

Nevertheless, Remember God's Promises

2 Peter 3:10-18

A. Let's Summarize Peter's Final Book

1. God not only judges the ungodly but also delivers His people.
2. He promises a new creation. It is a book of promises (1:1-4)
3. It is a book of protection (2:5-9) We see Noah & Lot rescued amid corruption.
4. It is a book of prophecy (3:1-13), promising a new heaven and new earth.
5. God always tempers darkness with light.
6. Jesus brought light to this dark world.
7. He brings good news to troubled people.
8. Peter calls us to live godly lives, to grow in grace until Christ returns.
9. The previous verses present a dark picture.
10. God's Word assures judgment despite scoffers.
11. God's patience is salvation, but judgment is sure.
12. The certainty of Christ's return calls us to holiness, hope, & growth in Christ.
13. We are to pursue holy living with our conduct shaped by the coming renewal.
14. We can look forward with hope, anticipating the new heavens & new earth.
15. We are called to grow in grace & knowledge, to mature, & avoid deception.
16. Holiness is preparation for eternity.
17. Hope sustains us in trials.
18. Growth in Christ is the best defence against false teaching.
19. Now God's great "Nevertheless" option is announced.
20. Blessings await those who take the long look.
21. Remember, the best is yet to come!

B. Joy Will Follow Judgment

1. The day of the Lord is on its way.
2. The world will not expect it, as it will come as a thief in the night.
3. Peter has instructed us about things to come.
4. Peter urges us to live in the light of Christ's return.
5. This thought flows through Peter's last call.
6. Here is a call for consistency in Christian living, for constant growth in us all.
7. Cataclysmic events will occur, as the earth and its works will be burned up.
8. The heavens will pass away loudly & the elements will melt with fervent heat.
9. Nevertheless, better days await those who belong to the Lord.
10. The promises of God outweigh the trials of earth, & the future is as bright.
11. The expectation of Christ's return promotes holy living.
12. If Christ had returned this morning, would you have been ashamed?
13. Peter calls for us to be at peace with God: without spot and blameless.
14. He calls us to advance in grace and the knowledge of Christ.
15. Peter has sounded this call before. (1 Peter 2:21)
16. Do others see our walk with Christ deepening or weakening?

C. We Must Be Aware of God's Love for Sinners (v. 15)

1. Peter reminds us to: *"Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation"*
2. God does not want people to perish, (see John 3:16; & 1John 3:16)
2. Do we have the same love for those who don't know Jesus as He does?
3. How does our concern for sinners compare to such love?
4. How much time & money are we investing in missions & witnessing?
5. Focus on God's love for sinners to bring revival to our church & the world.

D. The World As We Know It Will Cease To Exist.

1. The love of earthly possessions has deceived man & led many astray.
2. Beware the danger & deception. (Gen. 13; Luke 18:18-25; Luke 12:16-21)
3. The temporary nature of things asks what their value will be when Christ returns?
4. The current possessions will be dissolved, where wealth will be worthless.
5. Nevertheless, the promises of peace and plenty persist. (Rev 21)
6. God will keep His word given to His own, because God will not be surprised.
7. It is folly to invest here on Earth, as all tied to time is temporary (2 Cor. 4:18)
8. Near the end of life, Peter had no regrets, having proven the promises of Christ.
9. Peter made a clear call to invest in things above that stand the test of time.
10. Peter calls us to consider all in the light of his prophecy *How shall we then live?*
11. How has the prospect of what's ahead affected your life? (Matt. 6:19-20)
12. What shall we do with our possessions in light of Christ's return?
13. Has your life been cantered on temporary trinkets? (Matt. 6:20)
14. Are you ready for Christ-cantered living with eternity's values in view?

E. We Are All Sinners, Nevertheless God Loves Us

1. We deserve hell, nevertheless Christ promises heaven to those who trust Him.
2. Trials are real & inevitable, nevertheless, God's Grace is sufficient.
3. Since everything will be dissolved, live in holiness and godliness.
4. Be diligent to be found by Christ "without spot or blemish."
5. Our lifestyle should reflect our hope, living holy and expectant lives.
6. Don't cling to temporary things—invest in eternal ones.
7. Our righteous Lord will reign in the new heaven and earth.
8. Are you looking forward to that day?
9. When trials come remember the "nevertheless" option.
10. Peter's last call is the Lord's call to us today.
11. How will we respond to His call?