

2 Peter 3:11-18 Peter's Final Exhortation

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Where we left off last week...

2 Peter 3:10 NKJV - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

"As a thief in the night"

Matthew 24:42 NKJV - "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24:43 NKJV - "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

Luke 12:39 NKJV - "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 NKJV - For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 NKJV - For when **they** say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon **them**, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And **they** shall not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:4 NKJV - **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.**

1 Thessalonians 5:5 NKJV - You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 NKJV - Therefore let us not sleep, as others [do], but let us watch and be sober.

Watch = G1127 = γρηγορεύω grēgoreúō, gray-gor-yoo'-o; from [G1453](#); to keep awake, i.e. watch (literally or figuratively):—be vigilant, wake, (be) watch(-ful).

The KJV translates Strong's G1127 in the following manner: [watch](#) (21x), [wake](#) (1x), [be vigilant](#) (1x).

From Outline of Biblical Usage:

- I. to watch
- II. metaph. give strict attention to, be cautious, active
 - A. to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one

Be Sober = G3525 = νήφω nēphō, nay'-fo; of uncertain affinity; to abstain from wine (keep sober), i.e. (figuratively) be discreet:—be sober, watch.

The KJV translates Strong's G3525 in the following manner: [be sober](#) (4x), [watch](#) (2x).

From Outline of Biblical Usage:

- I. to be sober, to be calm and collected in spirit
- II. to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect

Also used 3 places in 1 Peter:

1 Peter 1:13 NKJV - Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest [your] hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 4:7 NKJV - But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

1 Peter 5:8 NKJV - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Thessalonians 5:7 NKJV - For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 NKJV - But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and [as] a helmet the hope of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV - For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 1:18 NKJV - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

DD Not us, if we are living God's way!

1 Thessalonians 5:10 NKJV - who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NKJV - Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Revelation 3:3 NKJV - [To the church at Sardis] "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Revelation 16:15 NKJV - "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed [is] he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

2 Peter 3:11 NKJV - Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2 Peter 3:12 NKJV - looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

From ESV Global Study Bible:

2 Pet. 3:12 Hastening the coming of the day of God suggests that, by living holy lives, Christians can actually affect the time of the Lord's return. That does not mean, of course, that the Lord has not determined already when Jesus will return (see Matt. 24:36; Acts 17:31). But when God set that day, he also ordained that it would happen after all of his purposes in this present age had been accomplished through his human agents.

Barclay's Daily Study Bible:

There is in this passage still another great conception. Peter speaks of the Christian as not only eagerly awaiting the Coming of Christ but as actually hastening it on. The New Testament tells us certain ways in which this may be done.

(i) It may be done by prayer. Jesus taught us to pray: "Thy Kingdom come" (Mat_6:10). The earnest prayer of the Christian heart hastens the coming of the King. If in no other way, it does so in this--that he who prays opens his own heart for the entry of the King.

(ii) It may be done by preaching. Matthew tells us that Jesus said, "And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come" (Mat_24:14). All men must be given the chance to know and to love Jesus Christ before the end of creation is reached. The missionary activity of the Church is the hastening of the coming of the King.

(iii) It may be done by penitence and obedience. Of all things this would be nearest to Peter's mind and heart. The Rabbis had two sayings: "It is the sins of the people which prevent the coming of the Messiah. If the Jews would genuinely repent for one day, the Messiah would come." The other form of the saying means the same: "If Israel would perfectly keep the law for one day, the Messiah would come." In true penitence and in real obedience a man opens his own heart to the coming of the King and brings nearer that coming throughout the world. We do well to remember that our coldness of heart and our disobedience delay the coming of the King.

2 Peter 3:13 NKJV - Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Revelation 21:1 NKJV - Now I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:2 NKJV - Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:3 NKJV - And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and **He will dwell with them**, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them [and be] their God.

Revelation 21:4 NKJV - "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

God who is righteous, will dwell there

Daniel 9:14 NKJV - "Therefore the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our **God [is] righteous** in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice.

Deuteronomy 32:4 NKJV - [He is] the Rock, His work [is] perfect; For all His ways [are] justice, A God of truth and without injustice; **Righteous and upright [is] He**.

We, too, are to be righteous!

2 Peter 3:14 NKJV - Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

Be Diligent = G4704 = σπουδάζω spoudázō, spoo-dad'-zo; from [G4710](#); to use speed, i.e. to make effort, be prompt or earnest:—do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.

The KJV translates Strong's G4704 in the following manner: [endeavour](#) (3x), [do diligence](#) (2x), [be diligent](#) (2x), [give diligence](#) (1x), [be forward](#) (1x), [labour](#) (1x), [study](#) (1x).

