

2 Peter 3:14-18

Lesson 8

Peter closes his second letter with warnings and instructions that are close to his heart, encouraging believers to *look forward* and to *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*. May his final words inspire you to live your life for the glory of our precious Savior.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Peter 3:14

1. Observe the word *therefore* which links verse 14 with the previous verses of chapter 3. According to *His promise* what do we as believers *look for*? see verse 13
2. Think about the phrase *looking forward to these things*. In what way is the *promise* of verse 13 to influence the way we live now?
 - a. Define the word *diligent*.
 - b. Think of the opposite of *diligence* by supplying antonyms for the word *diligent*.
3. What do we learn about applying *diligence* from the following Scriptures:

Proverbs 4:23

2 Peter 1:5

2 Peter 1:10
4. *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent...* When we are *looking forward* with eager anticipation to Christ's return there is a desire within us to *be diligent*. Why? see 2 Peter 3:14b
5. *So, beloved, since you are expecting these things, be eager to be found by Him (at His coming) without spot or blemish and at peace (in serene confidence, free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts).* (2 Peter 3:14 Amplified) What does it mean to you to *be found in Him*:
 - a. *in peace*
 - b. *without spot*
 - c. *blameless*

DAY TWO: Read 2 Peter 3:15,16

1. Using 2 Peter 3:9b, explain the meaning of 2 Peter 3:15a.
 - a. Consider the *longsuffering* of the Lord by writing Psalm 86:15.

2. Peter refers to *our beloved brother Paul* and his writing to them in 2 Peter 3:15. What did Paul write about the *longsuffering* of God in Romans 2:4?

3. According to 2 Peter 3:15b, what was *given to him* for the writing of his letters?
 - a. Recognize God's *wisdom* through Paul in the last phrase of Romans 2:4 by writing it here.

4. What were the *untaught and unstable people* doing with Paul's words?

5. Notice the words in 2 Peter 3:16 *...rest of the Scriptures*. In what way does this provide an affirmation of the inspiration of Paul's *epistles*?

6. Rather than *twist* the *Scriptures* we are to be taught by them, believe them, and apply them to our lives. Confirm this by printing Romans 15:4.

7. We learn from 2 Peter 3:16 that Paul wrote *some things hard to understand*. What do you do about Scriptures you do not understand?

DAY THREE: Read 2 Peter 3:17

1. Observe the phrase *since you know this beforehand*. To what *things* might Peter be referring to? see Jude 1:3,4

a. What are believers to do in response to the knowledge of *these things*? 2 Peter 3:17

2. Consider the phrase *fall from your own steadfastness*. Define *steadfastness*.

a. Considering these definitions, what does it mean to *fall from your own steadfastness*?

b. It should be the fervent desire of every believer to be *steadfast*. From the following verses, share ways believers can avoid *falling from their own steadfastness* and *the error of the wicked*.

Acts 2:42 1

Corinthians 15:58

Jude 1:20,21

3. Consider the serious implication of the words *being led away*. How does this speak to you?

a. What can you as a believer do to *beware* so that you will not be *led away* from the truth?

4. From a Romans 16:18 and Ephesians 4:14 perspective, describe the *wicked* and those who are *led away*:

a. the deceived

b. the deceivers

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Peter 3:18

1. Believers are exhorted to *beware* and are warned against *falling from their own steadfastness* and *being led away with the error of the wicked*. What instruction in verse 18 follows the warnings of verse 17?
 - a. How will *growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* keep us from *falling from our own steadfastness*?

2. Peter closes with a doxology (praise to God). Write the closing praises of this letter.

3. Concentrate on the words *now* and *forever*. Believers are to bring *glory* to Jesus both *now* and *forever*. How do we bring *glory to Him now*?

4. *Growing in grace* is applying what we have in Christ to our lives. *Knowledge* of Him is how *we grow in grace*. What does 2 Peter 1:2 say about this?

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, - 2 Thessalonians 1:3