

A winter scene with snow-covered branches and a single brown leaf hanging from a branch. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white, suggesting a snowy day. The branches are dark and intricate, with a layer of white snow resting on them. A single, vibrant brown leaf hangs from one of the lower branches, providing a sharp contrast to the white and grey tones.

2 Peter 3

Living as a  
Christian  
In the Last  
Days

*The Epistle of 2 Peter 3 Covers:*

Living like a "Last Days Christian":

1. The Certainty of God's Promise (2 Peter 3:1-2)
2. The Message of Scoffers (2 Peter 3:3-4)
3. The Error of Scoffers (2 Peter 3:5-7)
4. Truths that scoffers deny (2 Peter 3:8-10)

For more information, see Blue Letter Study Guide  
"[https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/studyguide\\_2pe/2pe\\_2.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/studyguide_2pe/2pe_2.cfm)"

*The Epistle of 2 Peter 3 Covers:*

**Living in Light of the Last Days:**

1. Godly living in anticipation of a New Creation  
(2 Peter 3:11-13)
2. The Longsuffering of God (2 Peter 3:14-15a)
3. Regarding the Letters of Paul  
(2 Peter 3:15b-16)
4. Conclusion (2 Peter 3:17-18)

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## 2 Peter 3

1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

# Living like a "Last Days Christian"

## The Certainty of the Last Days and God's Promise:

*I now write to you this second epistle:* Peter already wrote about the importance of being reminded (2 Peter 1:12-13). But here he emphasizes what should be known in light of the coming of Jesus and the prophecies surrounding His coming.

*"The purest minds need stirring up at times. It would be a great pity to stir up impure minds. That would only be to do mischief; but pure minds may be stirred as much as you please, and the more the better."* (Spurgeon)

*That you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before:* Peter knew the importance of reminding his readers of the Scriptural message of the Old Testament (spoken before) and the New Testament (and of the commandment of us).

*By the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior:* By placing the messengers of the new covenant on the same level as the messengers of the old covenant, Peter understood the authority of the New Testament, even as it was being formed.

# Living like a "Last Days Christian"

## The Message of Scoffers:

Knowing this first: Christians should not be surprised to find that there are those who scoff at the idea of Jesus coming again. Peter told us that the scoffers will come. This is the first thing to know.

Will come in the last days: The "last days" began when Jesus ascended into heaven.

Walking according to their own lusts: These words remind us that scoffers do not only have an intellectual problem with God and His word, they also have a clear *moral* problem, rejecting the sovereignty of Jesus Christ over our lives.

Where is the promise of His coming?: This is the message of scoffers: "Christians have talked about Jesus coming for two thousand years and He still hasn't come back yet."

All things continue as they were from the beginning of creation: Scoffers base their message on the idea that things have always been the way they are right now, and that God has not and will not do anything new in His plan for creation.

"The argument of the false teachers is essentially a naturalistic one – a kind of uniformitarianism that rules out divine intervention in history." ("An Introduction to the book of 2 Peter" - Blum)

## 2 Peter 3

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

# Living like a "Last Days Christian"

## The Error of Scoffers:

*For this they willfully forget:* The scoffers presume upon the mercy and longsuffering of God, insisting that because they have never seen a widespread judgment of God, that there will never be one. But **they willfully forget** God's creation and the judgment God poured out on the earth in the days of Noah. A literal belief in Creation, in Adam and Eve, and in Noah's Flood are essential for a true understanding of God's working both then and now. To deny these things undermines the very foundations of our faith. Sadly, today it is many Christians who willfully forget these things, thereby putting themselves in the place of scoffers.

*That by the word of God the heavens were of old:* The Bible clearly teaches that the active agent in creation was God's **word**. He spoke and creation came into being.

*The world that then existed perished, being flooded with water:* Things on this earth have not always continued the way they are now. The earth was different when God first created it as it was different again after the flood. Therefore no one should scoff at God's promise that He will make it different once again, judging it not with water but with fire. The same word of God that created all matter and judged the world in the flood will one day bring a judgment of fire upon the earth.

# Living like a "Last Days Christian"

## Truths that Scoffers Deny, but Christians embrace:

*That with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day:*

What seems like forever for us is but a short time for God, just as an hour may seem to be an eternity for a child but a moment for an adult.

Peter quoted this idea from Psalm 90:4: "For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night."

This is NOT a prophetic formula, saying that a prophetic day somehow equals a thousand years, rather it is a general principle regarding how we see time and how God sees time.

*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise:* The truth is that God will keep His promise, and without delay according to His timing. Any perceived delay from our perspective is due to the *longsuffering* of God, who allows man as much time as possible to repent.

Many of those who are Christians today are happy that Jesus didn't return ten years, or five years, or two years, or one year, or even two months ago. There is a compassionate purpose in God's timing.

# Living like a "Last Days Christian"

## Truths that Scoffers Deny, but Christians embrace:

*Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance:* Peter here revealed some of God's glorious heart. The reason why Jesus' return isn't sooner is so that all should come to repentance, because God is not willing that any should perish.

