

It seems many often think about their faith and walk with Christ as only their initial salvation moment. I'm saved. I believe. That's it? But that sort of thinking, as we've seen throughout this whole study potentially leads to some very dangerous endings. Certainly, we hold that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. You cannot work for it. You cannot earn it. Our work, what we do with our lives comes as a result of the work Christ has done already. We live to be obedient and to cooperate with the work Christ has done.

### **7. Diligently live for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus now and forever (18b).**

We make this our aim. Right now, right here, living in the age of scoffers, we diligently live to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. Not perfect. But pointing to the one who is. We are nothing without Jesus. We have received everything from him. We joyfully offer all to him in worship and praise to his honor and glory, not our own.

"Glory should be attributed to Christ because the salvation and perseverance of believers is ultimately his work, and the one who does the work deserves the glory...Peter did not call on believers to exercise incredible self-effort and be saved. God grants grace so that believers can grow in the knowledge of himself. The glory belongs to Jesus Christ both in the present age and forever." - Thomas Schreiner

### **As we go...**

As we walk out these doors today, into our homes, back to work tomorrow, or into school, take Jesus with you wherever you go. Keep him at the forefront of your mind. Continually grow, be diligent, make every effort, cooperate with what God is doing and wanting to do in and through you, that Jesus might receive the glory both now, right here today in your life, and for all eternity.

**2 Peter – A summary:** God has done an amazing work in your life through Jesus Christ. Now you, enabled by His divine nature made available to you, let your work cooperate with His work in how you live today. Avoid those who reject the work of Christ and promote false freedom to sin. They are wrong. Jesus is right and is coming again. We wait for that day. We look forward to a new world where only righteousness dwells. So again, let the work of your life cooperate with His work by growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus that has been freely given to us for his glory now and always.

## **2 Peter: "What We Ought to Be"**

# **Patient Diligent Pursuit**

2 Peter 3:14-18

### **Don't close the book!**

#### **2 Peter 3:1**

I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder... (ESV)

I want to stir up your sincere understanding by way of reminder... (CSB)

To "stir up" is synonymous with wake up! Peter doesn't want to just give us head knowledge so that you know something. Peter wants his writing to have an impact on your life. God leads Peter to write to remind us of the truth we need to remember so that we will wake up from our slumber and continue forward with diligent focus on the purposes of God.

Yogi Berra once said, "If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up somewhere else." Are we intentional with where we're going? This morning I want us to see seven diligent pursuits God calls us to patiently pursue in light of everything He has led the apostle to write.

### **7 Diligent Pursuits**

#### **1. Diligently pursue \_\_\_\_\_ and godliness (14a).**

Peter exhorts the church to lives of holiness and godliness. When Jesus returns, how will he find you? Peter's teaching on the end times in the previous section is not just so the church is informed. Head knowledge is not the end goal. Peter is saying that the reality of what will happen in the future should have a direct impact on our present.

Be diligent. Some of your translations say, "make every effort." Thankfully, perfection today is not the expectation. But don't let that be an excuse to not make an effort.

Peter says I want to wake you up to the reality once again that this world will pass away, a new world is coming, and since it is, devote yourself to living for the Ruler of that world today in this world.

"Without spot or blemish" is a direct contrast to the scoffers and false teachers that Peter described back in chapter 2 verse 13. We are to be

pure and blameless, holy and godly, growing in our devotion to God and our character transformed to look like His. That is the definition of holiness and godliness.

Let the work of your life cooperate with the completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross, and with the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the process of sanctification.

## 2. Diligently pursue to be found at \_\_\_\_\_ (14b).

Are you at peace this morning? Is that a description someone would use to describe you? The only way we will be found truly at peace is determined by where is our focus. If our focus is on the completed work of Christ and on the reality that Peter just wrote about then we will be at peace.

The problem for many of us, if not all of us, and for the church to whom Peter is writing is that we forget. We need to be reminded. The reality of this world often overshadows the reality of the coming world.

Casey's paraphrase of Philippians 4 - *Remember Jesus is coming soon, so don't be anxious about anything rather pray to God about everything, and when you do, His peace will reign in your life.*

Peter says this is the sort of **people we ought to be**. If Jesus were to return today, how would he find you?

## 3. Diligently remember God's \_\_\_\_\_ love (15).

This is the second time Peter mentions that we should see the patience of Jesus as salvation. Rather than wondering why he hasn't come back already, wake up with each new day and realize that Jesus is patient, allowing time for more to repent and be saved.

Peter is saying every day that our eyes open and we lift our head off our pillow in the morning we should remember the Lord wants to save. As followers of Jesus we ought to care about what he cares about. Peter has made it clear that his delay is for the salvation of souls. We should join him in seeking the salvation of the lost. While we are waiting, remember that God is not inactive, but rather He is demonstrating his great love and care that more will be saved.

## 4. Diligently study and keep the whole \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture (16).

Peter and Paul are in agreement. They are not contradicting each other. This passage is very significant for our doctrine of Scripture. Notice already by this time that Peter and the church are aware of Paul's letters. Not just a letter but multiple letters.

Paul and Peter and the other writers of the New Testament knew and believed that they were communicating God's words to the church. In **1 Thessalonians 2:13**, Paul writes, "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received *the word of God*, which you heard *from us*, you accepted it *not as the word of men* but as what it really is, *the word of God*, which is at work in you believers."

While we are waiting, listen to these words from Paul and Peter. They are not words of men. They are from God. Don't twist them. Study them. They are not opposing each other; they go together and form the complete revelation of God to us.

## 5. Diligently \_\_\_\_\_ against being carried away (17).

Again, we hear Peter's pastoral heart that we have heard many times throughout this letter. Be careful of who you listen to. Hold close to your brothers and sisters, true believers in Christ who are students of the Word. You know there will be those around you twisting Scripture. Don't go their way.

The ESV says to take care, other translations say to beware, or to be on your guard against this. I hope you see this repeated theme from Peter of being diligent, being careful, making every effort. Are we being diligent to pursue God, to pursue holiness and godliness, to pursue Scripture and our relationship with Jesus, are we diligent in the relationships we pursue and not being carried away by the error of lawless people?

## 6. Diligently \_\_\_\_\_ in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (18a).

Stability in this life is cultivated. Stability in your thinking, what you know and believe about Jesus is not just going to naturally happen. Notice that grace and knowledge are connected. To grow in grace is not just an emotion or feeling. It is connected to our growing relationship with Jesus.