - "Did I convince you of my view?" "No." "Did I convince you of my view?" "No."
 - "But we had a great time. Let's get coffee on the calendar again. Let's pray for our friend, Timmy, who doesn't even believe in a Creator let alone Jesus." "Cool, thanks!"
 - "BTW, are you interested in going on a hiking trip with me?" "Yeah!" "You mean that whether or not the 14,000 foot mountains in Colorado are 6000 years old or billions of years old you think they're beautiful and you like to hike them?!" "Yup!" "The mountains are calling..." "God is calling us to the mountains...and we must go!" "Now that we can agree upon!"
-
- These days, old earth vs. young earth, views on the end times views, and topics like women in ministry actually lower the heat.
 - Let's tackle vaccines, immigration, politics, climate change, stuff like that.

Political Division

Try to imagine division in the future.

- Twenty years ago we seemed more unified.
- Can you imagine American politics in a year or two or three...

Facebook reportedly ignored its own research showing algorithms divided users by Nick Statt on The Verge, May 26, 2020

- *An internal Facebook report presented to executives in 2018 found that the company was well aware that its product, specifically its recommendation engine, stoked divisiveness and polarization, according to a new report from The Wall Street Journal.*
- *Yet, despite warnings about the effect this could have on society, Facebook leadership ignored the findings and has largely tried to absolve itself of responsibility with regard to partisan divides and other forms of polarization it directly contributed to, the report states.*
- *"Our algorithms exploit the human brain's attraction to divisiveness," one slide from the presentation read. The group found that if this core element of its recommendation engine were left unchecked, it would continue to serve Facebook users "more and more divisive content in an effort to gain user attention & increase time on the platform."*
 - Division through the ages!
- I don't think we can rely on Facebook to fix the problem of our divided world.
- Two solutions: a) Jesus comes back, or b) We learn to represent Jesus on earth.
- When Jesus comes back, then we don't have to keep working at this. But in the meantime...
- We need to represent Him well!

Radical Jesus: To The Root

- I invite you to stand and feel your feet firmly planted.
- For those who are into yoga, root to rise.
- For those who are into weightlifting, three points of contact in your feet rooted into the ground.
- Let's memorize a verse together from the Prophet Isaiah, written over 2700 years ago.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Pray!

Tips for Working Across Factions

From *Your Leadership EDGE: Lead Anytime, Anywhere*. By Ed O'Malley and Amanda Cebula of the Kansas Leadership Center, p. 120

1. *Build Trust—Focus on building trust first.* Invite someone to lunch. Don't make this too complicated.
 - Warm up some cold relationships. Think about family interactions coming up.
 - Invest in the relationship.
 - Build bridges of trust that can bear the weight of the Gospel.

2. *Seek Common Ground—Identify overlapping interests and build off them, rather than focusing on disagreements.*
 - These first two tips are the fun ones. The rest are more difficult.
 - Monthly coffee with Bruce, Jonalu, and Mike
 - Bruce
 - Moved into our neighborhood from Brooklyn in 2016 during my sabbatical. Went from the Big Apple to the Little Apple.
 - The local Bahá'í community leader.
 - Kids are the same age as Kate and Maddox.
 - Bruce likes coffee and running.
 - Bruce is an awesome neighbor.
 - We are divided in our foundational understanding of religion.
 - Jonalu
 - Sabbatical in 2016 and visiting the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.
 - Jonalu was the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship until retirement this summer.
 - Then MLK Prayer Breakfast in 2017
 - We have strongly opposing views on some important issues. For example, I believe that God has designed human sexuality to flourish in the context of a committed marriage relationship between one man and one woman for a lifetime...and she does not.
 - I believe that the Bible is God's divinely inspired Word and Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and that there's no other way to the Father but through Him...and she does not.
 - But guess what. Jonalu and I are friends.
 - Jonalu and her partner love to hike. In fact, in retirement they plan to travel the country in a sprinter van and hike. That resonates deeply with both Maris and me. We hope and plan to catch up with them one day and share a cup of coffee and conversation on some beautiful mountainside somewhere.
 - Mike
 - Mike is a cultural anthropologist...and an Atheist.
 - He and his family host weekly meals through the summers until the Covid hit.
 - Mike cares deeply about his family and our community...just like me.
 - Mike cares deeply about taking care of his physical and mental and emotional health...just like me.

