***2 Peter 3:10-12 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?***

We’re back with Peter this morning, looking at the letter he wrote to the general church, while living in Rome. Now, in his mid-sixties, he’s lived out more than thirty years, since the Holy Spirit fell upon him and the disciples in a house in Jerusalem. This fisherman has become a fisher of men, witnessing the Holy Spirit grow the church from a few disciples to tens of thousands. He has been a willing participant, embracing his role in the action that God set in motion. God has a beautiful Plan - it’s not our Plan to make, but it is our Plan to live out through Faith in Jesus. Like our Savior in the garden, we say – nevertheless Father, not as I will, but as You will.

Verse 10 starts *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat.* Peter describes here the day of the Lord. The final judgement will come suddenly. Like a thief – this isn’t like we hear a noise in the dark and send the husband downstairs to check it out – no, this is terrifying. It’s waking from a deep sleep and a threatening stranger being beside your bed. Similar language is used in Matthew 24, Luke 12, 1 Thess 5, Rev 3, and Rev 16 , telling of Jesus 2nd return. A great noise, like the noise of thunder, the roaring of a burning house all over the world at once. This will be no flood, but fire, destroying the elements, the very building blocks of everything. The elements will melt – the Greek means dissolve completely.

Verse 10 continues - *both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.* All of our earthly work will be consumed, nothing left. The 2nd house, 3rd car, mancave, she-shed, 401K, steel safe, whatever earthly work our hands have done, gone, in a blink. Spend no time laying up treasure here… all too soon, here will not be here anymore. Labor Day is a great time to assess where we are laying up treasure.

Verse 11, Peter continues - *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.* Since, not if, since all things will be dissolved. Every idol we have worshipped in this wicked and covetous world will be dissolved, every altar we have sacrificed the spiritual life of our loved ones to earthly wealth upon will be consumed. Peter asks a question – what manner of persons ought you to be? The Greek literally means “of what country should you belong”? Remember, we are only passing through, living in a Motel 6 on the way to our heavenly Home. We are not citizens here, but sojourners, travelers, passing through a hateful land, on our way to Glory. Where ought our focus be? Where ought our treasure be found? The work of Christ we’ve done here waits for us there. The kindness, compassion, generosity, and agape love we extended to brother and sister, friend and enemy will not dissolve, because it is not of this world, but of Heaven. Those of us traveling to that country ought to be found in holy conversation and godliness.

Peter continues in verse 12 *looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?*God was long-suffering in the days of Noah, and the people took that as a sign that God would forever bear with their wickedness. It wasn’t true then and it isn’t true now. We as Christians look for and indeed pray for the hastening of the coming of the Lord Jesus. Every morning, we wake up thinking that today may be the day that I will see Jesus! What a day that will be, when my Jesus I will see. Why will the heavens be on fire, dissolving at the basic levels, melting in fervent heat? Because of the coming of the day of God! The elements will melt – the words Peter used leaves no doubt that this is not a question of “if” this day will arrive, but “when”. It is an imperative and leaves us with certainty. We must choose where our citizenship lies – Are we heavenly citizens passing through, building on the Rock or worldly citizens building on sand? Wise builders build upon the Rock.

This Labor Day weekend, let’s take stock of where we are investing our resources, talents, time, and most critically love. One of the easiest ways to check ourselves is to relive the conversations and actions of the past few days. How much conversation was holy and godly, investing in Heaven? How much would dissolve if the Day of the Lord came this very moment? How many lives did we touch, hands did we hold, souls did we soothe? How many know Jesus because they know us? Labor Day is about work, but not the work of this world. To which country does the daily investment of our lives suggest we belong? It’s not too late to get our labor, our work, our investment choices directed to the right country.