

“Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things”

What you believe about your future affects your mood and actions today

- A future event or goal that has the effect of inspiration, hope, and motivation now
- Having something wonderful to look forward to with hope and anticipation is transforming. “We are looking for new heavens and a new earth” (3:13)
- To look forward in faith to what God has prepared is not only commanded, but it is also for our health and growth.
 - Current conditions? *Life is unfair, people are unreliable, the future is unpredictable, and death is inevitable. The conditions may not change, but the promised future can change how we view and respond to our current conditions*
 - Eschatology is not for curiosity but maturity. It is to affect us and thereby the people and world around us.
 - “To live is Christ, to die is gain”
 - I press on, toward the prize, of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus
 - The Bible holds judgment ahead of us for a reason . .
 - For our good and edification: our deepest longing and desire
 - The ungodly and ungodliness will be removed; righteousness will reign
 - Eden restored, supersized and superceded ..(Rev. 21 and 22)

In response, in light of this future. All that is needed is preparation, and that is exactly the point. To help us grow. *Looking forward to this future glory, we ought to be:*

1. Engaged in Personal Evaluation: a call to ongoing, personal spiritual examination
 - a. Make every effort to be found by Him- in peace, spotless and blameless
 - b. How will I be found? *don't hide too well.*
 - i. Seven moral qualities of godliness in 2 Peter 1:1-11 - review
 - ii. The same word is used in 1:10
 - c. In peace, spotless and blameless? How does this happen?
 - i. The verse? Psalm 119:59: “I considered my ways, and turned my feet to Thy testimonies”
 - d. We are called to be like Him and His prepared environment . . becoming where we are going and who we are growing to be with and like
 - e. Let no root of bitterness spring up among you: Hebrews 12:15
 - i. *This is not optional busywork; am I peaceful? Pure? Spotless? (How? Fruit of the Spirit; Beatitudes) examine your heart in light of these and other passages*
 - ii. *Psalm 19; 139;*
 1. *I am at peace with His return; I am not fearful but joyful -*
 - f. With judgment and eternity one breath away, what is the state of your soul?

2. **Empowered for Spiritual Transformation: a command for ongoing spiritual formation . . . serves to shape us like clay into the heart and person of Christ**
 - a. **You therefore, belovedKnowing this beforehand . . .**
 - i. **told in advance; heads up . . . warning and encouragement**
 - b. **Grateful: regard the patience of the Lord to be salvation - - God's saving and redeeming purposes are only possible because of His patience; He is not capricious, but longsuffering . . . and this helps others, and our witness**
 - i. **Empowers evangelism and service = always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you**
 - c. **Guarding - stabilize . . . re-inforce; keep your legs underneath you**
 - i. **Don't get carried away . . . swept by the current of the culture of ungodliness and worldliness: mortify, kill, the sin within you**
 1. **Do not let the world squeeze you into its mold . . .**
 2. **Errors of lawless men**
 3. **Do not lose your stability and steadfastness**
 - d. **Growing: in grace and knowledge; that we experience and give**
 - i. **But grow. Pour your energy here**
 - ii. **Grace:**
 1. **The grace we need; receive, give**
 2. **Knowing Him - John 17:3**
 - iii. **Change the world?**
 1. **Start with me.**
 2. **Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as in heaven**
 3. **But grow up into Christ; until Christ be formed in you**
 - e. **Glorifying: Doxology, see verse 1:1-2; see also ref. 1:17**
 - i. **All about worship; Christ-centered, mortifying idolatry**
 1. **Who else did you have in mind?**
 2. **Jeremiah 9:23-24 - John 3:30**
 - ii. **Example: a funeral procession interrupts and stops us**
 - iii. **Daily fence post to fence post; the daily habits of grace**

3. **Encouraged by Eternal Glorification. (Eternal security: Future Consummation)**
 - a. **Don't be ignorant and unstable and distort the Scriptures. Know and trust the Scriptures. Take them for what they are. Let it mean what it means.**
 - b. **All that you need for life and godliness . . . is in the Word and His promises**
 - c. **Beloved, we have God's love; we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us; we live in certainty and confidence of God's eternal love for us in Christ**
 - i. **Knowing that His love is absolute security forever is very empowering and freeing. Establishing a firm identity and security.**

- ii. **Look at what God has already done as evidence and proof of what He will do. For example, consider Romans 5:**
 - 1. **While we were sinners . . . Christ died for the ungodly**
 - 2. **Some shocking things are actually good!**
 - a. **The seven signs in John's Gospel were shocking**
 - b. **The resurrection, hidden in the messianic secret, was shocking to the disciples**
 - c. **The ordinances . . . shocking to the original audience**
 - i. **His death shocked them; His resurrection also**
 - ii. **Baptism- death to life . .renewed, born again**
 - iii. **Communion - death to life . .until we eat again**
 - iv. **This shall never happen to you: Peter's shock**
- d. **You are not prepared to live in the daily grind unless and until you are also prepared for death, judgment, and eternity.**
 - i. ***Now I am free to roam about the cabin.* Having this security and identity now means I have everything to gain and nothing to lose. I am safe. No pressure. Nothing to prove. I already have my reward . . I will not be put to shame or disappointed. He is enough.**
- e. **The best time to plant a shade tree in your front yard? 30 years ago. Second-best time? Today. Begin again today.**

Having been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above!

Love is Joy in God that meets the needs of others. (John Piper)

"Have patience, believer, Eternity will right the wrongs of time." (Spurgeon)

"It is not His way to give more light on the future than we need for action in the present" (JI Packer)

"Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand" (Thomas Carlyle)

The strength of patience hangs on our capacity to believe that God is up to something good for us in all our delays and detours. (Piper)

Ye rigid plowmen, bear in mind - your labor is for future hours

Advance, spare not nor look behind:

Plow deep and straight with all your powers. (Richard Henry Horne)

I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it my main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others do the same. (CS Lewis)