

# Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

## An Expository Journey Through **2Peter** 11- Where is the Promise of His Coming?- Part 2

---

July 26, 2020

### **2Peter 3:10-14**

**10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

**11** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

**12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

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

**14** Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

To the Glory of God

As you enter into any Christian bookstore in the country- you will find numerous titles concerning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. Jesus' Return to this earth is one of the most discussed Issues found in the entire Bible. And you would think that, because the subject is so popular and so written and so often preached and taught- that there would be great *consensus* concerning all that will happen before; during; and after Jesus comes back to this earth. But there isn't. Along with being very commonly taught- the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is also one of the most debated and argued subjects. And that has always bewildered me.

You don't have to go to Church very long and you begin to realize that,

in addition to this Issue being hotly debated and argued- there is another element about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming that is the source of great embarrassment and shame to the Church of Jesus. For some reason, the Issue of Jesus coming back to this earth has had such an effect on people that many throughout the 2,000 year history of the Church have felt the need to predict or to prophesy names, dates, places, and events surrounding the Return of the Lord- before they happen. And most, if not all, of these efforts have done absolutely *nothing* to prepare people to meet God- because these predictions and prophecies have almost all been wrong. And yet that doesn't seem to stop or even to slow people down. Just recently, another wave of "End Time Prophecies" have been uttered and have been subsequently found to be grossly wanting.

The people of the modern Church seem to desire to find out the identity of the "Man of Sin" more than they want to prepare themselves to meet with Jesus; they crave more information about the "Mark of the Beast" than they do on how to pursue Holiness; and they are more concerned with the Temple being rebuilt than they are about the danger of Worldliness. So, I would like to step away from all the noise and clutter concerning this very important Topic and let's "look over the shoulder", as it were, of the Apostle Peter as he is "moved" by God the Holy Spirit to pen down the Passage that Brother Vern just read to us. And let us look closely at what the old fisherman actually said here; and let us pray that God will illuminate our minds so that we may comprehend,

**... with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:18b&19)**

Now, last time, we saw that this 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of 2Peter is a very detailed Answer to the Question that ungodly mockers have given back in verse 4, when they asked,

**... Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." (2Peter 3:4b)**

Now as we discovered, their Question was NOT an honest one. These were NOT students of the Bible, trying hard to understand the Science of Eschatology. These were NOT saved people, merely seeking

information on how to prepare themselves for Jesus' Return. And these were NOT sincere and earnest followers of Jesus- who were seeking to make themselves "ready". But how do we know that? Because of what verses 3&4 say,

### **2Peter 3:3&4**

**Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."**

... and yet, their Question is a very good one; and one that deserves an Answer. So, basically, the Question can be boiled down to,

### ***Why does Jesus tarry?***

Now stop and think for just a moment. Because of the calendar change- Jesus was probably born around 4BC. That means that His Crucifixion and Resurrection occurred around 29AD. Now as best as we can determine, 2Peter was written around 64-67AD. So, at most, only around 38 years have transpired from the Resurrection until this Epistle was written- and already mockers think that Jesus was taking way too long to come back. Imagine what these ungodly men would think after 2,000 years have gone by!

Now the key to understand *why* Jesus has waited so long to Return is found in verse 9 that says,

**The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

... and last week, I gave you an inside look at the process that I go through every week to diagram the sentences and conjugate the verbs and exegete the verses in the original language- to arrive at the correct meaning and context. And by doing all of that- we concluded that verse 9 says,

God is not slow/apathetic/weak concerning His Promise to come back to this earth, as some of the mockers and unbelievers understand

slowness/apathy/weakness; but is patiently persevering toward all His beloved; not wishing/willing that any of those whom He chose to save, but who have not yet been saved would perish, but for all those whom the Father gives to Jesus should/will come to Repentance and Salvation.

... in other words, all of those chosen for Salvation have not yet been saved. Some are probably yet to be born. So, God sovereignly *allows* the Universe to continue on- NOT because He is unaware or unconcerned about all the Evil and Sin that is going on- but rather because God determined- before He created the Universe- that He would save all of His elect- and God will NOT forget that or change His Mind.

