

Second Peter: Courageous Living in Chaotic Days
Our Hope in Christ's Return – Part 3
2 Peter 3:14-18

Can you believe we have come to the end of our study through Second Peter!?!

We began our journey with the now aged Apostle Peter in him teaching us what he reminded all believers throughout the Church...

The walk of a believer is marked by a holy life empowered by the Holy Spirit...

→ **The Walk**

2 Peter 1:8 (ESV) — For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

→ **The Word**

2 Peter 1:21 (ESV) — For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

→ **The War**

2 Peter 2:1–2 (ESV) — But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.

And now we move to the last section of this letter...

Before we begin...

2 Peter 3:1 (ESV) — This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder

1. **REMEMBER the PROMISES of Christ's Return**

2. **ANTICIPATE the PROTESTS against Christ's Return**

3. **UNDERSTAND the PATIENCE in Christ's Return**

4. **EXPECTANTLY PRAY for Christ's Return**

5. **EAGERLY PREPARE for Christ's Return**

2 Peter 3:14–16 (ESV) — Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

➤ **INSPECT yourself daily through SURRENDER**

2 Peter 3:14 (ESV) — Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

“BE DILIGENT”...

Σπουδάζω – spoudadzo

do something with intense effort and motivation—‘to work hard, to do one’s best, to endeavor.’

Ephesians 4:3 (ESV) — Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Romans 12:8 (ESV) — ... the one who leads, with zeal ...

We, with great intensity, must maintain our PURITY and PEACE...

Our PURITY...

Ephesians 4:22–24 (ESV) — To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Our PEACE...

Philippians 4:6–7 (ESV) — Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

➤ **IMMERSE yourself fully in the SPIRIT**

2 Peter 3:14-15a (ESV) — Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation ...

Ephesians 5:15–19 (ESV) — Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

➤ **INSTRUCT yourself through the SCRIPTURES**

2 Peter 3:15–16 (ESV) — And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) — 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV) — 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

1. REMEMBER the PROMISES of Christ’s Return

2. ANTICIPATE the PROTESTS against Christ's Return

3. UNDERSTAND the PATIENCE in Christ's Return

4. EXPECTANTLY PRAY for Christ's Return

5. EAGERLY PREPARE for Christ's Return

6. GUARD your POSITION for Christ's Return

2 Peter 3:17–18 (ESV) — You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 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.

“... knowing this beforehand...”

Προγινώσκω – proginosko – To know something before hand... to know about something prior to some temporal reference point

What do we know beforehand? We know Jesus is returning!!!

“... take care ...”

Φυλάσσω – psugasso
to hold someone in close custody—‘to guard closely.’

We **MUST** guard our **POSITION** in Christ **CLOSELY!!!**

I read this passage this morning in my One Year reading and was reminded about my teaching today...

Luke 21:34–36 (NLT) — “Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don’t let that day catch you unaware, like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.”

So HOW do we do this?

➤ **GROUNDED in CHRIST!**

2 Peter 3:17 (ESV) — You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.

“...carried away with the error of lawless people...”

Συναπάγομαι - Sunapagomai
to cause someone else in addition to change from belief in what is true to belief in what is false—‘to cause to go astray together, to deceive in addition, to lead astray with.’

→ When Paul confronted Peter because he had been eating with the Gentiles until some important Jewish believers arrived and then he quit eating with them...
Galatians 2:13 (ESV) — And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

Ephesians 4:11–14 (ESV) — And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to

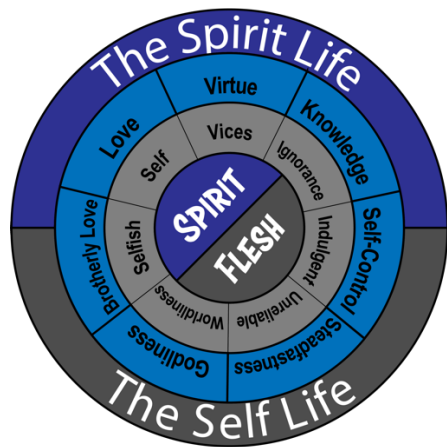
the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

➤ **GROWING in GRACE!**

2 Peter 3:18a (ESV) — But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“GROW” is a command!

➔ Remember the qualities we studied back in Chapter 1...



2 Peter 1:8 (ESV) — For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

➔ The Apostle Paul’s spiritual growth...

EARLY

1 Corinthians 15:9 (ESV) — For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

MIDDLE

Ephesians 3:8 (ESV) — To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

END

1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV) — The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

➤ **GLORIFYING JESUS!**

2 Peter 3:18b (ESV) — ... To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) — So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

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Hope is the confident expectancy of a certain and favorable future.

- 1. **REMEMBER the PROMISES of Christ's Return**
(2 Peter 3:1-2)
- 2. **ANTICIPATE the PROTESTS against Christ's Return**
(2 Peter 3:3-7)
- 3. **UNDERSTAND the PATIENCE in Christ's Return**
(2 Peter 3:8-10)
- 4. **EXPECTANTLY PRAY for Christ's Return**
(2 Peter 3:11-13)
- 5. _____ **for Christ's Return**

- _____ yourself daily through _____
- _____ yourself fully in the _____
- _____ yourself through the _____

- 6. _____ your _____ **for Christ's Return**

- _____ in _____!
- _____ in _____!
- _____!