

WAITING ON JESUS: PATIENTLY, *ACTIVELY*

2 Peter 3:14-18

Waiting is hard and can be frustrating. Feeling “in between” can kill motivation, lead to inactivity or damaging distractions. As we, Jesus’ disciples, wait for God to make all things right – a new heaven and new earth – we are to be busy fruitfully filling, not killing time, for God’s glory. Peter ends his final letter to these beloved ones with these exhortations. Lord, help us hear and heed.

Because we have heavenly hope:

Be eager to be found in peace (vs. 14; Rom. 5:1; 8:1; Matt 5:9; Eph. 4:1-4)

Spotless – pure

Blameless – avoid every form and appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22)

Remember: His “delay” = His patience = salvation (vs. 9, 10, 15, 16a)

Paul – Apostle and brother - wrote about this too (Rom. 2:4)

Peter and the Church already saw Paul’s letters as “Scripture”

Guard yourself from deceivers (vs. 16b, 17)

The ignorant and unstable distort difficult passages

They take advantage by offering a false clarity

Scripture twisters will be judged

Don’t be carried off (trapped, enslaved) by lawless men (cf. Jude)

Don’t fall from a spiritually secure/mature place (cf. 1 Corin. 15:58), not speaking of salvation, but ongoing sanctification

Grow spiritually, beloved (vs. 18; cf. 1:1-8)

In God’s Grace – in appreciation, apprehension, and application of it (Eph. 3:14-21)

In your knowledge of God (cf. 1 Pet. 2:1, 2; John 17:3; Is. 26:3; Dan. 11:32)

Glorify Jesus (vs. 18) shine on Him, His fame

Peter equates Jesus with God - to give Him worship (Rev. 1:5)

Always glorify Him! It’s all about, for, and from HIM! (cf. 1 Corin. 10:31)

Small Group Application Questions:

As you wait for the Lord, are you productively filling or killing time? Col. 4:4-6

Will He find you living in peace and purity and trusting His timetable?

Are you spiritually discerning or easy pickings? Eph. 4:11-16

Are you stagnant or growing, vital or at a standstill? Psalm 1; 1 Peter 2:2

Is your life about His glory or your own? Matt 5:16; 1 Corin. 10:31