

Date: **September 5, 2021**

Title: **Living in Light of Eternity**

Scripture Text: **2 Peter 3:10-18**

Today's sermon wraps up the book of 2 Peter. As Peter concludes his letter, he focuses on describing that which is to come: the events around Jesus' second coming, described as "the Day of the Lord". We don't know when it will be and Peter describes it to be like a thief who arrives unexpectedly. There are those who anticipate the thief's arrival and are prepared, but there are those who don't pay attention to the inevitable arrival of the thief and are surprised and not ready. What can we do to be prepared for when Jesus returns? Today's message looks at five different things we can do to be ready.

I. Be Holy (2 Peter 3:11)

Since this world is temporary, Peter encourages his readers to live holy and godly lives. This means our lifestyle and activities will be different than what the culture may reflect or encourage. To be holy is to be set apart and committed to God. Holy conduct is the actions that reflect that commitment.

- **Describe what 'holy conduct' looks like.**
- **On a scale of 1-5, how would you describe your holy conduct?**
- **Who do you know who is a good example of someone who's life shows holy conduct?**
- **How does holy conduct prepare us for Jesus' return?**

II. Be Expectant (2 Peter 3:12-13)

These verses continue to describe how the current heaven and earth will be destroyed and the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells. We are instructed to be looking for these things which have been promised. To do so is to live expectantly, anticipating these things.

- **Describe how we can live expectantly.**
- **What can we do to maintain our anticipation of Jesus' return and not get distracted by our circumstances?**
- **How can living expectantly affect how we spent our time?**

III. Be Prepared (2 Peter 3:14)

Peter now encourages his readers to apply themselves to the process of being prepared for Jesus' return. We are not passive players in God's character-shaping endeavors. We are to make every effort to be found spotless, without blemish, and at peace with him. These attributes describe the character of Jesus Christ as seen in the lives of believers.

- **How can being prepared for Jesus' return give a person peace?**
- **What can create spots or blemishes for a believer?**
- **What are practical actions for believers to take to maintain their spotlessness?**

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IV. Be Sharing (2 Peter 3:15a)

As described in 2 Peter 3:9, in vs. 15a, Peter reminds his readers that the Lord is patient, but there will be a time when opportunities for salvation will cease. We need to be looking for opportunities to share the gospel with others before it's too late.

- **On a scale of 1-5, how comfortable are you in sharing the gospel with someone?**
- **How can you become more comfortable sharing the gospel with others?**

V. Be Guarded (2 Peter 3:15b-17)

Verse 17 states to 'be on your guard' when it comes to what is said about the Scriptures. Peter uses the example of Paul's writings. Because they may be hard to understand at times, lawless people take this opportunity to twist his writings to their own benefit. We must spend time in God's word so we can discern the teaching we receive and to be on guard against those who seek to lead believers astray.

- **What are examples of how someone could be led astray with someone's twisting of the Bible.**
- **How can we be better able to determine when someone is twisting God's word?**

VI. Be Growing (2 Peter 3:18)

Peter's letter concludes with words reflecting the opening statements of [chapter 1](#). This encourages us to "keep on growing." No Christian should believe, "I have arrived." The Christian life is continually growing and was never intended to stand still. That growth finds its focus in an ever-increasing awareness and understanding of the person and character of Jesus Christ. To him belong all praise and glory.

- **This verse instructs us to grow in grace. How do we do that ([James 1:22](#))?**
- **We are also instructed to grow in knowledge. How can our time (both quantity and quality) in the Bible help us gain and use knowledge?**
- **How can our effective growth in grace and knowledge bring praise and glory to Jesus?**