

WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2024
THE WRITINGS OF PETER
PART 11

We have reached the end of our study of the writings of the apostle Peter. This evening, we study chapter 3 of 2 Peter.

2 Peter 3:1-18 (NKJV)

Peter's goal in this section is to stimulate us to wholesome thinking by teaching us to recall the teachings of Jesus given through the prophets and apostles.

Wholesome: eilikrinēs (from heilē, "shining of the sun" and /krystallízō, "to judge") – properly, rightly judged because seen in full light; (figuratively) judged in the rays of God's light, i.e. with divine clarity (spiritual vision) which results in real insight (discernment). This term is used twice in the NT (Phil 1:10; 2 Pet 3:1).

Peter addresses one of the things that he knows will be a challenge as we approach Jesus' return: His delay. As we await Jesus' return, some will begin to move away from Christ supposing His delay is a sign that He is not coming back. Peter calls these folks a "mocker" or a "derider" or even a "false teacher". The same Person who said, "If I go away, I will return" is the same One who spoke and the world we live on was created. This world was destroyed once by the Word of this Person and has spoken that this world will be destroyed by fire in judgment at the creation of a new heaven and new earth.

The earth underneath your feet is a guarantee He will return. When considering the timing of Jesus' return, consider that His timing is a product of His eternal nature and compassionate nature.

His eternal nature: [Psalm 90:4 \(NIV\)](#)

His compassionate nature: [James 2:13 \(NIV\)](#)

When He returns, it will be like a thief in the night: [1 Corinthians 15:51-52 \(NIV\)](#)

Jesus says it this way: [Matthew 24:37-42 \(NKJV\)](#)

The question? Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with Him. As we have said before, Peter speaks of Paul's writings – recognizes them at the level of Scripture.

Scripture: graphé – properly, writing. (graphé) is used 51 times in the NT – always of holy Scripture, i.e. the inspired, inerrant writings of the Bible (the 66 books of Scripture, 39 in Hebrew, 27 in Greek).

Peter ends his letter by exhorting his readers to do two things:

Be on guard: /phylássō ("keep watch over, keep secure") emphasizes the needed vigilance to keep what is entrusted. Thus (phylássō) is often used in the NT in the Greek middle voice meaning, "Personally be on guard against," stressing the constant, personal interest involved with the guarding.

Don't allow error to cause you to fall from your secure position in Christ.

Grow: auksánō – properly, grow (increase); become greater in size (maturity, etc.). /auksánō ("to grow") is key to authentic discipleship. Indeed, the Lord requires non-stop progress (development) in the life of faith.

Today's Scriptures:

- 2 Peter 3:1-18 (NKJV)
- Psalm 90:4 (NIV)
- James 2:13 (NIV)
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NIV)
- Matthew 24:37-42 (NKJV)