

# 2 Peter 3: 1 - 18

Lenny D'Ambrosia

2 Peter 3: 1-18

Ch 2: 1-22 **E. The Warning against False Teachers**

The Description and Judgment of False Teachers.

The Character and conduct of False Teachers

# 2 Peter 3: 1 - 18

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## Ch 3: 1-17 **F. The Second Coming of Christ and the End of the World**

The First Thing to Know – Scoffers Shall Come

The One Thing Not to Be Ignorant About –Christ’s return

Believers must live holy and godly lives

Believers must count the Lord’s longsuffering as salvation

Believers must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and be on guard against False Teachers who may lead them into error.

## Ch 3: 18 **G. Closing**

1. Why did Peter write this letter, as well as his first letter? ([3:1-2](#))

## 2 Peter 3:1-2

<sup>1</sup> This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

<sup>2</sup> that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.

**A. Stir your minds up to pure thinking**

**B. Remember the words of the prophets**

**C. Remember the commandments of the Lord that the apostles taught**

1. Why did Peter write this letter, as well as his first letter? ([3:1-2](#))

## A. Stir your minds up to pure thinking

Pure minds - means to have a clear, unmixed, uncontaminated, focused and concentrated mind.

At salvation, the Holy Spirit gives each believer a **sincere mind**, a new understanding that is purified and uncontaminated by the seductive influences of the world and the flesh

By reiterating spiritual truths that his readers already knew, the apostle armed them with renewed conviction and rebuttal against false teaching.

# 1. Why did Peter write this letter, as well as his first letter? ([3:1-2](#))

## Ephesians 1:7-14

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

<sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

<sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

<sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him

<sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

<sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

<sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

<sup>14</sup> who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

1. Why did Peter write this letter, as well as his first letter? ([3:1-2](#))

## **B. Remember the words of the prophets**

The Old Testament prophets from the beginning to the end shared God's final wrath with His children.

### **Zephaniah 3:8**

<sup>8</sup> "Therefore wait for Me," declares the LORD, "For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.

1. Why did Peter write this letter, as well as his first letter? ([3:1-2](#))

**C. Remember the commandments of the Lord that the apostles taught**

**Matthew 16:27**

<sup>27</sup> "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and **WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.**

**1 Timothy 6:14**

<sup>14</sup> that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

2. What did Peter say would occur in the last days? What would the scoffers say? ([3:3-4](#))

## 2 Peter 3:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts,

<sup>4</sup> and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

Mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts,

"Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

2. What did Peter say would occur in the last days? What would the scoffers say? (3:3-4)

**Last days** – The period of history between Christ's first coming and His second coming

**Hebrews 1:2**

<sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

**1 John 2:18**

<sup>18</sup> Children, it is the **last hour**; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

2. What did Peter say would occur in the last days? What would the scoffers say? (3:3-4)

**Mockers will come with their mocking following their own lusts** –

False teachers will ridicule

False teachers will engage in immorality

**Romans 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

2. What did Peter say would occur in the last days? What would the scoffers say? ([3:3](#)-4)

## **“Where is the promise of His coming?”**

False teachers (scoffers) say that the second coming is false.

False teachers (scoffers) say the laws of nature run the world and keep it stable and functioning.

3. What will the "scoffers" deliberately forget? ([3:5-6](#))

**By the word of God, *the* heavens existed long ago, and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water.**

**The world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.**

**Hebrews 11:3**

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

4. What is the faith of the earth and ungodly men? (3:7)

## 2 Peter 3:7

<sup>7</sup> But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept **for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.**

**Ungodly men will face destruction at the day of judgment**

## 4. What is the faith of the earth and ungodly men? ([3:7](#))

### Malachi 3:16-18

<sup>16</sup> Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

<sup>17</sup> "They will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare *My* own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."

<sup>18</sup> So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

5. What did Peter tell his readers not to forget? (3:8)

## 2 Peter 3:8

<sup>8</sup> But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day

**5. What did Peter tell his readers not to forget? (3:8)**

## **2 Timothy 3:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

<sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

<sup>3</sup> unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

<sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

<sup>5</sup> holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

## 6. Why is the Lord patient? (3:9)

### 2 Peter 3:9

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

**Not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

## 6. Why is the Lord patient? (3:9)

### God is *longsuffering*

God is patient with us

God bears and suffers a long time with us

God perseveres and is constant in suffering with us

God is steadfast and enduring in being patient with us

God loves us and does not want any one to perish, but come to repentance

# 7. How will the day of the Lord appear? (3:10)

## 2 Peter 3:10

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

The Lord will come like a thief

The heavens will pass away with a roar

The elements will be destroyed with intense heat

The earth and its works will be burned up

# 7. How will the day of the Lord appear? (3:10)

## The Lord will come like a thief

Not knowing when Jesus is returning keeps believers focused upon Him and His return. It keeps believers looking and longing for Him. It keeps believers watching, and it stirs believers to live pure and holy lives.

