

What Kind of People Ought We to Be?
2 Peter 3:10-18

“But grow—or rather keep on growing—is Peter’s concluding word to his readers, as he harks back to his opening theme (1:3-8). There must always be constant growth in a believer’s spiritual life, for stagnation spells disintegration. As in the natural world, so in the spiritual sphere, growth is not a matter of a leaf or twig making some strenuous individualistic effort. Growth comes from maintaining a healthy relationship with the parent vine (John 15:1-8). Accordingly, the way to grow spiritually is to maintain a healthy relationship with the source of all spiritual life, God himself through Jesus Christ. The believer will then develop and mature, as surely as sunrise follows the night, by continuously drawing on the free unearned and unearnable **grace** of Christ, and so increase in personal **knowledge** of the Savior (Col. 1:10).

- I. God expects us to be proactive toward growing in the faith, i.e., in sanctification. He gives us everything we need for life and godliness, but change can only come about through a surrendered life. We have been given tremendous insight with expectation into the future; insight and hope meant to “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:2-4).

2 Pet. 3:10-12

2 Pet. 3:7

1 Thess. 5:9-11 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Rom. 11:25-17 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers:²⁵ a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;²⁷ “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

- II. Jesus tells us that we **must be** alert, remain watchful, stay awake and be ready for the rapture. Like the five virgins who anticipated the bride groom's arrival, part of making sure our lamps are full of oil (i.e., the Holy Spirit) is making sure that the hardships of life and our penchant toward sin do not rob us of the expectation and hope we have in his return.

2 Peter 3:13-14a
2 Tim. 4:8
1 Cor. 16:22
Rev. 22:20
Matt. 25:1-13

Matt. 24:42 *Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.*

Matt. 22:44 *Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

Matt. 25:13 *Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*

- III. Peter gives us **five areas of godly living** that not only show having a readiness for Jesus' return, but will also speed his coming. An attitude of expectation shows that we take his imminent return seriously. An attitude of living well for him shows that we take his Lordship over our lives seriously. An attitude of living guilt free before him shows that we take his return seriously. The desire to express the gospel through friendship and lifestyle evangelism shows that we take the need to lead others to Christ seriously. An attitude of guarding the heart and mind from Satan's deceptive ways shows that we take having the mind of Christ seriously. The desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus shows that we take maturing in the faith seriously. And revering and making Jesus the center of our affection shows that we take knowing and loving him very seriously as we wait to be called up to the clouds to be with him forever and ever (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

2 Peter 3:14-18
Eph. 4:30
Rom. 11:36

Col. 1:22-23 *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,*