

1. What is something you learned from the entire book of 2 Peter? How has it helped you?
2. How did God speak to your heart from the message today?
3. How should we live seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved?
4. How can we “hasting unto the coming of the day of God”?
5. What are some areas where we need to be diligent?
6. What happens when we wrest or twist the Scriptures?
7. Why is it important to keep growing?

Answers to blanks

live
diligent

2 PETER

God's Promise in the Last Days

Text: 2 Peter 3:11-18

Last week on Easter Sunday we looked at the 2nd coming of Christ. We saw that the Lord is not slack and although He delays in His coming He will come as a thief in the night!

If the Lord is soon to return how should we live? The covid-19 pandemic has caused us all to think about how we should live in these last days.

Should we fight against evil or government? Some people think those are the same. Should we stockpile resources and barricade ourselves in from the chaos?

What should be do?

1. How to _____ in the Last Days - 2 Peter 3:11-13

In light of the fact that this world and the things associated with it will be dissolved, we should live our lives seeking first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness – that is, having holy conversation (conduct) and godliness.

We tend to think that the world is more enduring and will last longer than *people*.

People will live into eternity, longer than even the earth.

What manner of people ought ye to be? How can ye sin against One who is so close to returning? The One who are create and New Heaven and a New Earth?

Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God: Peter says there is a sense in which we can *hasten* the Lord's coming. It's remarkable to think that we can actually *do* things that will affect the return of Jesus. In the immediate context, Peter says that we hasten the Lord's coming by our **holy conversation and godliness**.

We can also hasten the Lord's coming through **evangelism** and **prayer**.

A new earth in which righteousness dwells: The most glorious characteristic of this new heaven and new earth is that it is a place **in which righteousness dwells**.

2. Be _____ . - 2 Peter 3:14-15a

If our hearts are really set on the glory of the new heaven and new earth, we will endeavor to walk godly in regard to our brothers and sisters (**in peace**) and in regard to God (**without spot and blameless**).

It is easy for Christians to sometimes resent the **longsuffering of God**; after all, it in some sense delays His coming. Yet, **the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation** for others, and it was salvation for us.

3. A Recommendation of the Apostle Paul - 2 Peter 3:15b-16

Some critics say that the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul aren't in agreement. These same critics also often say that Peter and Paul aren't in agreement with Jesus. Yet here Peter affirmed Paul's teaching in the warmest terms. He called Paul **beloved** and said that Paul wrote with **wisdom**.

Though Peter praised Paul's ministry, he admitted that some things in Paul's writings were **hard to understand**, and those who were **untaught and unstable** could use some of the difficulties to their own ends, twisting Scripture.

Wrest or Twist ... the Scriptures: Peter reminds us that the Scriptures *can be* twisted. Just because someone quotes the Bible doesn't mean that they teach Biblical truth. It's possible that they **twist ... the Scriptures**. That is why we should be like the Bereans, who "*searched the Scriptures daily...*" Acts 17:11).

4. Conclusion. - 2 Peter 3:17-18

Since you know *this* beforehand: We, who know of the Day of the Lord and await it with patient expectation, must persevere lest we **fall from your own steadfastness**.

We must take care to keep abiding in Jesus. A couple key points here. The way to withstand in the evil day is to grow; the way to be steadfast is to go forward.

We prevent a **fall from your own steadfastness** by a continual growth in **grace and knowledge of Jesus**.

We must also grow in our **knowledge** of Jesus Christ. This means knowing more *about* Jesus, but more importantly, *knowing Jesus* in a personal relationship.

To Him be the glory: When we are this ready and this steadfast in the **grace and knowledge of our Lord**, it gives God glory.

Under the law, **Amen** was only said at the declaration of the *curses* (Deuteronomy 27:14-26). Under the New Covenant, we say "Amen" at the announcement of a great blessing and praise to God.