Not knowing when Jesus is returning serves as a warning to unbelievers. It warns them that they must repent now, today, for He could return today and catch them unprepared.

### **Matthew 24:42**

<sup>42</sup> "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

## 7. How will the day of the Lord appear? (3:10)

God spoke the Word and created the world

God spoke the Word and destroyed the earth in Noah's day

God is going to speak the Word and the day of the Lord will come

### **Isaiah 51:6**

<sup>6</sup> "Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment And its inhabitants will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not wane.

8. What reason did Peter give his readers for living holy and godly lives? ([3:11-12](#))

## 2 Peter 3:11-12

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought **you** **to be in holy conduct and godliness,**

<sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

8. What reason did Peter give his readers for living holy and godly lives? ([3:11-12](#))

## **Believers must live holy and godly lives**

### **Hebrews 12:14**

<sup>14</sup> Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

## **Believers must look for and speed up the Day of God**

Believers are looking, waiting patiently and are anticipating the day of God

Believers are also hasten or earnestly desiring the day of God.

9. What reason did Peter give his readers to hope for the future? ([3:13](#))

## 2 Peter 3:13

<sup>13</sup> But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

**Believers must look for the new heavens and new earth**

## 1 John 2:16-17

<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

<sup>17</sup> The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

10. What did Peter urge his readers to make every effort to do? Why? ([3:14-15](#))

## 2 Peter 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

<sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

10. What did Peter urge his readers to make every effort to do? Why? ([3:14-15](#))

## Believers must be prepared for the coming of Christ

Look for these things

Be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless

Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation

Jesus illustrated the reality of God's merciful patience in the parable of the prodigal son –  
Luke 15: 11-32

11. What did Peter say about the apostle Paul's writings? (3:15-16)

## 2 Peter 3:15-16

<sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

<sup>16</sup> as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. 28

11. What did Peter say about the apostle Paul's writings? ([3:15-16](#))

## **According to the wisdom given him**

Paul and the other writers of the New Testament were inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Paul sent letters to the Galatians, Ephesians and the Colossians, so the believers in Asia minor were familiar with much of Paul's correspondence.

Paul addressed these same things in his letters.

11. What did Peter say about the apostle Paul's writings? ([3:15-16](#))

Peter acknowledged that there **are some things hard to understand** in Paul's writings – the day of the Lord, the return of Christ and the glories of eternity.

The second coming of the Lord - 1 Thess. 4: 15-17

The revealing of the man of sin - 2 Thess. 2: 1-4

The return of Christ in judgment - 1 Thess. 5: 1-11;  
2 Thess. 1: 3-10

The glories of heaven - 2 Cor. 5: 1; 2 Cor. 12: 2-4

11. What did Peter say about the apostle Paul's writings? ([3:15-16](#))

**Which the untaught and unstable distort,  
as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures,  
to their own destruction**

False teachers use this as an opportunity to distort the truth in the Scriptures.

This is to their own destruction, as well as to that of their followers.

11. What did Peter say about the apostle Paul's writings? ([3:15-16](#))

## **Philippians 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

12. Why did Peter instruct his readers to be on their guard? ([3:17](#))

## 2 Peter 3:17

<sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

**So you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,**

12. Why did Peter instruct his readers to be on their guard? ([3:17](#))

## **Believers are to be on guard**

False teachers pervert and twist the Scriptures.

False teachers deny the Lord.

False teachers also deny the return of Christ and the judgment to come.

What is Peter's final instruction? (3:18)

## 2 Peter 3:18

<sup>18</sup> but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

**Grow in the grace and knowledge of our  
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**What is Peter's final instruction? (3:18)**

**Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

Grow – to advance or increase

Grace – God forgives the sins of His children

Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
– believers embrace the Scriptures by  
increasing their knowledge of Him.

**What is Peter's final instruction? (3:18)**

**To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity**

Believers are to worship and adore God

Believers are to give Jesus all the glory in the present and in eternity.

# What is Peter's final instruction? (3:18)

## Colossians 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

<sup>3</sup> For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

<sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.