

Standing in the True Grace of God

Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

2 Peter 3:14–18

Read 2 Peter 3. Reread 2 Peter 3:14–18.

1. What will take place when Jesus Christ comes again?

v. 10

v. 13

2. How does Peter describe the lifestyle of believers who are conscious of the second coming? (vv. 11, 14)

How do we put this into practice? (Col. 1:9–12; 1 Peter 4:7–11)

3. How should your answers to question 1 serve as powerful motivators for holy living?

4. The false teachers claimed that the delay of Christ's return was evidence that he was not coming back (v. 4).
 - a. What does Peter say is the cause for the "delay"? (vv. 9, 15a)

 - b. God's patience is evidence of his desire that "everyone ... come to repentance" (v. 9) and salvation (v.15). How can you participate in what God is doing in these last days? (Col. 4:2–6; 1 Pet. 3:15)

5. Peter links his writings with all of Paul's letters, and Paul's letters with the "other Scriptures" (v. 16).
 - a. In making these connections, what source of authority is Peter claiming for both his and Paul's writings? (1:21; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16)

 - b. Why would this connection be important for Peter's readers to know? (Consider the concerns Peter has addressed in this letter.)

6. By Peter's own admission, some of Paul's writings are difficult to understand.
 - a. How were "ignorant and unstable people" (v. 16) handling these and other difficult passages in the Scriptures? (v. 16)

 - b. How are believers to handle difficult passages of scripture? (Jn. 16:13–15; Acts 2:42; 17:11; Jas. 1:5)

7. What awaits those who distort the truth of God's word? (v. 16)

8. Peter ends his epistle with final instructions for his readers.
 - a. What is his exhortation in verse 17a?

 - b. What are the dangers for those who do not heed this exhortation? (v. 17b; Heb. 2:1; 3:12)

 - c. What positive steps can believers take to avert the dangers mentioned in verse 17? (v. 18; Heb. 3:13–15)

9. Why is the combination of grace and knowledge Peter talks about in verse 18 so vital for growth in the Christian's life? Hint: consider the potential dangers of one without the other.

10. What aspect of your study of 1 & 2 Peter has had the most impact on your life? Memorize your favorite verse.