

faith, hope, love

2 Peter 3:1-18
Inductive Discovery Lesson 15

Watching in Hope What would you like to be doing when our Lord returns? If you haven't given it much thought lately, perhaps you will as you study this chapter. With a lifetime of learning behind him and his own rising hope of seeing Jesus again soon, Peter's advice can be summed up in three words: *watching in hope*. But this is not passive watching from the sidelines—it's an active watchfulness that invests and spends itself in readiness for the day when Jesus comes back.

Scoffers live as though the world will always go on as it has. In Peter's day, just like now, people were preoccupied with living life and making their own plans. *Be alert*, Peter warns. No one knows when the Lord will return!

Suffering believers were beginning to wonder if the Lord's watch had stopped. Why does He delay? *Be patient*, Peter urges. God keeps every promise He makes and He is never late. The Lord is patiently waiting for every person who will repent before His return.

So what kind of people should we be while we wait? *Be diligent*, Peter advises. Keep growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Working Text for 2 Peter 3:1-18
English Standard Version (ESV)

1 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, **2** that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, **3** knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. **4** They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." **5** For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, **6** and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. **7** But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. **10** 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.

11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** 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! **13** 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. **15** 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, **16** 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. **18** 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.

OBSERVE

Start by reading the entire chapter at least once. Now read each section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to keep track of information you get from other sources such as scripture references, a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions.** *Do your best to follow Peter's train of thought.* Does he use a word or phrase repeatedly, or emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

2 Peter 3:1-7

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

2 Peter 3:8-13

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

2 Peter 3:14-18

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Key Words and Phrases

Write the definition of the following words and phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a Bible concordance with Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“the Lord is not **slow**” (vs.9) _____

“**His promise**” (vs.9,13) _____

“**patient, patience**” (vs. 9,15) _____

“be **diligent**” (vs.14) _____

INTERPRET

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLY

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

2 Peter 3 :1-7

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

_____ ?

2 Peter 3 :8-13

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

_____ ?

2 Peter 3:14-18

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

_____ ?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.


Up close and personal

**The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness,
but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish,
but that all should reach repentance.**

2 Peter 3:9

 **Memorize** *God's Word*

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.

 **Meditate** *on God's Word*

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just *think and pray* about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.


Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

 *Make God's Word Your Prayer*

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

Preparation for the Lord's coming consists of:
First, having fellowship with Him in our own spiritual life—letting Him not only cleanse us,
but perfect us in all the finer touches of the Spirit's work.
And then, secondly, getting out of ourselves and living to help others...
...be prepared for His appearing.

- A.B. Simpson -

