

Series "Knowing And Growing In Christ"
"Getting Ready For Heaven"
2 Peter 3:11-18
Study-9

Peter reminds the believer of the strong link between "Christian hope and daily conduct."

Thought Of The Passage: "The Lord's Return Should Produce Holy Living, Diligence, Doctrinal Soundness, Vigilance And Spiritual Growth."

- 1. Verses 11-13 – Be Holy**
- 2. Verse 14 – Be Diligent**
- 3. Verses 15-16 – Be Confident**
- 4. Verse 17 – Be Guarded**
- 5. Verse 18 – Be Fruitful**

1. Verses 11-13 – Be Holy:

2 Peter 3:11 – "Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way," – (The Context) – Verses 1-4 – The Promise Of His Coming: Peter reminded the believers of the Old Testament – Remember the Gospels, Remember the Epistles! Peter then, in Verses 5-10 – The Proof Of His Coming.

"Since all these things (Heavens and the earth) are to be destroyed in this way," – the world as we know it will be burned up and replaced! – 2 Peter 3:10.

"what sort of people ought you to be" – "how astonishingly excellent you ought to be". Peter, together with all the other writers of Scripture, sees a direct link between doctrine and life!

"in holy conduct" – the term "holy" – "blameless, consecrated, to separate from the common conduct and use". "conduct" – "walk, manner of life, behavior, the ways in which holy living shows itself"; word is plural; holy living.

1 Peter 1:15-16

"and godliness," – literally, "acts of godliness"; word is plural; "godlinesses." In light of the Lord's return, believers should "be living blameless, holy lives, on display for all to see."

2 Peter 3:12 – “looking for” – “eager anticipation, expecting something to happen” – Titus 2:13.

“and hastening” – “to speed, to urge on” – By our confession of our sins, living holy lives, warning others of God’s judgment, sharing the Gospel Message! – 2 Peter 3:9

Matthew 6:9-10; John 9:4; 1 John 3:2-3

“because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning,” – “to kindle, to be ignited, glow, to be inflamed, be on fire.”

“and the elements will melt with intense heat!” – Revelation 5, Jesus breaks the seals.

2 Peter 3:13 – “But according to His promise” – God’s promise – 2 Peter 1:4.

Isaiah 65:17-18; Isaiah 66:22

“we are looking for new heavens and a new earth,” – The believer is looking beyond the destruction of the heavens and the earth to new ones.

“in which righteousness dwells.” – New righteousness! – Matthew 13:41-43.

2. Verse 14 – Be Diligent:

2 Peter 3:14 – “Therefore,” – What is the “Therefore,” there for? – God is going to destroy the heavens and the earth. He is going to recreate them for righteousness.

“beloved,” – “dearly loved by God, those that God loves” – Peter is addressing these closing words to the believer.

“since you look for these things,” – The believer anticipates the Lord’s return and His righteousness; “be diligent” – “zealous; to make every effort;” “to be found by Him” – Greek; aorist infinitive – this “looks forward to the judicial findings by Jesus Christ, the judge, when we as believers stand before Him” – 2 Corinthians 5:10.

“in peace,” – True peace is the result of a relationship with God; our reliance upon Him – Philipians 4:6-7.

“spotless” – “moral purity of the believer in Christ, holiness” – The believer being told to be spotless is in contrast to the false teachers who were “spots and blemishes” – 2 Peter 2:13 – “They are stains and blemishes,”

“and blameless,” – “used of an animal that was perfectly suited to be offered to God” – One’s reputation – Colossians 1:21-22.

3. Verses 15-16 – Be Confident:

2 Peter 3:15 – “and regard the patience” – “longsuffering” – “of our Lord as salvation;” – The apparent delay in our thinking is really God’s longsuffering towards our salvation – 2 Peter 3:9.

“just as also (just like similar warnings of false teachers by Paul) our beloved brother Paul,” – Peter recognized Paul as a “fellow-worker and brother evangelist” – Galatians 2:11-14.

“according to the wisdom given him,” – Peter recognized that God had given to Paul His divine wisdom and revelation – “wrote to you,”

2 Peter 3:16 – “as also in all his letters,” – The Epistles or letters of Paul.

“speaking in them of these things,” – Peter narrows in on some of Paul’s Epistles, noting the context of Paul’s writings as to the Lord’s return; the setting up of His kingdom – 1-2 Thessalonians; 1 Corinthians; Hebrews.

