

Scotts Hill Baptist Church

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2 PETER: GROWING STRONG IN THE TRUTH: WAITING IMPACTS OUR WALKING // 2 PETER
3:11-18 •
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MAIN POINT

The certainty of Christ's return should motivate believers to pursue holiness, live with hope, guard against false teaching, and continually grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What is something in your life that motivated you to change your behavior, habits, or priorities?

Why do people often live differently when they know something important is coming?

When you think about Christ's return, what emotions or thoughts come to mind?

Throughout life, future events shape present actions. Whether preparing for a wedding, a graduation, a new child, or retirement, people naturally adjust how they live based on what lies ahead. Peter reminds believers that the future certainty of Christ's return should shape how we live today. As we wait for Jesus, our waiting should impact our walking.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 PETER 3:11-14.

According to Peter, how should believers live in light of Christ's return?

What do holiness and godliness look like in everyday life?

Why do you think Peter connects future hope with present obedience?

Peter reminds believers that Christ's return is not merely a doctrine to believe but a reality that should influence daily living. Because Jesus is coming again, believers are called to pursue holiness, godliness, and lives that reflect His character.

What areas of life are most difficult for believers to surrender fully to God?

How does remembering Christ's return help us resist temptation and pursue righteousness?

Holiness means being set apart for God's purposes. Godliness means increasingly reflecting the character of Jesus. The believer's goal is not perfection in this life but continual growth and transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 PETER 3:12-13.

What promises give believers hope as they wait for Christ's return?

How is Christian hope different from wishful thinking?

Why is the promise of a new heaven and new earth so encouraging?

Peter reminds believers that while the Day of the Lord brings judgment for unbelievers, it brings deliverance and restoration for God's people. God has promised a future where sin, suffering, death, injustice, and pain will be removed forever.

How can an eternal perspective help us endure present difficulties?

What circumstances in your life require you to hold tightly to God's promises right now?

Christian hope is rooted in the certainty of God's promises. Because God always keeps His word, believers can face uncertainty, suffering, and disappointment with confidence that the best is yet to come.

How does focusing on eternity change the way we view our current struggles?

What practical ways can we cultivate greater hope in our daily lives?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 PETER 3:15-18.

What warning does Peter give believers in these verses?

Why are false teachings often attractive to people?

How can believers guard themselves from being led astray?

Peter reminds believers that false teachers distort Scripture and seek to undermine the truth. Spiritual drift rarely happens suddenly. Instead, it often begins through small compromises and a failure to remain grounded in God's Word.

What are some false messages or cultural pressures believers face today?

How does regular study of Scripture help protect us from deception?

Peter encourages believers to see God's patience as an opportunity for salvation and spiritual growth. Rather than becoming complacent, Christians should use this season of waiting to deepen their faith and strengthen their walk with Christ.

According to verse 18, what is Peter's final command?

What does it mean to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Growth in Christ is the antidote to spiritual drift. As believers grow in their knowledge of Christ and dependence upon His grace, they become more stable, discerning, and mature in their faith.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What area of your life currently needs greater holiness and obedience to Christ?

How does the promise of Christ's return affect the way you make decisions today?

What circumstances make it difficult for you to maintain hope?

Are there influences, teachings, or voices that could be pulling you away from biblical truth?

What specific step can you take this week to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Who is someone you can encourage with the hope of Christ's return and God's promises?

PRAYER

Close in prayer, thanking God for the promise that Jesus Christ will return. Praise Him for the hope of a new heaven and new earth where righteousness dwells. Ask God to help us pursue holiness and godliness while we wait. Pray for discernment to recognize and reject false teaching. Ask the Lord to help our church continually grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ so that we remain faithful, hopeful, and steadfast until the day He returns.

COMMENTARY

| 2 PETER 3:11-14

Peter teaches that the certainty of Christ's return should motivate believers toward holy living. Because this present world is temporary and God's future kingdom is certain, Christians are called to pursue holiness, godliness, and peace with God. The believer's anticipation of seeing Christ should shape present behavior and encourage continual spiritual growth.

| 2 PETER 3:12-13

Believers are called to wait with hope because God has promised a new heaven and a new earth. Unlike the uncertainty of worldly hope, Christian hope rests securely on God's unchanging promises. The future kingdom of God will be characterized by righteousness, peace, and the complete removal of sin and its effects.

| 2 PETER 3:15-18

Peter warns believers against false teachers who distort Scripture and lead people away from truth. Spiritual stability comes through remaining grounded in God's Word and growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Peter concludes his letter by reminding

believers that ongoing spiritual growth is essential for faithfully enduring until Christ returns.