

## 2 Peter 3:11-18 Future Things, Diligence!

### Verse 14 – Be Diligent

*Therefore, beloved* – Because they are beloved in his sight, Peter now pulls together the content of the letter and gives them four commands to live by.

1 – Be diligent – verse 14

2 – Be confident – verse 15

3 – Be on guard – verse 17

4 – Be fruitful – verse 18

*Since you look for these things* – Understanding the Lord's return and the judgments to come should be a motivation to us to serve him faithfully.

*Be diligent* – The word means to take great pains or be zealous at accomplishing a task.

*To be found by Him in peace* – The fruit of the Spirit includes peace. In opposition to peace, one of the deeds of the flesh is strife. Jesus wants to find us walking in the Spirit when He returns. If we are walking in the Spirit then we will be joyfully looking for His return. If not we will “*shrink away from Him in shame at His coming*” (1 John 2:28).

*Spotless and blameless* –

*Spotless* = without defect or defilement.

*Blameless* = without justifiable cause for reproach. The words do not mean sinlessness but rather lives lived free of the depravity and corruptness that surrounded them. False teachers were called stains and blemishes (2:13). In contrast believers must be spotless and blameless!

### Verse 15 – Be Confident

*And regard the patience of the Lord to be salvation* – This may refer to the unsaved coming to salvation (verse 9). It also very likely refers to God's ability to deliver the godly out of trial and ultimately to deliver them from the coming tribulation. Paul, whom Peter mentions next, discussed this deliverance in detail in 1 Thess. 5.

*Just as our beloved brother Paul according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you* – Peter regarded Paul as a brother and fellow apostle. It is very probable that Peter had read all of Paul's letters and he knew that they had read Paul's letters. Peter is affirming that Paul taught the very same things about the Day of The Lord and the events of the second coming. This unity should give them confidence in God's word.

### Verse 16 – Be Confident

*As in all his letters...speaking of these things* – The Lord's return and the judgment seat of Christ were often in Paul's mind as he wrote his epistles (Romans 14:10-12, 1 Cor. 3:10-15, 4:1-5, 2 Cor. 4:16-18, 5:10, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, 5:1-10, 2 Thess. 2, etc.). All of the apostles heard the angel's proclamation in Acts 1:11 about Jesus' return.

*In which are some things hard to understand* – If Peter struggled with difficult passages we should be ready to approach the Scripture with humility and patience.

*Which the untaught and unstable distort* – The untaught did not understand all of God's revelation and the unstable were double minded men, often compromising their teaching.

*Distort* – This word means ‘to twist or wrench, to stretch on the rack, to torture’. False teachers twist and torture the Word of God to force it to say what they want it to say.

*As they do the rest of the Scriptures* – Not just Paul's writings but all of the Scripture is put on the torture rack by these false teachers. Notice that Peter regarded Paul's letters as Scripture!

### **Verse 17 – Be On Guard**

*You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand* – The Greek word here is *proginosko* from which we get our word prognosis. They should understand because they have been forewarned.

*Be on your guard* – This is a military term for taking charge of a post and keeping watch for the approaching enemy. Paul gives an example of this in Galatians 2:4.

*Lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men* – If we turn our back on our watch, the enemy will attack and carry us away.

*You fall from your own steadfastness* – Not loss of eternal salvation but loss of sanctification. This is stumbling away from spiritual growth. This would be the opposite from what he encouraged in 1:5-8.

### **Verse 18 – Be Fruitful**

*But, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* – With this command Peter returns to the opening verses of the letter (1:2). Our challenge is to always keep grace and knowledge in balance. Jesus was the perfect example of the One who always kept grace and truth in balance (John 1:14-18).

*To Him be the glory* – The Lord Jesus Christ, because He is God, deserves all praise and glory. To honor the Son is to honor the Father (John 5:23, 17:1-5).

*Both now and to the day of eternity* – When we live for Jesus we glorify him now in this present life and we also glorify Him in the day of the new heavens and new earth (the Day of God).

### **Four Commands for Victory in the Christian Life:**

1 – *Be diligent* – To be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.

2 – *Be confident* – The Lord will deliver!

3 – *Be on guard* – Lest you fall from your steadfastness.

4 – *Be fruitful* – Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.