

## Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus

2 Peter 3.14-18

After the recent election, some Clinton voters acted like it was the end of the world. The *real* end of this world will be at the ‘day of the Lord,’ followed by the creation of ‘new heavens and new earth’ (3.10,13). We look forward to this...and it should impact the way we live.

Second Peter Summary

- Christ’s return is assured by prophecy and His Transfiguration.
- False teachers deny this, and promote greed and sensual lifestyles.
- The ‘day of the Lord’ will judge evil, and usher in Christ’s reign.

***Since you look for these things... (14-16)***

- Live in harmony with one another
- Avoid the depravity of the world
- Look forward to your coming salvation (deliverance)

*What ‘deliverance’ does Paul tell us about? (1 Thess. 5.9)*

***Knowing this beforehand... (17-18)***

- Don’t let anyone or anything turn you from following Christ
- Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ

*Grow in the  
grace and  
knowledge of Jesus*  
2 Peter 3:18

1. 2 Peter 3.14 begins, *Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things...* The idea communicated in the Greek here is that Peter’s readers were *looking forward expectantly* for the coming of the day of the Lord – they *expected* Jesus to return any day! If you *expect* someone to come, what do you do? How does it affect your actions and attitudes? In v14, Peter intimates that those who *expect* Jesus to return at any moment will be motivated to live differently. What do you think it means to be *found by Him* (Christ, when He returns) *in peace*? What is the ‘new commandment’ of Jesus to His disciples which this probably refers to? To be *spotless and blameless* means to avoid worldliness and sin exhibited by false teachers (see 2.1-3, 7, 10-16). In your own words, how do these verses tell us to live?
2. The word *salvation* in v15 can be translated *deliverance*. We tend to think immediately of being *saved from going to hell*, but that is not what concerned Peter’s readers – they were saved (Peter refers to them as “beloved”) already! Peter could be highlighting God’s patience so that more people will be saved (see 3.9). Or he could be saying that Christians can trust God to *rescue* them (see 2.9) in the same way He rescued Noah and Lot from destruction in their day. Peter adds that Paul writes of this rescue/salvation. He may have been referring to 1 Thess. 1.10 and 5.9. What coming event do those verses say Christians will be *rescued* or *saved* from?
3. Peter again refers to his readers as ‘beloved’ in v17. In addition to this indicating they are believers, it also reflects his deep affection for them. What is his warning to them in this verse? What was the danger if they fell away? (Be careful.)
4. The ‘flip side of the coin’ of the warning in v17 is the exhortation in v18: *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*. To grow here means to increase, to gain in. Note that *grace* and *knowledge* are both important. Why is this so? What are some ways you can ‘grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus’ in 2017?

