

“How to Prepare for Exposure”

2 Peter 3:14-16

Theme: The day is coming when the secrets of all men will be disclosed.

I. REALIZE THE EXPECTATIONS OF PREPAREDNESS – 3:14

A. Expect Yourself to Be Exposed

1. In light of the reality of Christ's 2nd Coming is so sure, we must take the event seriously – *“Therefore, beloved ...”*
2. *“... since you look for these things”* – there exists here a sense of anticipation of a time when a reckoning will occur (“to be found by him ...”)
3. Those who are genuine believers desire to live in a way that squares with their eternal perspectives.
4. The truth is that when Christ comes, the true nature of men will be exposed – those who are *“in [a state of] peace”* will be identified, as will those who are at odds with Christ.
5. We know that all things will be revealed – there will come a time when all the private secrets will be revealed – cp. *Luke 12:1-2; Romans 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10*

B. Exert Yourself to Confirm Election

1. We are told to *“be diligent”* (exert yourself) to be found at peace with Christ, that is, our lives are not lived carelessly or lazily – but we exert effort to know the corresponding character that exists in Christ.
2. This is reminiscent of the same phrase used in 1:5 and 1:10
3. The way that we are able to be assured of our salvation is not to look to a decision that was made, but rather at the fruit of godliness in our character – *“... spotless and blameless”*
 - a) *“spotless”* [ἁσπυλος] – describing the quality of the believer's character – being of highest quality, pure, untainted – who we truly are before the eyes of God
 - b) *“blameless”* [ἀμώμητος] – describing the quality of the believer's reputation - how and what others perceive the believer to be
4. The believer is given a new nature – patterned after Christ – cp. 1:4
5. This is the proof of our redemption – cp. *Philippians 2:14-16*.

II. REFLECT ON THE TIME FOR PREPAREDNESS – 3:15

A. Consider the Timing of God's Patience

1. Peter stresses that the purpose for the delay of Christ's return is that He desires for men to have ample time to prepare for exposure – to repent unto salvation – *“... and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation ...”*
2. The wise man recognizes that God provides him a door of opportunity and steps through it.
3. The marvels of His grace in his forbearance provides the serious and reflective believer tremendous food for thought.

B. Consider the Teachings of Entire Scripture

1. Peter uses the basic principle of “cross-referencing” as a means by which his teaching could be substantiated – *“... just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you ...”*
2. He appeals to the portions of Scripture that Paul wrote that confirmed the purpose of God's apparent delay – cp. **Romans 2:4**
 - a) He speaks *“according to the wisdom given him”* – he was enabled to see things from God's viewpoint and then relate them.
 - b) God's goodness is designed to lead us to repentance.
 - c) Compare the phrase “the rest of the Scriptures” – v. 16.

III. RECOGNIZE THE THREAT TO PREPAREDNESS – 3:16

A. Maintain a Dependence on God's Spirit

1. Peter here states that what Paul shared contained *“some things hard to understand.”*
2. You and I, regardless of how spiritual we may believe ourselves to be, and regardless of how Scripturally knowledgeable we may be, are utterly dependent upon the enlightenment by God's Holy Spirit as to the truth of Scripture – cp. **John 14:15-17, 26**
3. It is when we come to Scriptures without the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we begin to err in our understanding.

B. Mark the Distortions of God's Word

1. There are those who are *“untaught and unstable”* who *“distort”* the Word of God given through the Apostles.
 - a) *“untaught”* [ἀμαθής] – ignorant or incompetent interpreters (devoid of the Holy Spirit who teaches us and guides us into all truth)

- b) **“unstable”** [ἀσθήρικτος] – weak or unable to bear the truth (devoid of the Holy Spirit who enables us to bear the truth)
- 2. Those who are independent of God’s Spirit (false teachers) come to the Scriptures and completely **“distort”** [στρεβλόω] - “brutalize” or “torture” the truth of God’s Word by twisting it into error.
- 3. The result of this is ... **“to their own destruction”** – “Ultimately they face God, who has revealed himself in his Word and who turns Scripture against his adversaries to their own destruction¹.”
- 4. Specifically, they were taking the teachings of Paul and distorting [] – (torturing) them.
 - a) Justification by faith – was being distorted to mean that one justified, a man could do what he liked with impunity – for the more one sinned, the better for it afforded greater opportunity.
 - b) Paul’s teaching that the Christian is free from legal rules (**Romans 8:1-2; 7:4; Galatians 3:10**) was distorted to mean that He condoned license – claiming **1 Corinthians 6:12; Galatians 5:13**.

¹ Simon J. Kistemaker and William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Epistles of Peter and the Epistle of Jude*, vol. 16, New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953–2001), 346.