

# A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF 2 PETER

## BIBLE TEXT | 2 PETER 3:11-18

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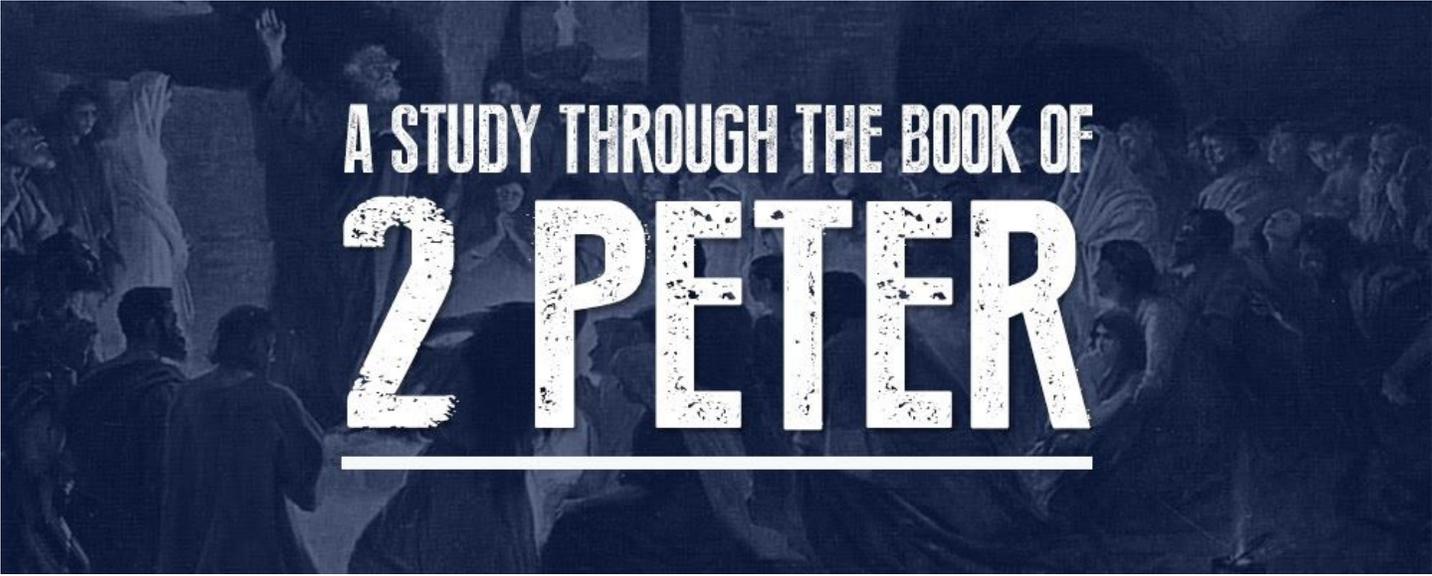
**11** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13** But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. **14** Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. **15** And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, **16** as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. **17** You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. **18** 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.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR 2 PETER 3:11-18

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When we start to talk about end times and the second coming, things can often get confusing. Premillennialism, amillennialism, postmillennialism and so much more. While it's important to study these things and know what you believe and why, I love the clear and practical way that Peter talks about it here. He gives us a clear plan of what we should be doing. The first thing we see is that, because the current world order and things of the world will dissolve, we need to live lives of holiness and godliness. This seems pretty obvious to us as believers, but do you feel the urgency of this? A new heaven and earth are coming, are you ready?



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I will be honest and tell you that this next idea was an epiphany for me. I have read many of these scriptures before but hadn't fully immersed myself in it. Verse 12 tells us that we can hasten the coming of the day of God. I'm not sure how I had brushed over this before because it is huge! We are not only eagerly awaiting it, but there are things we can do to speed it up. The question then becomes "how do we do this?"

We can do it through prayer. In Matthew 6:10 we hear Jesus ask "your kingdom come" in His famous prayer. We also see prayers for His kingdom to come in Revelation 22:20. God hears our earnest prayers.

It can also be done through preaching. Matthew 24:14 tells us that every nation will hear the gospel and then the end will come. If we aren't sharing the gospel then the world won't know and if they don't know we won't be hastening the Lord's coming.

Peter tells us in verse 14 to be diligent to be found spotless. This made me think about cleaning the house. I am not a wonderful housekeeper. Cleaning just isn't my favorite. So my house will get a bit messy before I clean it up. This isn't a huge deal; a little mess doesn't kill anyone...until a friend stops by unannounced. When I know I have people coming over I clean the house top to bottom so I'm not embarrassed. I can't do that when someone stops by without warning. Just the other day my sister and mother-in-law stopped by and I was horrified. That's how I think of verse 14. Do I want to be horrified when Christ returns and my life is a mess? Matthew 24:42 tells us to keep watch because we don't know what day the Lord will come. We need to be diligent to remain spotless, at peace with Him, and patient. We don't want to be caught by surprise, and our lives a mess, when Christ returns.

Peter ends the book by telling us to do two things, to grow in both grace and knowledge of Jesus. Grace is not a one time thing. It is more than just how He draws us into Himself. Grace and knowledge are what help prevent us from losing our stability.

## Questions:

1. What things are you doing to hasten the second coming?
2. If Jesus came back now would you be embarrassed at the state of your life? What things do you need to work on to be spotless and at peace with God?
3. In what ways are you growing your knowledge of Him? Are there other things you should be doing?