

Attitude Of Christians

A Call To Holiness

“What sort of people ought you to be?” See 1 Pet. 3:14.

2PE 3:11 Since all these things [material creation] are to be destroyed in this way [manner], what sort of people ought you to be in holy [dedicated] conduct [behavior] and godliness,

- “houtos” [hou’ tos] - lit. “thus” - “Since” - NASB, NIV
 - “eusebeia” [you se’ bay a] - “piety, godliness, religion”
 - “Since all these things are to be destroyed” - The complete destruction of the world and the heavens was described in 2 Peter 3:10.
 - We must not put our trust in temporal, perishable material things.
1. We must be prepared for death, the second coming of Christ, the end of the world, and the judgment.
 2. **This earth is not our home**, but we are only temporary dwellers on the earth. (Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:13-16.).
 3. We should conduct our lives with a realization that heaven is our home.
 4. Heaven is worth every sacrifice we must make in this life.

2PE 3:12 looking for and hastening [prayer, work, obedience] the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements [minute particles] will melt with intense heat!

- “the day of the Lord” [2 Pet. 3:10] and “the day of God” have the same meaning.
 - “prosdokeo” [pros do ke’ o] - “I wait for, look for, expect.” See Joseph who “was looking for the kingdom of God. (Mk. 15:43).
 - “speudo” [spou’ do]- “hurry, make haste, strive for.” “hastening” is translated “earnestly desiring” - ASV
 - The verb frequently means to do something with speed. (Lk. 19:5,6).
- 1) It can also mean “long for” or “earnestly desiring.” ASV
 - 2) It may have the idea that we can speed up the coming of the Lord by remaining faithful and converting others since God does not want any to perish. (2 Pet. 3:9).
 - 3) McCord “eagerly awaiting the coming of the day of God.”
- It is right to pray for the coming of the Lord. (1 Cor. 16:22; Rev. 22:20).
1. The world is doomed for destruction.

2. Even the “elements” [the minute particles] that made up the universe “will melt with intense heat.” (2 Pet. 3:10).
3. It will not become a paradise, but will be destroyed by fire.
4. Our home is heaven. (Phil. 3:20).

“New Heavens And A New Earth”

2PE 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

- The Old Testament spoke of “the new heavens and earth.” (Isa. 65:17; 66:22).
 - “But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.” (2 Pet. 3:13). NIV
 - “where righteousness shall have its home”
1. The Greek “kai’nos” is “new in quality.” It does not mean new in time.
 - a. Heaven now exists and has always existed. God, Christ, the Spirit and the angels dwell there.
 - b. It is new to us because we have not been there and because it is far better than this world.
 2. We are currently living in the first heavens and earth, that is destined for destruction.

REV 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer {any} sea.

MAT 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

3. “the first heaven and the first earth” is a comprehensive expression for man’s current dwelling place.
4. This comprehensive expression denotes the world and even the whole universe.
5. Those who have new spiritual bodies will have no need for a physical universe or physical bodies.

“Be Diligent”

2PE 3:14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent [do your best, make every effort] to be found by Him in peace [with God and man], spotless and blameless [unblemished],

- “spotless and blameless” is accomplished by obeying 1 John 1:7, 9.
1. It is vital that we be reconciled to our God, and be at peace with men if it be possible.
 - a. Peace with God comes “through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 5:1)

ROM 5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

b. We need to seek to be at peace with others. (Rom. 12:18; 14:19).

The Agreement Of Peter With Paul

2PE 3:15 and regard the patience [longsuffering] of our Lord {to be} salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom [revelation] given him, wrote to you,

- “makrothumia” [ma kro thoo mee’ a] - “patience, steadfastness, endurance, forbearance.”
 - “wrote to you” - Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon and Galatians were written to Christians in the same region assuming 2 Peter was written to the same ones Peter addressed in 1 Peter. Peter states this is the second letter he had written them. (2 Pet. 3:1).
 - Paul wrote by the revelation of God. (Gal. 1:12).
1. We see here that Peter recognized Paul as a “beloved brother.”
 2. He recognized him as a brother even though Paul had to rebuke Peter on one occasion. (Gal. 2:11-14).
 3. He also acknowledged the “wisdom” [revelation] Paul had received was from the Lord.

Note: Paul encouraged Christians to share his letters. (Col. 4:16).