Now there is another Issue that we need to be aware of as we go into this today. Back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, there was a false Teaching that was circulating among groups like the Gnostics whereby they *rejected* the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming because (among a whole host of other reasons) the *traditional* Teaching (by the Jews) that the Coming of the Lord would include a world-wide upheaval in Nature was simply not believable in view of how steady and constant Nature had been for thousands of years.

Now keep in mind that what we mean, when we speak about the "Coming" of the Lord- is His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. But what the Jews meant by the "Coming" of the Lord- was the 1<sup>st</sup> Coming of the Messiah. Because they did NOT believe that Jesus' Life; Death; and Resurrection was the 1<sup>st</sup> Coming of the Messiah.

But according to the inspired; inerrant; and infallible Gospel Records of the New Testament- Jesus was the Messiah. And these writings teach that Jesus was and is God Almighty in human flesh. And they teach that Jesus has already Come the *first time* as a babe in the manger. And they teach that this baby, who was announced by angels and born of a virgin- grew to be a perfectly sinless adult- Who was crucified and who rose from the dead three days later.

And now we preach a radical Gospel- that undeserving sinners are NOT saved by adherence to the Law. We believe and teach the Good News that wicked rebels are saved by Grace alone through Faith alone; in the finished Work of Christ alone. The New Testament teaches that lost souls are forgiven and made Righteous by what they *believe in*; and by what they *trust in*; and by what they *confess*- and NOT by what they *do*. All of our "doing" is carried out AFTER we have already been saved- as a human *response* to the Work that God has already done *in* us; and *through* us; and

for us.

But the Jews categorically rejected all of that back then. And they categorically reject all of that today. And this is why a Jew, who actually *understands* what modern Judaism teaches and who *embraces* it- CANNOT be saved. Look what the writer of **Hebrews** said about this in **Hebrews 6:1a**:

**Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity...**

Now the “**elementary Teaching about the Christ**” that the writer references here are the inspired 39 Books of the Old Testament. And those inspired writings were true- God breathed them out. They are inerrant and infallible. But they are also incomplete. The Old Testament contains shadows and types and symbols and signs of what God was going to do through Jesus Christ in the New Testament. And the writer tells these unsaved Jews, who are curious about Jesus that, in order for them to be saved- they must “Leave” or “Abandon” the *symbolic* Teachings about the Christ in the Old Testament and they must “Press On” into embracing the *Reality* of Jesus in the New Covenant.

Salvation is in Jesus Christ. Alone. Period. And it is brought about “through” or “by” wicked sinners *trusting* in what Jesus alone did. Salvation is NOT attained by people doing ANYTHING to earn it- not even by them striving to obey the Law. So, Salvation is NOT Jesus plus Human Works. Salvation is NOT about the Jews merely *adding* Jesus to their Judaism. No, Salvation is found in *everyone*- Jew or Gentile- *abandoning* whatever inferior religion or beliefs they already have- and *embracing* the superior Revelation found only in Jesus Christ through the New Covenant.

And according to what the writer of **Hebrews** says here- for a Jew- *any* Jew- to be saved- he is required to “leave” or abandon the “elementary Teachings about the Christ” and he must then “press on” into embracing the fullness of the *superior* Revelation of the New Covenant- or he will die in his Sins.

So, at the time that Peter wrote (or had written) this Epistle, what the Jews taught about the “Coming” of the Lord was common knowledge throughout the world. And *some* of what the Jews taught was true. But other things they taught about the Coming of the Lord was NOT true.

And so, the whole discussion about the End of the world and the Coming of the Lord got started back in verse 4 with the mockers denying

Christ's Second Coming. But then after that, Peter never even mentions it again. He only deals with one side of the Lord's Return- its *physical* effect on the natural world.

Peter's view of the End of the world and the Coming of Jesus is very simple:

- Fire will destroy the sky, the earth, and everything on it (v. 10)
- New Heavens and a new earth will stand in their place (v. 13)

Peter never mentions *anything* about what most people in the modern Church are so eager to understand and talk about. For example, the Apostle never gets into how the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming relates to things like "the Rapture"; or "the Tribulation"; or "the Mark of the Beast"; or the "Antichrist". And Peter never discusses the "Millennium" in any way. And I think that speaks volumes about what we should focus on as well.

