

# 2Peter

## Responding To The Last Days

**2Pet 3:10-18** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. **11** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, **12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! **13** But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. **14** Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, **15** and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, **16** as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. **17** You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, **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.

### I. Surprised But Expecting; vs. 10

- Peter is ending his message and is speaking of the “last days”
- We don’t know when the Father will end; we don’t know when things will wind down – there will come a time when “a shout” will be heard and the saints will be called up to meet Christ
- Until that time comes, there are some things that God intends for us to do
- This is a moment for Ps Brett to comment on eschatology:
  - \* He leaves room for all kinds of things we don’t understand
  - \* It is NOT God’s pattern to “take out” his saints from tribulation; we shouldn’t fear tribulation; a “pre-tribulation” rapture seems unlikely
- We don’t hold to a prearist view – that Christ isn’t coming back at all
- Peter is talking about being ready **WHENEVER & HOWEVER** it happens, this is how you should live.

### A. Like A Thief – the end will come in a secretive way; “like a thief in the night”

- We should be expecting; it will be unannounced
- The world won’t be expecting, but we should be those who “hasten” his

coming by living in such a way that God's presence can be tangible.

- When we go into the world in mission, Christ promises to be with us "ALWAYS" – we bring the presence & reality of Christ into the world
- Those who are born again are a walking miracle; we tend to emphasize & desire the super natural manifestation, yet that's what we are – bearing witness the presence of God as already manifested in our lives!
- As we expect, we're to be watchful, mindful, & sanctified

#### **B. Heaven & Earth Destroyed By Fire**

### **II. Sanctified, Watchful & Catalytic; vss. 11-13**

#### **A. Holy Conduct – we are to be those who press against the current of the world & its influence**

- a. Purity in the church has become "passee" – we can't live the way we want, lower our standards to live more comfortably.
- b. We conform to the world because we don't want to appear "weird" – purity should be something desired, honored, valued.
- c. We honor God with our body by living purely; let us choose God's purity that we can please God.
- d. What kind of people are we to be: "holy in conduct"

#### **B. Looking For & Hurrying The Coming Of The Lord**

- a. Purity of action and godliness of motive are how we position ourselves & hasten Christ's coming
- b. We are to be "looking for" His coming – by seeking him, by preparing a place for him by the atmosphere you set we hasten his coming
- c. We desire Christ to come physically for "to be absent from the body and to be with the Lord" is better. Yet we remain here to be a good influence in the world and a living testimony of Christ in the world.
- d. Christ is awaiting His bride to make herself ready – to be dressed, ready, properly clothed – pure & radiant. We are to be a people making ourselves ready for Him and in doing so "hasten his coming"
- e. The bride is to be clothed in purity, in white; all of heaven is waiting for this Bride to make herself ready
- f. By making ourselves ready, we hasten Christ.

### **III. Sedulous (diligent); vss. 14-17**

#### **A. Be Found**

- a. In Peace – Peter is talking to people who are being persecuted; peace is a gift of God, but that needs to be guarded, secured.
  - i. Jesus instructed his disciples to "take their peace" with them when they left a place; too often we let unwelcoming, disturbing environments to take our peace, to steal it.
  - ii. We need to learn how to not be impacted by circumstances – environment – don't let the "dust" of one environment be taken into another; rather "shake it off" and move into another

situation with your peace in tact.

- b. Spotless – spots are evidences of imperfections
  - i. Only the blood of Christ can make us spotless
  - ii. But we need to identify the “spots” that we’ve come to accept as the “just me” flaws; yet Jesus is intolerant of our flaws, but He is patient
  - iii. The goal is to have a nature like His so that when people see you they see the character & nature of Christ in your life
  - iv. People see the “spots” of anger, immorality, gossip – those things that come to characterize our lives if not addressed
- c. Blameless – when we do say or think the wrong thing, we repent – we turn away from what we know to be sin; this is how we become “blameless” – removed that which brought blame to us by bringing it to the Cross & receiving Christ’s provision of sacrifice

**B. Regard God’s Patience As Salvation –**

- a. We want people to fix our problems immediately. But God’s patience is indicative of his salvation. His long suffering speaks of God’s desire to see more in this world saved
- b. We must be glad of God’s patience because of it, we came to know Him.
  - i. This reflects his desire of what He intends for the sake of the world; He want us to be right so that his salvation can come thru us to those around us
  - ii. By doing so, we have an offering to bring God – the fruit of our lives, influenced by me for the sake of His glory.
  - iii. His patience gives us opportunity to bring to Him that which glorifies Him – the fruit of our lives, the fruit of His grace worked into us, that we might live our lives for the sake of others.
  - iv. The tears wiped away in glory are those resulting from seeing the missed opportunities in this life.

**C. Be Steadfast – remain unmoved**

**IV. Surge in...; vs. 18 – we are not to be people who are not stationary, but rather those who are “surging” in the grace & knowledge of God.**

**A.** Grace -- Maturity is evidence of continual growth in grace; there is always room for more to be entered into.

**B.** Knowledge – there is always more of God to know & appreciate and by which to grow