Paul’s Letters

2PE 3:16 as also in all {his} letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught [unlearned] and unstable [weak, immature] distort, as {they do} also the rest [remainder, other] of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2PE 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. NIV

- Peter and Paul had a friendly relationship. (1 Cor. 1:12; 3:22; 9:5; 15:5).
 - See also Galatians 1:18; 2:8, 9; Acts 15:6-21).
 - Paul’s rebuke of Peter did not destroy their friendship, but it brought Peter to repentance. (Gal. 2:11-14).
1. Peter speaks of the “letters” of Paul - “all his letters.”
 - a. He does not name the letters.
 - b. Paul wrote 12 letters - Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, 1 & 2 Timothy, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Philemon.
 - c. Many of the letters, not sure if all, were in existence at the time 2 Peter was written.
 2. Some things were “hard” to understand - 2 Tim. 3:15; Jn. 7:17
 3. “ignorant and unstable” - The unlearned and unstable distorted Paul’s writings.

4. strebloo [ste blo' o]- Distort" - God's word is often distorted and this can end in destruction.

a. "to twist, turn away

b. to torture, put to the rack"

c. metaphorically to pervert, of one who wrests or tortures language in a false sense

5. "to their own destruction" - Matt. 10:28.

"Knowing This Beforehand"

2PE 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled [wicked, perverse] men, you fall from your own steadfastness,

1. Peter fears his readers may fall from their "own steadfastness."

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. (2 Pet. 3:17). NIV

You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability. (2 Pet. 3:17). NRSV

2 Pet. 3:17 "fall from your own firm footing" - McCord

2 Pet. 3:17 "ye fall from the (your) own stability." Marshall

2. To fall from ones "own steadfastness" puts one in great danger of permanently falling away from the Lord.

3. Those who followed the teaching of the false teachers Peter talks about in this epistle were going to become hardened and calloused and perhaps to the point of no return.

"Grow In The Grace And Knowledge"

2PE 3:18 but grow in the grace [favor] and [saving] knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him {be} the glory [praise], both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

1. It is vital that we continue to grow in the favor and saving knowledge of Jesus.

a. It is possible to know a lot about Christ, and not have a saving knowledge.

b. A saving knowledge is not something deep and mysterious, but it is trusting in the Lord and doing what the Lord Jesus commands.

c. Salvation was for the common man, the slave, and all who will submit to Jesus.

2. **The whole Christian life is a life of growth.**

a. We are never too old to grow spiritually.

b. When we quit growing, we lose the spirituality and influence God intends for us to have.

c. We may even die when we stop growing.

3. We must do these things to grow.

a. We must come to Christ. (Jn. 14:6).	d. We must constantly read and mediate on God's word. (Psa. 1:1, 2).	g. We must not be afraid to do God's will.
b. We must recognize His authority. (Matt. 28:18; Col. 3:17).	e. We must pray and asked God for strength to grow and to be faithful.	h. We must learn to depend on God not our own wisdom and power and strength.
c. We must recognize the authority of His apostles. (Matt. 10:40).	f. We must not be slaves to the world, but we must set our minds on things above. (Col. 3:1-2).	i. We should pray daily that God will increase our faith and that we will live by that faith.

4. "To the day of eternity" [McCord, RSV] is literally "into eternal day" or "into day eternal." NRSV 2 PE 3:18 "both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

- The Greek has "kai eis hemeran aionos" - and unto day age.

- "aion" - age, era, eternity.

- a. It speaks of the eternity to come.

- b. It is proper to refer to eternity as a day because it is indeed an everlasting one having no end.

- c. Our existence here is but a fleeting moment.

4. It will be our privilege in heaven to honor, praise, and glorify Jesus.

REV 5:7 And He came, and He took it out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 8 And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 "And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." 11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

Some Lessons We have Learned From 2 Peter.

1. We have learned the Christian graces. (2 Pet. 1:5-10).
2. We have learned of the inspiration of God's word. (2 Pet. 1:20, 21).
3. We have been warned against false teachers. (2 Pet. 2).
4. We have learned that it is possible for us to fall from God's grace, and reach the point of no repentance [no return]. (2 Pet. 2:20-22).
5. We have learned that Jesus is coming again. (2 Pet. 3:10). See Acts 1:11.
6. We have learned that the delay of Jesus is due to God's longsuffering and He does not want us to perish. (2 Pet. 3:9). See 1 Tim. 2:4.
7. We have learned that this earth and the universe will be destroyed. (2 Pet. 3:10).
8. We have learned we should look for the new heaven and the new earth. (2 Pet. 3:13).
9. We have learned to grow in the grace and knowledge of God. (2 Pet. 3:18).
10. We have learned that we can look forward to the eternal day when we will be able to glorify and honor and praise our Lord forever. (2 Pet. 3:18).

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