“in which are some things hard to understand,” – This is one of the most encouraging statements regarding Paul’s teaching.

“which the untaught” – “ignorant, unlearned, a lack of training, a mind undisciplined in habits and thoughts, lacking in moral qualities”; Lack in Hermeneutics – the context.

“and unstable” – “those whose habits are not fully trained and established.”

“distort,” – The word “distort” – Greek root – “a rack, an instrument of torture, twisting and dislocating of limbs on the rack.”

Romans 3:7-8

“as they do also the rest of the Scriptures,” – Peter believed that Paul’s writings were Scripture and were equal with OT Scripture – 2 Peter 1:21.

“to their own destruction.” – The false teachers twisting Scripture – “which the untaught and unstable distort,” – 2 Peter 2:1-3.

4. Verse 17 – Be Guarded:

2 Peter 3:17 – “You therefore,” – What is the therefore, there for? – The believer that is in the Word can remain confident because it is exclusively God’s truth.

“beloved,” – “dearly loved by God, loved by God” – “knowing this beforehand,” – 2 Peter 3:16, Paul had warned in his writings. Peter had written 2 Peter 2 as a warning. The false teachers were willfully in error. Bringing self-destruction on themselves!

“be on your guard” – Peter uses a military term. What Peter says here applies to every believer in every age. Keep discerning, keep filtering – 1 Thessalonians 5:21.

Peter himself, failed to be on guard. Peter slept 3X; later denied Jesus 3X.

“so that you are not carried away” – “to be led away” – “by the error” – “straying from that which is orthodox” – Be careful of persons that might lead us from the right path!

“of unprincipled men” – “lawless, wicked, of one who breaks through the restraints of law, morally corrupt.”

“and fall” – Galatians 5:4 – to fall from grace, the truth. Acts 27:29 – “run aground” – wreck of a ship – The Christian that falls from the truth makes a wreck of his life.

“from your own steadfastness,” – this Greek word only appears here in the NT – “your own stability, firm-footed” – the root word was used by Jesus to Peter – Luke 22:32.

5. Verse 18 – Be Fruitful:

2 Peter 3:18 – “but grow” – “keep on growing; an appeal to the will” – Peter stated Christian growth in his first letter – 1 Peter 2:2.

Series “Knowing And Growing In Christ” – Peter ends where he began, speaking about growing as a believer in Christ! – 2 Peter 1:5.

“in the grace” – “God’s unmerited favor, God’s resources at Christ’s expense” – We are ever growing in our awareness of our dependence upon God, consistently in need of His grace upon us!

"and knowledge" – "knowing is growing in the knowledge of Christ" – Daily getting into the Scriptures, learning the truths, applying those truths in our Christian service – 2 Peter 1:5-6.

1 Timothy 6:20; Matthew 24:46

"of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." – Appears 4X – 2 Peter 1:11; 2:20; 3:2, 18. Peter closes with referring to Jesus as "Our Lord" – our master; "Savior" – "deliverer"; "Christ" – Messiah, the anointed one.

Doxology: "Short hymn of praise to God" – "To Him be the glory," – Peter is declaring the deity of Jesus, being equal to God – "To Him" – God – "be the glory," – "to worship, to praise, to honor" – Only God receives the glory! – Isaiah 42:8; Romans 11:36.

"both now and to the day of eternity." – God is to be worshipped; praised both now and throughout eternity! – Jude 1:25.

"Amen." – "so be it, let it be so, to agree"

Application:

1. Peter Began His Letter With The Declaration Of The Deity Of Jesus Christ – 2 Peter 1:1; Peter Ends With Declaring The Same – 2 Peter 3:18.
2. Peter Cites The Apostle Paul's Wisdom As Coming From God And Letters As Being Divine Scripture.
3. Peter Reassured His Readers Of The Certainty Of Christ's Return. Peter Concluded With An Exhortation To Live This Life In Light Of This Reality. There Is A Strong Link Between Christian Hope And Daily Conduct.
4. 2 Peter 3:18 – "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." – "Grace" – will keep us tolerant, loving, and compassionate. "Knowledge" – will keep us strong, discerning, and keep us thinking.