From Thayer's Greek Lexicon:

σπουδάζω; future σπουδάσω (a later form for the early σπουδάσομαι, cf. Krüger, § 40, under the word, vol. i, p. 190; Buttmann, 53 (46); (Winers Grammar, 89 (85); Veitch, under the word)); 1 aorist ἐσπούδασα; (σπουδή, which see); from Sophocles and Aristophanes down;

a. to hasten, make haste: followed by an infinitive (cf. σπεύδω, 1), [2 Timothy 4:9, 21](#); [Titus 3:12](#) (others refer these examples to b.; but cf. Holtzmann's Commentary on [2 Timothy 2:15](#)).

b. to exert oneself, endeavor, give difference: followed by an infinitive, [Galatians 2:10](#); [Ephesians 4:3](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:17](#); [2 Timothy 2:15](#); [Hebrews 4:11](#); [2 Peter 1:10](#); [2 Peter 3:14](#); followed by an accusative with an infinitive [2 Peter 1:15](#).

Three aspects mentioned to be diligent in:

1. In Peace - a fruit of God's holy spirit (which I believe also needs faith, and a desire for unity). The opposite of the work of the flesh - division, strife
2. Without spot.- undefiled, unblemished, free from vice.
 - a. 1 Timothy 6:14 NKJV - that you keep [this] commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,
Blameless = G423 = ἀνεπίληπτος anepilēptos, an-ep-eel'-ape-tos; from [G1](#) (as a negative particle) and a derivative of [G1949](#); not arrested, i.e. (by implication) inculpable:—blameless, unrebukeable.
 - b. James 1:27 NKJV - Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, [and] to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
 - c. 1 Peter 1:19 NKJV - but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
3. Blameless - only used twice. G298 ἀμώμητος amōmētos, am-o'-may-tos; from [G1](#) (as a negative particle) and a derivative of [G3469](#); unblamable:—blameless.
 - a. Philippians 2:15 NKJV - that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

2 Peter 3:15 NKJV - and consider [that] the longsuffering of our Lord [is] salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

2 Peter 3:16 NKJV - as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable [people] twist to their own destruction, as [they do] also the rest of the Scriptures.

From ESV Global Study Bible:

2 Pet. 3:16 *In all his letters shows awareness of some kind of collection of Paul's letters. **some things . . . hard to understand.** Correctly understanding some hard passages of Scripture requires much effort and God-given wisdom. **The ignorant and unstable twist Paul's teachings as they do the other Scriptures.** This implies that Paul's writings were considered Scripture in NT times, having the same level of divine authority as the OT Scripture. The Greek word translated "Scriptures" occurs 51 times in the NT. Almost every time it refers to the OT Scripture. Twice (here and [1 Tim. 5:18](#)) some NT writings are also included. This indicates that NT books written or authorized by Christ's apostles were recognized to be God's Word at a very early date.*

2 Peter 3:17 NKJV - You therefore, beloved, since you know [this] beforehand, **beware** lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

2 Peter 3:18 NKJV - but **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him [be] the glory both now and forever. Amen.

From John Gill's Exposition of the Bible:

But grow in grace,.... In the gifts of grace, which, under a divine blessing, may be increased by using them: gifts neglected decrease, but stirred up and used, are improved and increase. And though men are to be thankful for their gifts, and be contented with them, yet they may lawfully desire more, and in the use of means seek an increase of them, which may be a means of preserving themselves, and others, from the error of the wicked.

DD We also have the examples of Jesus' parables about the sower and the seed (growing much fruit on good soil), the pounds and talents, and John 15 where Jesus said he wants us to bear much fruit.

And knowledge.. As he started this epistle

2 Peter 1:5 NKJV - But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

From Cambridge Bible:

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ] The final thought of the Epistle, like that with which it opened, is the growth of the Christian life. Here, as there (chap. 2Pe_1:5), stress is laid on knowledge as an element of growth, partly as essential to completeness in the Christian life, partly also, perhaps, in reference to the "knowledge falsely so called" (1Ti_6:20) of which the false teachers boasted.

To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen] The word "glory" in the Greek has the article, which makes it include all the glory which men were wont, in their doxologies, to ascribe to God. The Apostle has learnt the full meaning of the words "that all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father" (Joh_5:23). The effect of his teaching may be traced in the Churches to which the letter was mainly addressed, in Pliny's account of the worship of Christians in the Asiatic provinces, as including "a hymn sung to Christ as to God" (Ep. ad Trajan. 96). The Greek

phrase for "for ever" (literally, for the day of the æon, or eternity) is a peculiar one, and expresses the thought that "the day" of which the Apostle had spoken in 2Pe_3:10; 2Pe_3:12 would be one which should last through the new æon that would then open, and to which no time-limits could be assigned.

*The absence of any salutations, like those with which the First Epistle ended, is, perhaps, in part due to the wider and more encyclical character which marks the Second. **The Apostle was content that his last words should be on the one hand an earnest entreaty that men should "grow" to completeness in their spiritual life, and, on the other, the ascription of an eternal glory to the Lord and Master whom he loved.***

This concludes our study of 2 Peter. Although there is much more that you can examine and study on your own if you want to dive deeper and learn more! It certainly is a very timely book for the days in which we live!