

# Looking Forwards to Jesus' Return

## 3:1-3

I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder

- We should stir each other up (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Scoffers will come in the last days

- All the days since Jesus are the last days (Acts 2:14-21)
- And there has been scoffers since
- Jesus warned us about this (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)
- This isn't some special warning about what life will be like just before Christ returns

## 3:4-7

The heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire

- This isn't the only part of the Scripture that talks about this (Matthew 24:35)
- The reason the heavens and earth that exist now are stirred up for fire is because God is going to make a new heavens and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1)

## 3:8-9

The Lord is ... not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance

- Two potential meanings
  - That God doesn't want anyone to be perish
  - That God is waiting for all the elect to be save
- Whichever one it means, both are true
  - In a very real way, God doesn't desire that the non-elect should perish (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Ezekiel 33:11)
  - But I still think the word "all" here follows the "you" and therefore is referring to the whole Church, or all God's people throughout time
    - The word "you" here is plural in the Greek
  - When Peter says it's patients towards "you" it means that God knows who those who are His, and He's going to wait as long as it takes for them to come to Him

## 3:10-13

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness

- There's two reasons why this passage should motivate us to live lives of holiness and godliness
  - We will be judged (2 Corinthians 5:10)
  - Nothing material is going to last

Waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God

- Hastening the return of Christ is something we actually have the ability to do
- Jesus is waiting for two specific things, and we have an effect on those things
  - What Jesus is waiting for
    - All His enemies under His feet (1 Corinthians 15:22-26)
    - All the elect to be saved (2 Peter 3:3-9)
- These are things we can have an effect on

## 3:14-16

There are some things in [Paul's letters] that are hard to understand

- This is such a fascinating statement when you really start to think about it
- The Holy Spirit speaking through Peter plainly acknowledges that some of the things He's spoken through Paul are hard to understand, and He's just fine with that. He doesn't apologize for it, or repent for it, or regret it.
- The Holy Spirit knew before He even inspired Paul to write it that it would be hard to understand, and He was okay with that, and He did anyways
- Application
  - We should be patient with ourselves and others as we seek to understand the Scriptures
  - God still wants us to think through the Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:7)

## 3:17-18

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

- What does it mean to grow in grace?
  - It doesn't mean grow in favor
  - Grace can also mean empowerment (2 Timothy 2:1)
  - I believe this means "grow in how empowered you are"
    - Or in other words "grow in how much you rely on God"
- Areas of reliance to seek to excel in
  - Prayer
  - Scriptures
  - Worship
  - Gifts of the Spirit

## Conclusion

Looking forward to Christ's return

- I just want to say in conclusion that we should be looking forward to Christ's return
- The Scripture tells us multiple times we should be looking forward to it (1 Peter 1:13; Hebrews 9:28)
- Why we should
  - It affects how we live (Matthew 6:21; 1 John 3:2-3)
  - It affects our joy
- What we have to look forward to
  - Perfect joy
  - No more pain
  - Perfect relationships