

VGROUP STUDY GUIDE
"LIVING WHILE WE WAIT"
2 PETER 3: 11-18
FEBRUARY 25, 2024

FOCAL POINT: Gal. 5: 22-23 points out to us the fruits of the Spirit. One of them is "patience." The word "patience" literally means "long-suffering." Is that how you view patience? What's so difficult about being patient? Can you name an example where you had to exercise patience before you saw what you wanted come to fruition?

The Bible teaches us Jesus will come again. When He does return, He'll right all the wrongs. He'll remove death, injustice and pain (*Read Rev. 21: 1-4*).

TEXT:

*Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, it is clear what sort of people you should be in holy conduct and godliness **12** as you wait for and earnestly desire the coming of the day of God. The heavens will be on fire and be dissolved because of it, and the elements will melt with the heat. **13** But based on His promise, we wait for the new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell. **14** Therefore, dear friends, while you wait for these things, make every effort to be found at peace with Him without spot or blemish. **15** Also, regard the patience of our Lord as an opportunity for salvation, just as our dear brother Paul has written to you according to the wisdom given to him. **16** He speaks about these things in all his letters in which there are some matters that are hard to understand. The untaught and unstable twist them to their own destruction, as they also do with the rest of the Scriptures. **17** Therefore, dear friends, since you know this in advance, be on your guard, so that you are not led away by the error of lawless people and fall from 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.*

How do we live while we wait for Jesus to return? Here are a few instructions on how to do that:

Live for Jesus (vv. 11-14)

1. What is the *Day of the Lord*? Look up Joel 1: 15, Amos 5: 18 and 1 Thess. 5: 2. After reading these verses, share a few things you learned about the Day of the Lord.

2. We don't know WHEN the Day of the Lord will be. So what should we be doing, how should we be living in the mean time (see the end of v. 11)?

a. The word "sort of" means "exotic, foreign." This fits in with who we are as Christians as we live in this world. How are we to be "foreign" to this world? What are some things you do that demonstrate you, as a Christian, are a foreigner in this world?

Share Jesus (vv. 15-16)

1. Are you ready for Jesus to come again? Why? As ready as you are for Jesus to come again, how ready do you think the people in our text were as they were under the rule of the Roman Emperor Nero?

2. After reading these verses, what are we supposed to be doing in the mean time? Jesus NOT returning yet is a sign of grace (*Read* 2 Pet. 3: 9). Some people in Peter's day saw it as a sign that Jesus wasn't returning.

3. How are you doing sharing Jesus with others? Why do you think this is a difficult task for so many Christians? Why is it important for us to share (*Read* Rom. 10: 14-15)?

Be on guard (vv. 17-18)

1. *Read* Matt. 10: 16. What did Jesus mean by this? How do you prepare to do this?

2. Where does our "stability" come from as followers of Christ (*Read* Matt. 24: 35, Is. 40: 8, and 1 Pet. 1: 25). What is the significance of these verses regarding Scripture? What does Scripture provide you with in life (*Read* 2 Tim. 3: 16-17)?

3. What are we to be on our guard about (refer back to v. 16)? To "be on your guard" means "to keep watch." It was a military term. You are to keep watch, to put a guard over God's Word to make sure it's not misinterpreted or misapplied. We're to make sure it's not being used to say something that's not true. God's Word is wise and reliable (*Read* 1 Cor. 3: 18-20).

**We don't know when Jesus will return but we do know HOW we're to live until He does.