

Living Ready in the Last Days

Second Peter 3:1–18

There are some warnings you do not ignore. If a bridge sign says, “Weight Limit,” you do not call it negative thinking. If a doctor tells you, “This is serious,” you do not brush it off as pessimism. In Second Peter chapter three, the apostle Peter speaks like a loving shepherd who knows time is short. He is not trying to entertain the church. He is trying to steady the church.

Peter’s burden is clear: *Stay anchored in the Word. Do not be shaken by scoffers. Live with eternity in view. And grow in grace until you see Jesus face to face.*

1. God Keeps His People Steady by Reminding Them of His Word

Second Peter 3:1–2

Peter begins with a pastoral purpose:

“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle... that I may stir up your pure minds by way of reminder.” (Second Peter 3:1, NKJV)

Healthy believers need reminders. The Christian life is not only about learning something new; it is about remembering what is true when pressure, culture, and temptation try to push it out of our minds.

Peter points them to two trustworthy streams of authority:

- “the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets”
- “the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior” (Second Peter 3:2, NKJV)

In other words, God has spoken. The believer’s stability is tied to Scripture, not trends.

Practical Application:

If you want a steady mind in unsteady times, build your inner life on the Word of God. A Bible that stays closed cannot keep your heart grounded.

2. Scoffers Will Mock the Second Coming Because They Want Sin Without Accountability

Second Peter 3:3–4

Peter says:

“Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts.” (Second Peter 3:3, NKJV)

Notice the connection: scoffing is not merely intellectual; it is moral. Many reject the return of Christ because they do not want to answer to Christ. They want freedom from judgment, not truth.

Their argument is predictable:

“Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” (Second Peter 3:4, NKJV)

They claim history is uniform and unbroken—no divine intervention, no judgment, no decisive accountability.

Practical Application:

Do not be intimidated by mockery. Scoffing often disguises a deeper refusal to repent. Stand calmly on what God has promised.

3. Denying God's Judgment Requires Willful Forgetfulness

Second Peter 3:5–7

Peter says something piercing:

“For this they willfully forget...” (Second Peter 3:5, NKJV)

This is not ignorance alone; it is chosen blindness. They ignore that God created by His Word and intervened in judgment:

“the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.” (Second Peter 3:6, NKJV)

Then Peter gives the next sober reality:

“But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” (Second Peter 3:7, NKJV)

God is not absent from history. He is patient, but He is not passive. The same Word that spoke creation into existence also declares that this present order will face judgment.

Practical Application:

If God judged before, He will judge again. The wise person prepares, repents, and lives in fellowship with the Lord.

4. God's Timing Is Not Slowness—It Is Mercy

Second Peter 3:8–9

Peter steadies our thinking about time:

“with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” (Second Peter 3:8, NKJV)

We live inside time. God is not confined by it. What seems delayed to us is not delayed to Him.

Then Peter gives one of the clearest statements of God's heart:

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (Second Peter 3:9, NKJV)

God's patience flows from His real compassion, and His call to repentance is sincere. Judgment is coming, but mercy is still speaking.

Practical Application:

If you are still breathing, mercy is still calling. Do not misuse God's patience as permission to delay obedience.

5. The Day of the Lord Will Be Sudden and Unavoidable

Second Peter 3:10–11

Peter warns:

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...” (Second Peter 3:10, NKJV)

A thief does not send a calendar invite. The point is not that believers live in panic, but that we live prepared.

Peter describes global unraveling in sobering language:

“the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” (Second Peter 3:10, NKJV)

Then comes the question that should reshape our priorities:

“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness...?” (Second Peter 3:11, NKJV)

If everything material is temporary, then the most foolish thing in the world is to live as if the temporary is ultimate.

Practical Application:

What you own is not your life. Your reputation is not your life. Your plans are not your life. Your soul is your life. Live accordingly.

6. Our Hope Is Not Escape Into Nothingness, but a New Creation

Second Peter 3:12–13

Peter says we are:

“looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...” (Second Peter 3:12, NKJV)

Believers are not fatalistic. We are hopeful. Not because we deny hardship, but because we know the end of the story.

“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” (Second Peter 3:13, NKJV)

God is not simply going to patch up a broken world. He is going to bring a renewed creation where righteousness is at home.

Practical Application:

When the world feels upside down, remember: righteousness will not lose. Christ will not fail. God's promise will not collapse.

7. Live Diligently, Interpret God's Patience Correctly, and Handle Scripture Carefully

Second Peter 3:14–16

Peter gives three practical exhortations:

“be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless” (Second Peter 3:14, NKJV)
Not perfection in our own strength, but a sincere, cleansed life—walking in the light, quick to repent, quick to forgive, quick to obey.

“account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation” (Second Peter 3:15, NKJV)
God's delay is not empty time. It is rescue time.

Then Peter acknowledges that Paul wrote things “hard to understand,” and warns that unstable people twist Scripture:

“which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.” (Second Peter 3:16, NKJV)

Scripture can be mishandled. It can be bent to justify sin. That is not freedom; that is self-destruction.

Practical Application:

Never use the Bible to excuse what God is trying to change. Let the Word correct you, not merely support you.

8. The Safest Path Is Growth

Second Peter 3:17–18

Peter closes with a warning and a remedy:

“beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked” (Second Peter 3:17, NKJV)

Then the remedy:

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (Second Peter 3:18, NKJV)

The answer is not fear-driven isolation. The answer is steady growth—more grace, more knowledge, more obedience, more love, more endurance in Christ.

Practical Application:

If you are not growing, you are more vulnerable than you think. Growth is not optional. It is protection.

Challenge for Believers

This chapter calls believers to live ready.

- Do not let scoffers intimidate you.
- Do not let comfort make you drowsy.
- Do not invest your whole life in what cannot last.
- Be diligent to live in peace with God and with others.
- Keep your hands in the Word and your heart fixed on Jesus.

Live like eternity is real—because it is.

Invitation to Non-Believers

If you are not sure you belong to Jesus Christ, hear this clearly: God's patience is giving you time—but time is not the same as safety. The Day of the Lord will come.

The good news is this: Jesus saved us when He shed His blood on the cross. Your sin can be forgiven, completely and finally. And the resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord. He is alive, and He is calling you to repent and trust Him.

You can come to Him right now:

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe You died for me and shed Your blood to save me. I believe You rose again, and that You are Lord. Please forgive me, wash me, and make me Yours. I turn from my sin and I trust You as my Savior. Amen.

If you prayed that sincerely, begin reading the Bible, turn from what you know is wrong, and walk with Jesus. He is not only coming again—He is worthy of your life today.

“To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” (Second Peter 3:18, NKJV)