Now remember that **2Peter** is the Apostle's "Last Will and Testament". What is in this Book is what the Apostle thought the Church *vitaly* needed- because he knew that his own death was imminent. And that makes **2Peter** all the more important- as it pertains to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

Now remember that what Peter talks about after verse 4- is his Answer to the heretics' Question about *why* Jesus tarries. And the reason Peter was willing to settle for this simplified but powerful Picture of the End of the world is that, in his mind, the ungodly mockers needed to hear only what he writes here. So, what Peter says here is NOT all that matters; and neither is it the only thing we need to understand about the End of the world and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. But the information that Peter infallibly gives us here- the very narrow and specific emphasis he makes here- when properly taught and explained- defeats the false Teaching of these particular mockers and rescues new converts from being lured into that heresy.

Now we have already covered what these false Teachers were devoted to:

- They were completely devoted to the fallen world *system* (1:4; 2:5, 20; 3:6)
- They *exploited* the Doctrine of God's Grace (Jude 1:4)
- They *perverted* the Doctrine of true "Spiritual Freedom" (2:19)
- They *promoted* illicit sexual indulgence (2:2, 14)

- They *loved* money (2:14–16)
- They were drunk on human praise (2:10, 18)
- They *confirmed* all this with a strong rejection that Jesus is coming back in such a way that would interrupt their devotion to the present evil world

... and this is why it made perfect sense for Peter to give a single, one-sided Answer:

*The world you love is going to burn up!*

And so, the old fisherman's response to the true believers against the false Teachers was clear:

- Don't give yourself over to the pleasures of the world
- Don't devote yourself to accumulating money
- Don't be a slave to your sexual desires
- Don't spend your life building monuments for the praise of the world.

*It's all going to burn up!*

Peter would have *diluted* his Warning if he had given a long and detailed Picture of how all the events of the End of the Age fit together. And there is a lesson here for us. It is a legitimate theological enterprise to try to fit the various biblical Pictures of the End-Times into a coherent system. But that is only true- as long as we honor the true meaning of each picture. But we must never forget that, when it comes to *applying* the future to the present- in order to kindle Hope; or to encourage Sobriety; or to motivate Godliness- the biblical writers usually zeroed in on one or two parts of the over-all Picture and drove them home for all they were worth. And that's what Peter does here. And I am inclined to think that, in our normal witness and exhortation- that's what we should do too.

So, let's turn to the Passage and give closer attention to Peter's Admonitions:

**2Peter 3:10a**

**But the day of the Lord will come like a thief...**

Now it was Jesus Himself, Who put these two things together: the concept of the “Day of the Lord” and the image of a “thief.” And in **Matthew 24:42&43**, He said,

**Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.**

The Apostle Paul took Jesus' Teaching and passed it on to the Church at Thessalonica like this:

### **1Thessalonians 5:2&3**

**For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.**

Now ever since I was saved back in 1971, I have heard that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus was going to be like a “thief in the night”. But I have always wondered why that was- since here, in verse 3, Paul equates the Destruction brought about by the Return of Jesus to the labor pains of a woman with child.

But the Return of Jesus to this earth is going to be the *best* day of my life- second only to me being saved to begin with. So, I am not going to suffer Destruction at all when Jesus comes back. No saved person is going to suffer Destruction when Jesus comes back. Only the unrepentant will suffer Destruction when Jesus comes back. So, this analogy doesn't apply to me or to any other saved person.

Also, the Day of Jesus' Return will also NOT overtake me as a “thief in the night” either- because Jesus Coming Back is a *primary* Issue in my mind and heart. I pray about it every day. I ponder it almost daily. I speak about it constantly; and I preach and teach it all the time. So, the Coming of the Lord is at the very *forefront* of my mind and heart. So, it's NOT hidden from me; I haven't forgotten about it; and it's not a Surprise.

So again, only those who are NOT praying for Jesus to come back; and only those who are NOT speaking about it and teaching and preaching



about it; and only those who are *not* earnestly looking for it- will the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming overtake them as a “thief in the night.” So, this doesn’t apply to me; or to any other saved person either.

