

(11) Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 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! 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. 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, 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. 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.

Think on these things:

- 1) V. 11 says because of what you just learned in verses 1-10 --- God has made predictive promises that some skeptics scoff at because they want to follow their own desires, deliberately ignoring His worldly interventions of the past to say Jesus won't be coming back --- what kind of people should we be as we wait on God, who patiently holds off His return to let more people repent?

- 2) Can you explain the two words that are the answers to question 1 above? Think of the first as an adjective about you; what does it describe? Think of the second as a verb of action; what are you doing?

- 3) When we live this way, how do WE impact the coming Day of God (v. 12)? Interesting idea...!

- 4) Sin reigns in our present world, the battleground between God and Satan for the souls of mankind. What reigns in the new heavens and new earth (v. 13)?

- 5) V. 14 addresses our state of waiting for Jesus' return. There are three things we are told to focus on while we wait. Define what these three things are:

Be diligent to be found by Him - _____

Without spot or blemish - _____

At peace - _____

6) What does the “patience of the Lord” lead to (v. 15)?

7) Peter now confirms and validates Paul’s inclusion as an apostle of the Lord, even though he was never a disciple. God “inspired” Paul in his writings to the church, and they are to be considered “scripture.” He also states that some things Paul talks about are “hard to understand.” How do you deal with parts of the Bible you find hard to read and understand?

8) What do ignorant (lacking knowledge) and unstable (not fixed, wavering, unsteady) people do with the Bible (v. 16)?

9) What is the warning to Christians awaiting Jesus’ return in v. 17?

10) How to keep our “own stability” is actually laid out in v. 18. What do we need to do? See also Romans 13:11-14 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: