

# A STUDY OF 2 PETER

## Closing Words (2 Peter 3:14-18)

Peter's great concern for the church is evident in his strong and repeated warnings concerning false teachers and those who scoff at the promises of God. Peter says he wants to remind the Christians about the present dangers and that he has now written twice about these matters.



No one should doubt that Christ will return and that God will destroy the world by fire. The reason that Christ has not yet come is so that men and women have time to repent. It is God's desire that all come to repentance; however the time will come when God will bring an end to life on earth and the judgement will arrive.

Any who believe that God is slow in fulfilling his promises should remember that God does not count time like human beings. To him, a thousand years is as a day, and a day as a thousand years. When God does destroy the earth it will come in an unexpected manner like the arrival of a thief. Since this will happen, Christians should live lives of holiness and godliness.

Now in 2 Peter 3:14-18, Peter makes a final appeal to his readers and three times in the final chapter Peter calls his readers, "beloved" expressing his emotion and love for these brothers and sisters in Christ.

### 1. In verse 14, Peter expresses the fact that Christians are a "waiting" people. What does this mean?

Christians are to be 1) diligent; 2) without spot, and 3) without blemish as they wait. In 2 Peter 2:13, Peter had referred to the false teachers as blots and blemishes indicating that the Christian must remain untainted by the false teaching and immorality of those who desire to deceive.

### 2. In 2 Peter 1:5 urges his brothers and sisters to "make every effort" in their Christian walk and now in 3:14 he says to "be diligent." What do these phrase teach about living the Christian life?

### 3. What does it mean to live at peace?

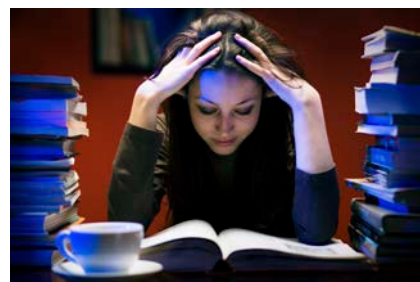
In verse 15, Peter again makes the assertion that God's delay in destroying the earth or his "patience" are for salvation or to allow men and women time to repent. It is the desire of God's heart that every man and every woman would come to Christ in faith, repentance, and baptism. If this is the desire of God's heart then it should be our heart's desire as well.

We learn the following about Paul's teachings in verses 15 and 16:

- 1) Paul wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (*wisdom given to him.*)
- 2) Peter and Paul are in agreement (as are all Scripture writers)
- 3) Some of Paul's writings are hard to understand
- 4) False teachers twist Paul's writings
- 5) Paul's writings were considered Scripture in the 1st century (equal in authority to all Old Testament and other New Testament writings)

#### 4. What makes Paul's writings hard to understand?

#### 5. How can we understand Paul's writings as well as the other Scriptures?



#### 6. How and why do false teachers "twist" Scriptures and how does this lead to their destruction?

Peter is not providing new information since his readers already know about the matters of which he is writing. Knowing about false teachers and their danger does not mean that the danger has been removed. Christians must remain on guard so as not to be carried away by false teaching. It is possible for a Christian to stumble and be lost if they follow those who teach and live in error and lawlessness, but we can be confident not to fall if we follow and obey the Lord.

Christians need to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. This indicates a continual maturing process throughout life. The nature of this growth is in *"the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."*

#### 7. Why does Peter mention knowledge so often? (1:2, 3, 8; 2:20; 3:18)

Peter closes with the doxology: *"To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity."* This is a prayer for Christ to always be given the glory that is rightfully due him.

#### 8. What are the most important lessons in 2 Peter?