3. *Be Humble & Teachable—Have a mindset that you might not be right.* Be open to discovering new possibilities together.
 - **Matthew 7:3-5** ³Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.
4. *Speak to Loss—Acknowledge loss the other factions might experience, rather than sugarcoating the situation.*
5. *Ask questions.* Not loaded ones such as, "Don't you think the company will crumble if your ideas get implemented?" But sincere, open-ended questions such as: "What do you care most about in this situation? What does success look like from your point of view? What do you wish other factions and groups understood about you? What do you stand to lose if progress is made on this issue?"
6. *Make Base Hits—Once you deeply understand where they are coming from, start with "Yes-Able" propositions.* Ask something of the other faction you are 99 percent sure they can agree to.
 - Life Choice Ministries and caring for women who are in the middle of crisis pregnancies
 - Serving Afghan refugees who are moving into our community
7. *Gather Feedback—Only after working hard to understand them, begin asking for their feedback on your opinions.* List everyone who will be affected by a cause or decision.
8. *Win-Win vs. Win-Lose—Don't see things as a zero sum game.* Pluralism is good. Don't try to annihilate the other faction. See the value in their thinking and work to blend into a shared purpose. Work together for the common good.
 - Our enemy is not flesh and blood...
 - *Why I Voted For the Atheist President of Harvard's Chaplain Group: Participating in interfaith work at the Ivy League university is a help not a hindrance to the exclusivist claims of the Christian faith.* By Pete Williamson in Christianity Today, September 2, 2021—<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/september-web-only/atheism-harvard-interfaith-dialogue-why-i-voted-chaplain.html?fbclid=IwAR22BvJeoSf4tWn6n16lo5NKe-jXHbkYP1c8nKEfmElapeJ4bAbHMB5Jfo4>
 - **1 Timothy 2:1-4** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Rules of Engagement to Represent Jesus

- **Colossians 4:2, 5-6 (ON SLIDE)**

- ² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
- ³ *At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—* ⁴ *that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*
- ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
- Prayer
- Live by the Spirit, now walk by the Spirit.
- Wisdom
- Stewardship of time
- Gracious speech...tailored to each individual you engage with who is loved more deeply by God than you can wrap your head around!

- **1 Peter 3:15 (ON SLIDE)**

- ¹³ *Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,*
- ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
- ¹⁶ *having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.*
- Be prepared! Feed your mind...so that you are prepared.
- Engage with gentleness and respect...even if being attacked.

- **1 Corinthians 13:2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge (which you don't...but even if you did), and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

- Relationships over Rightness
- In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love.
- Practice all of this in a Tallgrass at The Well Group!
- **Colossians 3:12-16a** ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...

Scenes of Radical Jesus

- Women at Jacob's Well
- Woman caught in adultery
- With tax collectors and fisherman
- Engaging Pharisees and Sadducees
- Engaging Roman Centurions and blind beggars

radical / 'ræd ɪ kəl / [rad-i-kuhl]

Dictionary.com

adjective

1. of or going to the root or origin; fundamental
2. thoroughgoing or extreme, especially as regards change from accepted or traditional forms
3. favoring drastic political, economic, or social reforms:
radical ideas; radical and anarchistic ideologues.
4. favoring, supporting, or representing extreme forms of religious fundamentalism:
radical fundamentalists and their rejection of modern science.
5. forming a basis or foundation:
What is the radical reason for his choice?

adjective

6. existing inherently in a thing or person:
radical defects of character.
7. *Slang.* excellent; wonderful; cool; rad:
He's so sweet, so awesome, so radical!
8. *Mathematics.*
 - a. pertaining to or forming a root.
 - b. denoting or pertaining to the radical sign.
 - c. irrational (def. 5b).
9. *Grammar.* of or pertaining to the root of a word.
10. *Botany.* of or arising from the root or the base of the stem.

The Radical Way of Jesus = Gospel-Centered or Upside Down Kingdom

Radical Jesus is The Root

Isaiah 11:1-10 (See Romans 15:12)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² *And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

⁶ *The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.*

⁷ *The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

⁸ *The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.*

⁹ *They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.*

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

- **Revelation 5:2-5** ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."
- **Revelation 22:16-17, 20-21** ¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." ¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Let's seek rootedness in the person and the finished work of Radical Jesus, who is Himself the Root of Life, so we can together bear fruit that impacts our divided world for the common good.

