

A photograph of several ancient Greek columns, likely from the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, showing signs of weathering and decay. The columns are fluted and have papyrus capitals. A dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text.

# 2 Peter: Established in the Truth

A photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins, featuring several tall, fluted columns and a partially collapsed entablature against a cloudy sky. The image is overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent banner at the top and bottom.

# 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.

### III. Be Discerning (2 Peter 3:17)

“...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.



### III. Be Discerning (2 Peter 3:17)

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**...

### III. Be Discerning (2 Peter 3:17)

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

### **III. Be Discerning (2 Peter 3:17)**

- 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)

### III. Be Discerning (2 Peter 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**

### III. Be Discerning (2 Peter 3:17)

“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)*

### III. Be Discerning (2 Peter 3:17)

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

### III. Be Discerning (2 Peter 3:17)

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...**”

### III. Be Discerning (2 Peter 3:17)

- 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.”***

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