



2 PETER

instructions for a godly life

HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION.

There are four general reactions to the "end times":

- 1.) LOL not happening
- 2.) This isn't currently affecting me so I don't need to think about it.
- 3.) This is terrifying.
- 4.) I cannot wait!

Peter is in the last camp and encourages us to be in the same. He says in the Message translation: *Daily expect the Day of God, **eager** for its arrival. The galaxies will burn up and the elements melt down that day—but we'll hardly notice. We'll be looking the other way, ready for the promised new heavens and the promised new earth, all landscaped with righteousness.*

He is eager for the arrival of the last days because he knows their arrival also means the arrival of a new and better earth and life and forever in God's unveiled presence. In fact, Peter says we'll be so enamored and excited that we'll hardly even notice the galaxies melting down! 🤪

So how do we prepare for this day? How do we work on our hearts to make them excited instead of fearful or apathetic?

We connect with Jesus. We grow in relationship with him. We put our treasure in heaven instead of on earth. We set our sights on higher things, continuously trying to live a life reflective of him. And we look forward in hopeful anticipation.

IN THE BIBLE.

2 Peter 3:8-18

But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

11 Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, 12 looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. 13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

15 And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him— 16 speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.

17 You already know these things, dear friends. So be on guard; then you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing.

18 Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-8

But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. 5 For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. 6 So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. 7 Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. 8 But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to talk through some or all of these questions

- 1.) What's something that sticks out to you in the verses above?
- 2.) How do you feel about the end times?
- 3.) Where do you see God's grace and goodness in these verses?
- 4.) What kind of lives does Peter tell us to be living? Is anything in your life keeping you from having that kind of life? How can you begin to pursue that kind of life?

TAKE TEN:

- How did you see God work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here? (in your life/circumstance)
- How can we help you in prayer and what do you want us to ask you about next week?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?