



2 Peter

Be Diligent! Part 2

Session 16

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

By Martin Luther

All true Christians believe that Jesus Christ is coming again. Many will differ in their view in which it is certain of His return as promised. Yet all Christians agree that this faith in future glory should motivate the church. Maybe it would be a better perspective for us all to get off the Planning Committee and join the Welcoming Committee.

Question: How does being on the Welcoming Committee change your perspective of end times theology?

Peter gives three admonitions to encourage the readers in Christian diligence in the light of our Lord's return.

1. Be diligent to live Godly lives. Read 2 Peter 3:11-14.

The key word in the text is "look". It means "to await eagerly, to be expectant".

Question: We must fix our eyes on hope. Nothing else can give us that in this world. What are your eyes fixed on? What you have? Your Job? Can it even be on a relationship?

We must live our lives in constant readiness. Read Titus 2:11-14. Living a life of "blessed hope".

Blessed hope: It means that we can be happy, or it can be beneficial to wait with expectation of Christ's return.

Question: How does Jesus's imminent return motivate you, as a believer, to live a godly life in an ungodly world?

Important! It is not simply knowing the doctrine in the mind that motivates our lives. It is having it in the heart, loving His appearing. Read 2 Timothy 4:8.

Question: Having this expectant attitude should not only make a difference in our conduct, but it should make a difference in our witness. How is your witness?

2. Be diligent to win the lost. Read 2 Peter 3:15-16.

Peter is explaining why the Lord is delaying the fulfillment of His promise. This is the day of salvation.

Question: Are you ready to share what salvation is and how it's brought a blessed hope in your own life?

Peter classifies the Apostle Paul's letters as scripture, that it is in fact the inspired Word of God.

Question: What happens to people who blindly twist the scriptures?

God needs separated men and women who resist false teaching, but choose to live godly lives, and bear witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

3. Be diligent to grow spiritually. Read 2 Peter 3:17-18

Peter is calling us to "beware", to be constantly guarding ourselves. Peter's readers knew truth, but warned them that knowledge alone was not sufficient protection.

Question: How can one become overconfident in their own knowledge and not take heed to the warnings of living in lawlessness? Read 1 Cor. 10:12.

True Christians cannot fall from salvation and be lost, but they can fall from their own steadfastness.

Question: What was this steadfastness?

It's essential to nurture new believers in their faith in Christ. Help them understand basic doctrine and the Word of God.

Question: In what ways are you willing to disciple a new believer?

Growing in grace often means experiencing trials and even suffering. To grow in grace means to become like the Lord Jesus.

We must also grow in knowledge. All of us can know the Bible more than we live it.

Question: How easy is it to grow in knowledge, but not in grace? How is grace without knowledge shallow?

Final thought: We must be guarding, growing, and glorifying the Lord, making the most of every opportunity to win the lost and strengthen the saved. Be diligent! The ministry you save may be your own!

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