



EVERYTHING

WE NEED

2 PETER

Grow in Holiness

2 Peter 3:10-18

2 Peter 3:10-13

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. **11** Since everything will be destroyed in this way, **what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives** **12** as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. **13** But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:14-16

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.** **15** Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. **16** He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2 Peter 3:17-18

17 Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. **18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Lee and Leslie Strobel



Make every effort to be holy.

Holiness starts with God.

Holiness in a positional sense (being in Christ) is the basis for God's call for his children to become holy in an ethical sense (moral purity).

1 Peter 1:15-16

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

2 Peter 3:14

...make every effort to be spotless,
blameless and at peace with God.

Make every effort to be holy.

1. Holiness is motivated by the Lord's return.
2. Holiness develops through gracious striving.
3. Holiness requires you to recognize the ways of ungodly teachers and steer clear of them.
4. Holiness increases as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Make every effort to be holy.

1. Holiness is motivated by the Lord's return.

The greatest motivation for holiness is the desire to see Jesus face-to-face and to live with him forever.

Revelation 21:1-3

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

Revelation 21:4-5

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Holiness is motivated by the Lord's return.

We are motivated to be holy because of the splendor and majesty of our God and the splendor and majesty of the kingdom where we will live with him in eternity.

Make every effort to be holy.

Holiness is motivated by the Lord's return because Christ will reward those who belong to him for possessing it.

2 Timothy 4:8

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.**

Make every effort to be holy.

We are motivated to be holy because holiness can lead non-Christians to faith before the Lord returns.

2 Corinthians 6:3-6

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love.

1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.... Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.**

Matthew 5:16

...Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

God is waiting patiently for everyone he has elected to come to faith and the holiness that Christians display in sharing our faith and clearly adorning his message with our lives speeds up the day of his return.

“You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the Lord’s return and speed its coming.” 2 Peter 3:11b

God waits patiently.

- Bear in mind that our **Lord's patience means salvation...** (2 Peter 3:15)
- But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. **Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.** (2 Peter 3:8-9)

Holiness is motivated by Christ's return.

1. We look forward to living with him knowing there is no greater pleasure in existence.
2. We recognize that moral excellence will be rewarded at Christ's return.
3. We recognize that holiness can draw non-Christians to Christ.

Make every effort to be holy.

1. Holiness is motivated by the Lord's return

Make every effort to be holy.

2. Holiness develops through gracious striving.

“When the Lord comes, He wants us to be pure. How can you be that way? Know you have to discern your sin, detest your sin, desire the holy life, abstain from tempting situations, be faithful in the means of grace, the spiritual means of bible study, prayer, worship, so that you maintain a pure life. The Lord says, “That’s how I want you to live until I come.” And that’s consistent with what you are anticipating in the eternal state. If I am destined for eternal purity, if I am destined for eternal glory, I ought to seek to live that way now.” - Pastor John McArthur

How do I strive graciously?

By staying focused not on how you're doing, but on what God has done, is doing, and will do.

What God has done, is doing, and will do

(from 2 Peter 1:2-11)

- “Multiplied” grace and peace (v.2)
- Given everything we need (v.3)
- Share in the divine nature (v.4)
- Escape the corruption of the world (v.4)
- Partaking in real virtue and learn to love (v.5-7)
- Fruitful and productive (v.8)
- Assurance of our election, calling and perseverance (knowing we are God’s and will always be his) (v.10)
- A “rich welcome” into the eternal kingdom of the Savior (v.11)

Jesus has given us everything we need for life and godliness. So we live it out in the power he gave us.

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1. Holiness is motivated by the Lord's return
2. Holiness develops through gracious striving

Make every effort to be holy.

3. Holiness requires you to recognize the ways of ungodly teachers and steer clear of them

Revelation 22:18-19

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll; if anyone adds anything to them God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.”

Since there are teachers that distort the message of Scripture, we need to be firmly established in the truth to recognize the error.

“In adopting the best possible way of life, you may be spurred on to emulation by someone else’s example; **but when it is false doctrine that the soul is suffering from, words are urgently needed**, not only for the safety of the church members, but to meet the attack of outsiders as well...We must take great care, therefore, **that the word of Christ dwell in us richly.**”

- St. John Chrysostom (349-407 AD), Archbishop of Constantinople

Make every effort to be holy.

1. Holiness is motivated by the Lord's return
2. Holiness develops through gracious striving
3. Holiness requires you to know the ways of the ungodly and steer clear of them

Make every effort to be holy.

4. Holiness increases as you grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ

2 Peter 3:18a

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**The Christian life is like riding a bicycle.
Unless you keep moving you fall off.**

E. Michael Green

Peter has said in 1 Peter 2:2: “As babes desire the pure milk of the Word that you may grow by it.”

Growing in grace and knowledge

In the sphere of grace where God forgives our sin and overlooks our weaknesses, we feed on the Word of God and communion with the living Christ.

Philippians 2:12-15

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – **continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to do for his good purpose.** **Do everything** without grumbling and arguing so that you **may become blameless and pure**, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will **shine among them** like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.”

Growing in the grace and knowledge

We always trust in God, we study the word, we pray, we fellowship, we practice what we have learned from Christ in the word, we repent from sin...and then we repeat.

2 Peter 3:18

To him be glory both now and forever!
Amen.

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What specific steps have you taken to insure your progress in godliness?



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