God is not willing that any should perish and reflects God's heart of love for the world (John 3:16), and His compassionate sorrow even in the righteous judgment of the wicked.

It is the same thought as expressed in Ezekiel 33:11: "*As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.*"

"As God is not willing that any should perish, and as he is willing that all should come to repentance, consequently he has never devised nor decreed the damnation of any man, nor has he rendered it impossible for any soul to be saved." ("2 Peter 3 Commentary" - Adam Clarke)

## 2 Peter 3

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

# Living in light God's Promise in the Last Days

## Holy and godly living in anticipation of a new creation:

*Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be:* In light of the fact that this world and the things associated with it will be dissolved, we should live our lives seeking first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness – that is, having holy conduct and godliness.

*Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God:* Peter says there is a sense in which we can hasten the Lord's coming. It's remarkable to think that we can actually do things that will affect the return of Jesus. In the immediate context, Peter says that we hasten the Lord's coming by our holy conduct and godliness.

We can also hasten the Lord's coming through evangelism. Paul said that God's prophetic focus on Israel will resume when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in (Romans 11:25).

We can also hasten the Lord's coming through prayer. Even as Daniel asked for a speedy fulfillment of prophecy regarding captive Israel (Daniel 9), we can also pray "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).

# Living in light God's Promise in the Last Days

## Holy and godly living in anticipation of a new creation:

*Because of which the heavens will be dissolved:* Peter tells us that the very elements of this world order will be dissolved. God will genuinely make a new heavens and a new earth, even as Isaiah promised: For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind (Isaiah 65:17).

*A new earth in which righteousness dwells:* The most glorious characteristic of this new heaven and new earth is that it is a place in which righteousness dwells. In God's plan of the ages, this happens after the millennial earth ruled by Jesus Christ.

This New Creation is described in Revelation 21:1: "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."

## 2 Peter 3

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

## Living in light God's Promise in the Last Days

Be diligent and do not despise the longsuffering of God:

*Looking forward to these things, be diligent:* If our hearts are really set on the glory of the new heaven and new earth, we will endeavor to walk godly in regard to our brothers and sisters (in peace) and in regard to God (without spot and blameless).

*The longsuffering of our Lord is salvation:* It is easy for Christians to sometimes resent the longsuffering of God; after all, it in some sense delays His coming. Yet, the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation for others, and it is salvation for us.

**Romans 2:1-4** - Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

# Living in light God's Promise in the Last Days

## A note regarding the letters of the Apostle Paul:

*As also our beloved brother Paul:* Some critics to say that the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul weren't in agreement. Yet here Peter affirmed Paul's teaching in the warmest terms. He called Paul beloved and said that Paul wrote with wisdom.

This praise from Peter is even more wonderful when we remember that at one time Paul publicly rebuked Peter for public compromise (Galatians 2:11-21).

*In which are some things hard to understand:* Though Peter praised Paul's ministry, he admitted that some things in Paul's writings were hard to understand, and those who were untaught and unstable could use some of the difficulties to their own ends, twisting Scripture.

*Twist... the Scriptures:* Peter reminds us that the Scriptures *can be* twisted. Just because someone quotes the Bible doesn't mean that they teach Biblical truth. It's possible that they **twist... the Scriptures**. That is why we should be like the Bereans, who "*searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so*" (Acts 17:11).

# Living in light God's Promise in the Last Days

## Final Warning Against False Teachers:

Because Christians are looking forward to the new heavens and earth, we should be working now to set aside sin and live in peace with God. Peter acknowledges that Paul is a writer of Scripture. False teachers twist the words of God. Since Christians know God's Word, though, we are responsible not to be misled by the false teachers. Instead, we should continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus and to give Him glory. – Bible Ref

***Destruction:*** "Peter is very firm in implying that the action of the false teachers who twist scriptures (such as the epistles of Paul) to justify their own libertinism (A lifestyle or pattern of behavior characterized by self-indulgence and lack of restraint, especially one involving sexual promiscuity and rejection of religious or other moral authority) and rejection of the Parousia (Second Coming) is so serious as to disqualify them from salvation." ("Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: 2 Peter 3" – Michael Green)

## 2 Peter 3

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

# Living in light God's Promise in the Last Days

## Conclusion:

Since you know this beforehand: We, who know of the Day of the Lord and await it with patient expectation, must persevere lest we fall from your own steadfastness. We must take care to keep abiding in Jesus.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: We prevent a fall from your own steadfastness by a continual growth in grace and knowledge of Jesus.

Grace is not merely the way God draws us to Him in the beginning. It is also the way we grow and stay in our steadfastness. We can never grow apart from the grace and knowledge of our Lord, and we never grow out of God's grace.

We must also grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ. This means knowing more about Jesus, but more importantly, knowing Jesus in a personal relationship.

To Him be the glory: When we are this ready and this steadfast in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, it gives God glory.

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