Now to prove to you that I’m right about this- look what the Apostle said in the very next verse:

**But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;**

So, the way we are to understand what Paul teaches here is three things that have to do with the Day of the Lord coming like a thief:

- The “Day of the Lord” *includes* the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of our Lord Jesus to this earth
- It will be sudden and unexpected and destructive for unbelievers- like the coming of a thief
- It will bring a *final* Deliverance and a *final* Salvation for those who are awake; and who are busy about the Work assigned to them by the Master

But Peter goes further; and he emphasizes the Destruction of the present “world order” by fire:

**2Peter 3:10**

**But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.**

Now in verse 12, the Apostle uses a different term,

... the “**Day of God**”... which means the same thing as “**the Day of the Lord,**” and then he repeats that

**2Peter 3:12**

**... the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!**

Now, let's pause for a moment over this term, "the Day of the Lord." In the Old Testament, the "Day of the Lord" was the *future* time when God would vindicate His holy Name; bring Judgment on the unbelieving; and gather His people into a new Kingdom of Righteousness and Peace. So, we can see where Peter got the paint for his picture if we look at a few of these Old Testament Prophecies. At the top of the list, of course, should be the one Peter quoted in **The Acts 2:19&20** on the day of Pentecost from **Joel 2:30&31**:

**The Acts 2:19&20**

***AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.***

Next is **Zephaniah 1:14-18**:

**Near is the great day of the Lord, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the Lord! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and battle cry Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers. I will bring distress on men So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the Lord; And their blood will be poured out like dust And their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the Lord's wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.**

... and the Prophet Malachi, also refers to "the Day of the Lord" (4:5), and describes it like this in **Malachi 3:2**:

**But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.**

... and again, in **Malachi 4:1&2**:

**For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the Lord of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch." But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.**

So, in reality- Peter wasn't saying anything new or unexpected. The Expectation had been around for at least eight Centuries that God's Wrath would one day boil over into a fiery Destruction of the ungodly and the world which they idolized.

Now, at first glance- it might seem strange to us that God would utterly destroy the world which He created; and which He once called,

**Genesis 1:31b**

**... very good ...**

... but you remember from **Romans 8:20&21** where the Apostle Paul taught that, not only all of Mankind; but also the physical world itself was "subjected to futility" when Sin entered in.

**For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**

Now Paul does not tell us how this great Transformation in Creation will occur. But I'm inclined to say that Peter's Description of the fiery Destruction of Creation in verses 10 and 12 does NOT refer to a complete *Annihilation* of all of Creation, but rather a catastrophic *Purging* and supernatural *Transformation* of Creation as God *reverses* the Curse and "makes all things new."

And this is suggested in verses 6 and 7 by the comparison of a Destruction by water in Noah's day with a Destruction by fire at the End of the Age. The water of Noah's day did NOT annihilate the earth- it purged out all the unbelievers. And that would make me think that the fire at the End- will also NOT totally Annihilate- but it will rather *purify* and *transform* the Creation.

And this is why Peter also teaches us that the "heavens" will also be destroyed by burning along with the very elements themselves:

## **2Peter 3:12**

**looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!**

Now when the biblical writers wanted to speak about the “dwelling place of God”- they called it “Heaven”. And in **2Corinthians 12:2**, Paul called that the “3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven”

**I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a man was caught up to the third heaven.**

So, historically, the Christian Church has divided “Heaven” into three different realms:

- The Heavens                      The atmosphere around the earth
- The Heavens                      Outer Space
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven                      The dwelling place of God

... and then there is a “spiritual realm” where the Bible says saved people are “blessed” and “seated” (**Ephesians 1:3; 2:6**) and where, evidently, God, Christ angels and demons operate (**Ephesians 1:20; 2:6;3:10; 6:12**). And that place is called, the “Heavenly Places”. Now it is *possible* that the Heavenly places and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven are either the same or similar- I don’t know. But it is clear to me that Peter is ONLY referring to that “Heaven” that is the atmosphere around the earth when he said,

## **2Peter 3:12**

**looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!**

*That* “Heaven” is attached to the earth- which is, evidently, *why* it has to be purged. But neither “Outer Space” nor the “Dwelling place of God” (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven) *needs* to be purged. And it seems as though the “heavenly

places” is a purely *spiritual* realm and NOT a *natural* or *physical* realm.  
Now, in verse 13 Peter instructs us to look for the Promise of

**"a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."**

And that Promise comes from **Isaiah 65:17&18a**, where God said,

**For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create...**

So, when Peter emphasizes that this new world will be one in which Righteousness dwells- he implies that the Cause for destroying the old world was Man's *Unrighteousness*, and that those who ignored; or cast off; or diverted from the “Righteousness of Faith” will NOT be included in the new world.

