

The Long Obedience of Looking Forward

2 Peter 3:14-18

May 29, 2022

2 PETER

A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

As we come to the end of 2 Peter, we see that Peter stays on theme with the close of his letter. Peter is still concerned about the way we live. He is still assuring us of the second coming of Jesus and encouraging us to be ready for His return. He is still warning us of false teachers and pointing to their destruction. Lastly, Peter focuses on the importance of growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. For three chapters, he has shown us the importance of our calling and election and reminds us once again to look forward to the new heaven and new earth that will one day come.

Read 2 Peter 3:14-18, then discuss.

1. Be Diligent (3:14)

- While some translations use “be diligent”, others say that we are to “make every effort”. What does Peter encourage us to pursue in verse 14? What do you think he means by using these particular words or ideas?
- What are examples of how Christians can “be diligent” in the way they pursue Christ? What is one example of how you can “be diligent” in the way you pursue Christ? How might you put that into practice so it becomes part of the rhythm of your life?

2. Bear in Mind (3:15-16a)

- We are to remember that the Lord’s patience means salvation. This means that even though Jesus will return some day, God has created space for more people to come to a saving faith in Him through Jesus. But one day, Jesus will return and the time to repent will have passed. In what ways has God’s patience encouraged you to grow? In what ways has God’s patience hindered your growth?
- Peter references the fact that he and Paul write about the same things. Why is it important for Peter to have support as he addresses things like false teachers? Why is it important for us to have others around who know and understand sound doctrine?

3. Be on Guard (3:16b-18)

- Peter says that Paul’s letters contain things that are hard to understand. What do you typically do when you come across something in the Bible that is hard to understand? What *should* you do when you come across something in the Bible that is hard to understand?
- Peter tells us that when the scriptures are distorted, it leads to destruction. This word destruction means, “eternal ruin”. How does this change the way you understand the importance of interpreting the Bible?
- Verse 18 encourages us to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. What are some examples of practices that help us grow in these ways? What happens if we avoid or ignore these practices?

Close by P-R-A-Y-ing through this passage: Praise, Repent, Ask, and Yield to God and his Word.