

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 13TH - 14TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 2 PETER

## HELD INTO ACCOUNT (2 PETER 3:1-9) THE SECOND COMING

Most of the end of this letter focuses on the return of Jesus and why we are to live differently until that time.

- We should live differently for 2 reasons: **as Christians, we love Jesus and want to honor Him, and we know that one day, He will return to reward good and punish evil.**

### “RECALL THE WORDS PREVIOUSLY SPOKEN”

If we're to live righteously anticipating Jesus' return, we must remember the instruction and encouragement of the Bible.

- **If we hold onto the truth of God's Word, we will be safe from contamination of false teachings that lead to destruction in this life and eventually eternity.**

### BE PREPARED FOR “SCOFFERS”

Like Jesus before him, Peter makes it clear that as time goes on, more people will make fun of the idea of God returning to judge mankind.

- Even as Christians, we can let **the perceived delay** of the Second Coming make us think we have forever to get our affairs in order. **The truth is we have limited time.**

### TO PURSUE THEIR OWN EVIL DESIRES

**People tend to ridicule the idea of God because they don't want any authority over them to tell them their choices are incorrect.**

- The problem is deeper than just belief in God; it is **the reckless pursuit of self**. If we selfishly pursue our desires, we become blind to the truth and cynical about others.

### “THEY DELIBERATELY OVERLOOK THIS”

Despite God's judgment in the past (Noah) and the clarity of God's expectations of us through His Word, false teachers and the people they persuade **willingly ignore the truth.**

- **Ignoring God and His Word won't stop Him from returning and holding us accountable to His standard of truth.**

### WE MUST ALSO NOT OVERLOOK HIS LOVE FOR US

We must not forget that time to the Creator is much different than it is for us. What is “one day” to us is like “a thousand years” to God.

- This simply means God is outside of the constraints of time and space. So, **we must learn to trust in His timing and be ready for His return.**

### “NOT WANTING ANY TO PERISH”

God's delayed return is rooted in love. Peter tells us **God “is patient with [us], not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.”**

- **We're freely offered salvation, but we must be remorseful for sin and be willing to walk away from evil.** Though God desires none go to Hell, many will choose that path.

### LIKE A THIEF (2 PETER 3:10-13)

#### “...THE WORKS ON IT WILL BE DISCLOSED”

The “day of the Lord” is the Second Coming. **The patience of God will eventually run its course**, and Christ will return to **expose and judge the evil in the world.**

- Though Christians will not be shocked, **to non-Christians, it will be “like a thief in the night” that catches them off-guard.**

### A LITERAL COSMIC COLLAPSE

Revelation 16-19 confirms what Peter briefly mentions in v10. Before Jesus' return, there will be literal cosmic disturbances and a shaking of the earth.

- This will be people's last chance to repent before God judges mankind and creates a new universe and earth (Revelation 21).

### THIS KNOWLEDGE SHOULD SHAPE OUR CHARACTER

Knowing that God loves us and that He will one day return to hold evil into account should make it “clear what sort of people [we] should be in...conduct and godliness.”

- **Conduct** and **godliness** are both plural (ongoing) and literally mean **a change in our thoughts, behavior, and actions.**

### THE POINT IS ALL THINGS WILL BE EXPOSED

If God loves us, is patently waiting for us to turn our lives over to Him, and is also coming back to hold us accountable, **we would be wise to be honest and repentant.**

- Jesus' return will “dissolve” our facades. **We must confess, repent, and put our trust in something greater than our efforts.**

### “WHERE RIGHTEOUSNESS DWELLS”

If we want an eternity where “righteousness dwells,” we must live in preparation for that. **This doesn't require perfection, but desire.**

- We will make mistakes, but we must desire to live holy. **Sin should disturb us, and we should take all steps to avoid it. We must also know that God is gracious.**

### EFFORT & GRACE (2 PETER 3:14-18)

#### “MAKE EVERY EFFORT”

After writing about some pretty heavy stuff, Peter implores the readers to diligently apply themselves to the process of their salvation.

- Though we will not be perfect, we're called to **“make every effort to be found without... blemish in His sight” by living out our faith with obedience to the Word.**

### DISTORTING THE TEACHINGS

Peter points to Paul and affirms that he also told Christians to live godly lives as evidence of their salvation. Peter mentions that because false teachers were **twisting Paul's words to condone their sinful lifestyles.**

- **We still use Paul's teachings on grace as an excuse to live in sin.** This is dangerous.

### A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY?

If we're “untaught and unstable” in our knowledge of Jesus, we're susceptible to **“falling from [our] own stable position.”** Whether one can lose, forfeit, or just never had salvation is moot.

- **If there's no evidence of a relationship with God, one has a false sense of security in their salvation.**

### KEEP MOVING FORWARD

No real Christian believes they've arrived. **True Christianity is a continual growth in our understanding and love of God and people.**

- This growth is only by God's grace through our faith. **We are not designed to be static or to go through sanctification (set apart by, and more like, God) alone.**

### THE LIES

- There is no God or authority above us. Our lives are exclusively ours.
- If there is a God, there are many pathways to God and Heaven.
- Truth is relative, personal, and interchangeable, so we should just follow our hearts and feelings.

### LIES FROM WITHIN

- Grace gives us an excuse to live in sin.
- That we can't live holy, obedient, and free.
- That we can pick and choose teachings from the Bible based on cultural or personal acceptance.
- We have all the time we want to get our spiritual lives in order.

### THE TRUTH

- To love Jesus is to live in obedience (John 14:15).
- To follow Christ, we must pursue righteousness because He is righteous.
- The truth is **we will be held accountable for our knowledge and what we did with it.**
- Some of us have a false sense of security, and “a tree will be known by its fruit.”
- The truth is **all things will eventually be revealed.** Honesty, confession, and repentance would be wise because God's patience will eventually run out.
- The truth is that we're not called to manage sin, but to let God deliver us from it. **Not perfection, but sanctification.**
- We need to be growing in Jesus every day until we die or He returns. We must “make every effort” to live in accordance with His commands and principles.
- **God is patiently but eagerly waiting for our hearts. He loves us immensely and desires none of us will perish!**