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- Rootedness, Centeredness, Peace, Calm in the Person and Finished Work of Jesus!

1 Corinthians 15 Creed

- A creed is a formal statement of beliefs. This helps pass on the foundational truths of our faith.
- The creed we find in 1 Corinthians 15 dates to within a few years of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

The Lord's Supper

- Jesus' arms stretched wide to embrace people from across the spectrum and unite them by His shed blood!
- Attempts to grind out the Root
 - Herod's slaughter
 - Acts 8 persecution
- Remember Isaiah 40:8. This was written over 700 years before Jesus ate the Last Supper with His disciples in the Upper Room.
- I invite you to stand and quote this verse together before you come to remember the Root of David, who was cut down and nailed to a wooden cross on your behalf so you can eat from the Tree of Life.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

- We are united in Jesus, the Word of God who came in the flesh. All who trust in Him are invited to the table of the Lord's Supper.
- If you feel like you are on the outside looking in, all you need to do is receive the invitation from Jesus.
- We are united to Jesus which means we are also united to the whole church in all times and places.
- Let's root ourselves once again in the true historical story of Jesus that is at work in our lives today.

The Apostles` Creed

In Modern English from the *Book of Common Prayer*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy *catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

*the whole church in all times and places

Mystery of Faith

By Greg LaFollette

Verse 1:
Christ has died, Christ is risen
Christ will come again
Christ has died, Christ is risen
Christ will come again

Chorus:
We have died together
We will rise together

We will live together
The body, O, the body
We are the body of Christ

Verse 2:
We are brothers and sisters
Through our Savior's blood
We are brothers and sisters
Through our Savior's blood

Let's pray!

The Chopping Block:

Ideas:

- My stories
 - Muslim Christian Dialogue efforts
 - MMA vs. Pastors Prayer
- Get rules of engagement in dialogue
- Checkout Interfaith book
- Fortress Mentality vs. Rank and File
- Defensive vs. Offensive
- Rooted in Christ so we can bear fruit!
- Highway Project Illustration:
 - KDOT—They don't ask for permission. They let you know what they're gonna do.
 - Path of deliverance
- Demonstrate the rules of engagement
 - Work across factions for common good.
 - Speak to loss
 - Objective detachment
 - Introduce the spectrum of views within orthodoxy
 - Here's the polarity that divides people and here's the unity within orthodoxy.
 - What mediums/platforms do we use to leverage influence?
- Radical Jesus as a play on extremism whereas "radical" actually means "to the root". Think *Jesus Freak* by DC Talk (1995).
 - If you go to the root of the way of Jesus then you will appear extreme in our culture.
 - Sexually chaste and fiscally loose
- Getting people to a place where they can agree to disagree and yet be rooted in radical Jesus.
 - We're getting pulled to the extremes by media and social media.
 - Testimony: Henry giving up all news for 21 days.
- Consider expressions of Christianity in different political and financial climates.
- Evangelical alignment to fight "enemies" whether Communism, culture wars, Harry Potter, heavy metal, abortion, CRT, etc.
- Ed Stetzer on the great sort.
- "Faith over fear" vs. "Community over fear"
 - Relationships over rightness
- Young Earth or Old Earth—Checkout Phil Vischer's stuff on The Holy Post and *Seven Days That Divide the World* by John Lennox

Tension—Lead to the ache

- Text & Context
- Questions to be answered

- Problems to be solved
- Tensions to be resolved
- Hook

Thinking—Teach them what to think

- Movement 1: Rising Conflict

Feeling—Teach them what to feel

- Movement 2: Answers & Resolution

Doing—Inspire them to do

- Movement 3: Response

Passages:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
 lift it up, fear not;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 "Behold your God!"

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 behold, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;
 he will carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.

Luke 3:1-9 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
 and the crooked shall become straight,
 and the rough places shall become level ways,

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Colossians 3:12-17 ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with

thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2 Timothy 2:15-18 ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. ¹⁶ But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

2 Peter 3:8-18 ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.