

# ***What You Long for Determines What You Live For***

*Living in the tension of the now and the not yet – 2 Peter 3:10-18*

**Intro:** We've all heard the saying, "He's so heavenly minded that he's no earthly good." Unfortunately this is true of many Christians who haven't properly understood heaven or the Christian life. In this passage Peter challenges us to live in the tension of our future hope of heaven and a radical Christian life right now. Here's how...

## **1. *NEGATIVELY – Confront the painful reality of a temporal perspective. 2 Peter 3:11-12a, 10***

- A. In the future – The earth and its works are all going to be burned up. 3:10
  - 1. The heavens and earth will pass away with a roar. 3:7, 10, 11a, 12b
  - 2. This is a prelude to a new creation, but Peter wants us to feel the shock of destruction.
  - 3. This will take place after Jesus' millennial reign and before the eternal state.
  - 4. All memories of history will be over. (No one will care who won the Oscars or Super Bowl XXXIX.)
- B. The implication – Each of us faces this same kind of event personally. Heb. 9:27
  - 1. Each of us faces death. Heb. 9:27 (Illus: pix of school classes; dead poets society.)
  - 2. At death all worldly significance is removed.
- C. The questions we ought to be asking. 3:11b-12a
  - 1. How should I be living my right now? 3:11b
  - 2. How can I hasten the "coming day of God?" 3:12a

## **2. *POSITIVELY – Anticipate the tremendous realities of an eternal perspective. 2 Peter 3:13-14a***

- A. God has promised his people an amazing future in which he will meet all their needs. 3:13
  - 1. Human beings have hugely high expectations, and our creator-God will fully meet them.
  - 2. The term *heaven and earth* is a reference to the entire universe.
  - 3. The *new heaven and new earth* is a promise of God.
  - 4. The *new heaven and new earth* is actually a recreated universe that will be our heaven.
- B. First question – What will the new heaven and new earth be like?
- C. Second question – What will we do in the new heaven and new earth?
- D. Third question – What does the knowledge of the new heaven and earth do for me?
  - 1. It inspires longing. 3:14a
  - 2. It comforts the suffering. (See 1 Peter 4:12-13.)

## **3. *PROACTIVELY – Pursue the daily disciplines of spiritual growth. 2 Peter 3:14-18***

- A. A command about the Judgment Seat of Christ: "Be diligent." 3:14b, 15a
  - 1. The desired outcome: That we would find us spotless and blameless.
  - 2. The means to the outcome: Be diligent.
  - 3. The example: Jesus Christ. 3:15
- B. A command about false teaching: "Be on your guard." 3:15b-17
  - 1. Expect that people will distort the Scriptures.
  - 2. They were distorting Paul in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.
  - 3. What guarding meant in the ancient world and what it means today. (Illus: ID theft)
- C. A command about with respect to your mind: "Grow!" 3:18b
  - 1. The two areas of our growth are grace and knowledge.
  - 2. The order of these words is important.
  - 3. Those who thrive in the world of false teaching are the passionate learners.