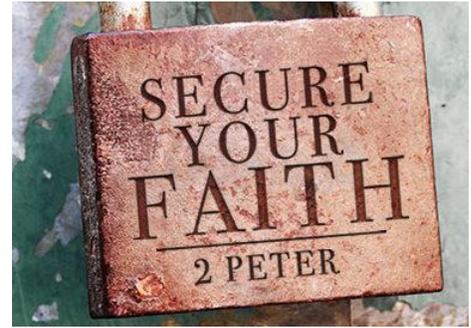


# Discussion Guide

November 13, 2016

## 2 Peter 3:11-18

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*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,  
and then the heavens will pass away with a roar,  
and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved,  
and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.  
2 Peter 3:10 (ESV)*

With the *day of the Lord* in mind from last week, Peter now brings up the question: What sort of people ought we to be?

### 1. Living Expectantly | Read 2 Peter 3:11-13.

As Christ-followers:

- We are holy (It's a position: Ephesians 1:4; 2:6.)
- We are *becoming* holy (It's progressive: 1 Thessalonians 4:3.)
- We are *pursuing* holiness (It's participative: Philippians 2:12-13.)

[Q] What misconceptions might we have about being holy?

[Q] Read John 15:11 and 1 Peter 1:8. What do you think is the place of joy in living a godly life?

[Q] According to 2 Peter 3:12-13, what are we waiting for?

Read 1 John 3:2-3:

*Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (ESV)*

[Q] How might looking forward to Christ's return help us to live the way He desires?

**ESV Study Bible note on 2 Peter 3:12:**

**Hastening** (Gk. *speudō*, “hurry [by extra effort]”) **the coming of the day of God** suggests that, by living holy lives, Christians can actually affect the time of the Lord’s return. That does not mean, of course, that the Lord has not foreknown and foreordained when Jesus will return (cf. Matt. 24:36; Acts 17:31). But when God set that day, he also ordained that it would happen *after* all of his purposes for saving believers and building his kingdom in this present age had been accomplished, and those purposes are accomplished when he works through his human agents to bring them about. Therefore, from a human perspective, when Christians share the gospel with others, and pray (cf. Matt. 6:10), and advance the kingdom of God in other ways, they do “hasten” the fulfillment of God’s purposes, including Christ’s return.

[Q] How could you live more expectantly in the next few days? Be specific.

## 2. Living Wisely | Read 2 Peter 3:14-17.

[Q] What is the “therefore” there for in verse 14? (The NIV translation says “So then.”)

[Q] Peter says to be diligent or *make every effort* - to do what?

[Q] In what area of life would you like to develop more diligence? What promises of God can you trust this area?

## 3. Living Large | Read 2 Peter 3:18.

“[Grace] is the wealth of God’s kindness; the riches of his mercy; the soothing ointment of his forgiveness; the free and undeserved, but lavishly offered hope of eternal life.  
Grace is what we crave when we are guilt-laden.” – Pastor John Piper

[Q] Growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus is a rich lifetime pursuit, but is it possible for us to become bored in our spiritual lives sometimes? What are some solutions to spiritual boredom or dryness?

### Pray

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**Community Service Day is November 19.** Go to [valleycommunity.cc/ministries/outreach/community-service](http://valleycommunity.cc/ministries/outreach/community-service) for great opportunities to serve our communities.