

“Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?” (3:11)

This is the destiny of the world and its people . . . certain and sure; this world is temporal, fallen, filled with unrighteousness and fading fast . . . headed to a certain conclusion. *What adjustments should you make? I would think preparation for eternity would be of first importance . . . then, after preparing for future judgment, you will be free to live . . .*

Living with the end in mind, what kind of person ought you to be (Other passages which speak to this: 1 John 3:1-3; Ecc. 12:13-14; 2 Cor. 4:16-18)

God’s merciful patience has given us an opportunity for repentance. You and I are called to a *life of repentance*, being constantly transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Rom. 12:1-2)

“I considered my ways, and turned my feet to thy statutes” (Psalm 119:59)
Intentional questions of self diagnosis, followed by adjustments in thoughts, beliefs, emotions, and actions .

What kind of person **ought** you to be? (*dei - it must happen; behooves you*)
Wondering and pondering a question: Do you ever ask this question?

“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!” (2 Cor. 12:5)

These are timeless truths which form our minds, hearts, emotions, and behaviors . . .
early morning grogginess: this is the process by which you become different and make an eternal impact: *change the world? start with me!!*

Personal Questions of Eternal Importance

1. Are you Willing? (Becoming a person of purity)
 - a. "Holy conduct and godliness" (v.11) *holiness and godliness seem strange and abnormal to the world around us*
 - b. What is holy conduct and godliness? It is purity. It is the willingness to say, 'not my will, but thy will be done' in every area of life.
 - c. "Purity of heart is to will one thing"
 - d. This is a major challenge, since by nature our desire is to define and direct our lives by our own will. "Ought" is a word that by nature we rebel against because we want what WE want; we want to be in control of time, results
 - e. Eschatology *ought* to be forming and transforming my ethical behavior.
 - f. Ungodliness: the stubborn refusal to live for God and His glory alone
 - g. Godliness: a life of devotion to God which results in a life which is pleasing to God. (Devotion is defined as reverence and love)
 - h. Simply put, it is to have my own will broken and transformed to align with God's revealed will in His word.
 - i. "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching whether it is of God" (John 7:17)
 - j. "For it is God who is at work in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (Phil. 2:13)

2. Are you Waiting? (Becoming a person of patience)
 - a. "Looking for" (3:12) - the ESV has here "waiting"
 - b. Waiting, looking and longing for His return and redemption: patiently trusting His timing: *we all seem to be rushing to judgment day*
 - c. John the Baptist once asked this question while in prison: "Are you the expected one, or are we looking for someone else?" (Matt. 11:1-6)
 - d. Psalm 27:12-13 "I would have despaired unless I believed I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait upon the LORD. Wait, I say, upon the LORD." (See also Isaiah 40)
 - e. God, slow us down. Save us from impatience, panic and fret. Teach us to wait patiently upon your timing, trusting that you make all things beautiful in your time.
 - f. "The fruit of the Spirit is . . . patience." (Gal. 5:22-23)
 - g. Romans 5:1-5: tribulation leads to endurance . . . which leads to hope

3. Are you Working? (Becoming a person of persistence)
 - a. “And hastening the coming of the day of God” (2:12) Waiting does not mean apathy, laziness or complacency. Rather, making the most of the opportunities we have.
 - b. How is it possible to “speed up” the timing of the day of God?
 - c. God achieves His purposes through the instrument of His people, weaving His people into His plans for the world. We are called to work toward His mission, being about the Father’s business.
 - i. Our personal lives: to become like Christ, fit for heaven and eternity.
 - ii. Our community mission: Jesus is building His church.
 - iii. The Word and its elements: Righteousness
 - d. Being diligent toward His mission: examples . . .
 - i. Jonah was a reluctant and rebellious prophet, but God used his preaching to bring Nineveh to repentance. In the book of Ruth, God used Boaz and Ruth to further His promise of the coming Messiah.
 - e. Do all that you can do, and leave the outcome and timing to God alone:
 - i. Be absolutely prepared and persistent, and *perhaps my chance will come*; Pray, serve, share, grow, to reach the nations (Matt. 24:14)
 - f. As people are saved and obey his commands, His work takes place
 - i. Pray that the Lord will send workers into the harvest . . .
 - g. See Romans 13:11-14; Rev. 22:20 praying; Lord, come quickly.

4. Are you Watching? (Becoming a person of perspective)
 - a. “We are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells” (3:13) What an incredible promised future the children of God have been given. Righteousness dwells there . . . fully and completely.
 - b. God has a good plan for the heavens and earth. The current elements will be melted and reformed and reshaped.
 - c. Creation itself is longing for this future redemption (Romans 8) where all things will be made new, and righteousness will dominate this new world.
 - d. So rather than fear and dread, for the godly this is an anticipated glory and consummation of all that God has previously promised and worked.
 - e. Prospector: looking forward, an eager expectation - prospect .
 - f. What will this new world be? Read Revelation 21-22
 - i. A perfect place! Eden supersized and superceded.
 - g. Righteousness: all is well that ends well!
 - i. Isaiah 32: the effect of righteousness will be justice, quietness, peace, confidence, security, rest . . . forever, with nothing to disturb
 - ii. Luke 21:28: lift up your heads! Your redemption draws near . . .

5. Are you Walking? (Becoming a person of passion)
 - a. How then can I be counted as one of the righteous and godly? This is the ultimate question. When I pose these questions honestly, I realize that so often I have failed to be willing, waiting, working or watching . . .
 - b. "Adoption by propitiation": He made Him who knew no sin, to become sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - i. Forgiveness: before you and I need a new life, we need forgiveness
 - ii. Formation: God gives us a new nature, by His Spirit, so that not only are we forgiven but we are being transformed; outwardly we are wasting away, but inwardly renewed day by day. God gives us the help we need to grow .. with our Abba through the courses and seasons of life (He's still working on me, to make me what I ought to be)
 - iii. Future glory: "We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:1-3)
 - iv. I am sure that the God who began a good work in you will complete it at the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil. 1:6)
 - c. A Christian has God for his or her Father, and Christ as a redeeming older brother. He is a good, powerful Father. How else would we expect a good Abba to write the end of this story? If we being evil know how to give good gifts to our children . . . how much more the heavenly Father?
 - i. He has given us the Spirit of adoption as a down payment on our inheritance, by which we cry 'Abba, Father' (Romans 8:15; Ephesians 1) (Everything our Father has will be ours)
 - ii. "Adoption is the highest privilege of the gospel. The traitor is forgiven, brought in for supper, and given the family name. To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater." (JI Packer)