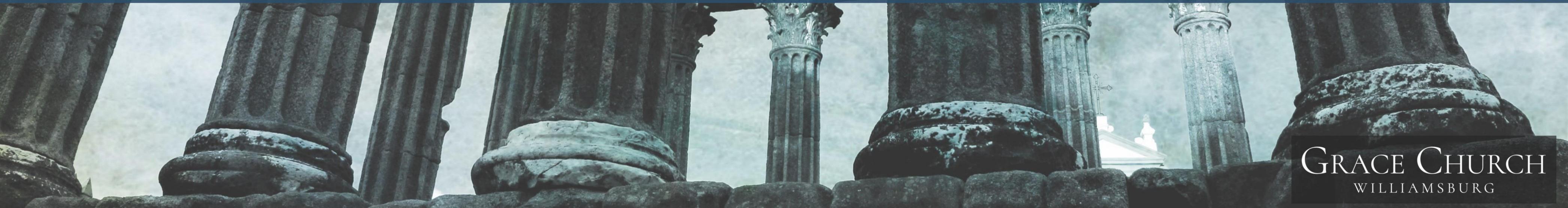


# 2 Peter: Established in the Truth



# Live Like Jesus Is Coming Again

2 Peter 3:17-18



An Exposition through 2 Peter: Established in the Truth

Peter wants us to represent Jesus in a total life commitment to holy, godly living. His emphasis for this mindful commitment is captured in four commands.

Jesus is coming again; as you wait for His return...

I. Be Diligent (2 Peter 3:14)

• Ephesians 5:15-17

### II. Be Doctrinal (2 Peter 3:15-16)

- Matthew 28:19-20
- Colossians 1:28
- God is waiting; Jesus is coming. His delay is our signal for disciple-making.

### II. Be Doctrinal (2 Peter 3:15-16)

What's Grace Church Williamsburg all about?

• Expressing our love to Jesus Christ through Great Commission discipleship.

# II. Be Doctrinal (2 Peter 3:15-16)

- James 3:17-18
- To be doctrinal is to base your life on God's wisdom from above.

"...discernment is the understanding and appreciation of the real knowledge of God's revelation that produces holy living." (John MacArthur)

To be discerning is to understand how to use God's wisdom to truthfully assess the issues of life and to apply God's clear directives for holy and godly living.

3:14 -- "Therefore, [cherished ones], since you look for these things [new heavens and a new earth], be diligent to..."

3:17 -- "You, therefore, [cherished ones], knowing this beforehand, be on your guard..."

Since you look for *these truthful things*... knowing *this truth beforehand*...

phylassesthe (verb form) = keep watch, keep an eye on, be on guard

- They follow after their own lusts (3:3)
- They deliberately deny Christ's coming (3:4-5)
- They are ungodly (3:7)
- They are untaught and unstable (3:16)
- They are lawless, driven by deceitful lusts (3:17)

What Peter has told them **beforehand** is designed to prevent the process and product of all false teaching:

- The process: you being carried away into error
- The product: you will fall from your own steadfastness

"Being 'carried away' is what happened to Barnabas in Galatians 2:13, where, despite being a colleague of Paul, he lost his bearings and joined Peter and other Jews in separating himself from Gentiles in the celebration of the Lord's Supper (which was then a full meal)." (Peter Davids)

Does falling from your steadfastness mean that you lose your salvation, that you would apostatize?

- 2 Peter 2:17-22
- 1 John 2:19: "They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us."
- 1 Timothy 4:1-3

God keeps His true children from apostatizing.

- 1 Thessalonians 3:3-5: "But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ."
- Jude 24: "Now to Him who is able to **keep you from stumbling**, and to **make you stand** in the presence of His glory **blameless** with great **joy**..."

- Luke 22:31-32: "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."
- Jesus' word "strengthen" is from the same root word Peter uses for "steadfastness".
- Mark 13:21-23; 33-37

#### IV. Be Devoted (2 Peter 3:18)

How can my life in Christ and my involvement in this church family help you grow in your life in Christ and in your involvement in this church family?

How can we strive together to grow up in Him together?

#### IV. Be Devoted (2 Peter 3:18)

**DON'T** let down your guard and be carried away into error that will compromise your stable spiritual walk with the Lord.

**Instead, DO** spiritually grow in the **goodwill** and in the biblical **revelation** of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

"...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."

# GRACE CHURCH WILLIAMSBURG