But Peter does not stress in these verses that Unbelievers will be judged. He did that repeatedly in Chapter 2, and it *is implied* here. But the stress here falls NOT on the Destruction of *people* but, as verse 10 says, on the Destruction of

**"the earth and its works"**

... and according to verse 11, it's the Destruction of the earth and its works that should *motivate* us to Holiness and Godliness. Verse 11 says,

**Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,**

... and then he repeats it in verse 14:

**Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,**

So, my Question is, “*How is the Promise of a future Destruction of the earth and its Works a motivation for me to be Holy and Godly?*” I mean, *most* people try to find meaning in life by building something that's not just here today and gone tomorrow. We strive to overcome our sense of

“finiteness” by producing something. Some people build equity and get a great sense of power and success by looking at their house and thinking through their portfolio. Some build professional reputations through skill and hard work and get a sense of power and success from their heavy responsibilities and the numbers of people that look to them for leadership. Some people build artistic expressions and exalt in what they have created. Still more simply, build hobbies and collections (of coins or beetles or buttons) and gain a sense of superiority from the size of their collection or the richness of their garden or the shine of their car or the wonders of their new Apple computer.

The false teachers in **2Peter 2** had several characteristics:

- They lined their pockets with money (14–16)
- They elevated themselves above Authority (2:10)
- They built a reputation as astute interpreters of Paul's hard letters (3:16; 2:18)
- They gave themselves to sexual licentiousness

... and Peter's response to us and them is this:

*It's all going to be burned up!*

And the implication of verse 11 is this:

The only things that are going to survive the Fires of Divine Judgment on this earth is the manifestation of *Holiness and Godliness*.

And that's the point of verse 11: everything is going to be burned up but the Fruits of Holiness. A life lived for the world will go naked into Judgment and be burned up. But a life lived for Christ will be laden with eternal Riches.

Now verse 12 says that as you diligently look for the Coming of the Day of God in this way- you will actually *hasten* it. Verse 9 said that God is holding back the final Day so that all whom God has chosen may repent and be saved. So, it follows that repenting and living a life of Holiness helps to remove the Cause for the Delay.

Now we don't hasten the day in an absolute sense, because **The Acts**

1:7 teaches that the Father has "fixed the times and seasons by His Own Authority." And Jesus said in **Mark 13:22** that the Father knows the Hour of the Son's Return.

But from our vantage point we can hasten the day by fulfilling the pre-conditions of Christ's Return, namely, the preaching of the Gospel to all the nations (**Mark 13:10**), and the repentance of the full number of the Gentiles who must come in before the End (**Romans 11:25**). And evidently, Peter believes that lives of Holiness and Godliness will indeed fulfill these Conditions and hasten the Day of God.

Now finally, I want us to look at the motivation for Righteous Living in verses 13 and 14. This time it is not,

"Think what you might lose in the Age to come,"

... but ...

"Look what you gain."

Verse 13 says that

**"according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."**

Then verse 14 draws the inference for daily life of this Hope:

**"Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless"**

But how can we sinners hope to be found spotless and blameless (unlike the false teachers who are spots and blemishes, 2:13; cf. **1Peter 1:19**)? There is an amazing parallel to this verse in **1John 1:7** that I think gives the answer. It says,

**"If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, (that parallels living at Peace), and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin (that parallels being without spot and blameless)."**

But notice that both Peace and Spotlessness, or Fellowship and

Cleansing, depend on our walking in the Light as God Himself is in the Light. So, when Peter says,

**be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless**

... he means the same thing John does when he says,

**Walk in the light...**

... and the same thing Jude means when he says in verse 21,

**"Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."**

So, where shall we find the Power to walk in the Light; and to stand in the Love of God when godless pleasures entice us? And how will we, at that moment- diligently pursue purity and peace? Answer:

**2Peter 1:3b&4**

**His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.**

So, as we look to the Promise of a new Heaven and a new earth in which Righteousness dwells and in which the Glory and Excellence of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea—as we *relish* that Promise and we *hope* in that Promise. And a Divine Power fires us with a diligence for both Purity and Peace.

Amen. Let's pray.

© 2020 by The Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of Sermons taken from a verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of 2Peter**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation



that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.