



# St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church

## Heliopolis, Egypt



# Commentary on The 2nd Epistle of Peter



*In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
the One and Only God,  
Amen.*

*An exegetical study of the Holy Bible*

**"commentaries on the New Testament"**

**The Second Epistle of St. Peter**

*prepared and published by priests and servants of  
St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church  
Heliopolis, Egypt*

*Translated by George Ishack, Ottawa, Canada, 2025  
All biblical quotations are taken from the New King James version of the Holy Bible*

St-Takla.org



*His Holiness Pope Tawadros II  
118<sup>th</sup> Pope of Alexandria  
and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark*

## Prelude

### 1. The author:

- a- In Chapter 1:1 St. Peter said that he authored this epistle, referring to himself as a "***bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ.***"
- b- He was one three disciples who witnessed Christ's transfiguration (Chapter 1:16 - 18).
- c- He said that he had authored the first epistle (Chapter 3:1).

### 2. The second epistle's intended audience:

It was addressed to the Christians of Asia Minor (Chapter 3:1) whose countries were mentioned in 1 Peter 1:1.

### 3. Timing of the epistle - where it was written:

Written towards the end of Peter's life (Chapter 1:14), around the year 66, the epistle mentions that it was written from Babylon, which usually refers to Rome. Some people allege that Peter resided in a place called "Babylon," in Egypt and that, during that period, he authored both epistles; such allegations, though, remain unfounded.

### 4. The epistle's purpose and features:

- a- A life of holiness and preparation for the Lord's second coming.
- b- Rejection of heresies.
- c- Similarities with the general epistle of Jude, especially in the discussion of heresies.

### 5. The epistle's sections:

- a- The spiritual struggle (Ch. 1)
- b- The heretics (Ch. 2)
- c- Christ's second coming (Ch. 3)



*"Interpretation of the holy Bible - the New Testament"  
taken from the series: "Patristic expositions and meditations"*

*An exegetical study of  
**The Second Epistle of St. Peter***

*Chapter 1*

***The Spiritual Struggle - Christ's Divinity***

**1. Apostolic greetings - verses 1 & 2:**

***"Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,...."*** (2 Peter 1:1 & 2)

**Verse 1:**

The apostle sends his greetings to believers in Asia Minor and the entire world - hence, to all believing Gentiles and Jews who, like Peter, had received this grace. This precious Faith is a grace from our Lord Christ, the Saviour of mankind. Peter humbly mentions his old name "Simon" (meaning "to hear or listen") alongside his acquired name "Peter" (meaning "rock or stone"). He refers to himself as both ***"a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ."*** He never forgot that, although originally an uneducated fisherman, he became through Christ, a great apostle.

**Verse 2:**

St. Peter desires, for believers, an abundance of peace and grace through the knowledge of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ, consistently with what our Lord had said, ***"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*** (John 17:3)

+ *Encourage everyone you meet with words of grace, peace and love, in order to spread an air of comfort amidst the world's perturbations.*

**2. The spiritual struggle - verses 3 - 15:**

***"....as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add***

***to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease."*** (2 Peter 1:3 - 15)

### **Verse 3:**

Having known Christ and believed on Him, the Holy Spirit grants us all the necessities of a spiritual life, through the Church's holy sacraments. Thus, we acquire through Baptism a nature aimed at being Christ-like, Chrismation edifies us in this life, our sins are forgiven through the Sacrament of Penance, we are nurtured through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, and we are shepherded and guided through the Church's rites. God is glorified in us through a Christ-like life, and a life steeped in spiritual virtues.

### **Verse 4:**

***"...exceedingly great and precious promises...."*** - Those are the Old Testament promises, as well as Christ's promises that He made to all believers - promises that the Holy Spirit would fulfill.

***"...partakers of the Divine nature..."*** - This is the new nature that we acquire through the Sacraments of Baptism and the holy Eucharist, as well as through the Holy Spirit's indwelling us.

The work of the Holy Spirit in us imparts to us glory and virtues, through the holy sacraments, which, in turn, elevate us to a high level of fellowshiping with God. Such a sublime, spiritual, Christian lifestyle will grant us purity, and distance us from evil desires corrupting the souls of people of this world.

### **Verse 5:**

**"....for this very reason...."** - This refers to acquiring the spiritual life, the promises, and fellowshiping with the Divine nature, imparted to us through grace.

Given that grace enables us to lead a Christ-like life, it behooves us to respond to it through our spiritual struggle, which results in virtues, a strong faith, and spiritual conduct.

### **Verse 6:**

The apostle continues his discussion of the stages and degrees of a spiritual life; it is a sequential chain, one leading to the other:

**"....to knowledge self-control..."** - Upon loving and experiencing God, materialism becomes insignificant, and we become content with little.

**"....to self-control perseverance..."** - By controlling ourselves with respect to all worldly and emotional issues, we nurture patience and endurance, such that hardships would not perturb us.

**"....to perseverance godliness...."** - By patiently enduring hardships and worldly desires for God's sake, we acquire an abundance of His mercies, Divine support and Divine comfort. This, in turn, fosters a godly lifestyle, encompassing repentance, fear of God, and fellowshiping with God.

### **Verse 7:**

**"....to godliness brotherly kindness...."** - Fearing God, leading a lifestyle of repentance, and fellowshiping with God, results in being Divinely satiated which, in turn, dispels selfishness, replacing it with openness with others, while establishing good relationships.

**"....to brotherly kindness love...."** - Kind words and encouragement to others open the heart towards love for all. Loving others confirms and fosters our love for, and faith in, God; this paves the way for a virtuous lifestyle, edifying our knowledge of God. Thus, this chain is intertwined, resulting in spiritual growth stemming from any of its links.

### **Verse 8:**

These spiritual stages strongly motivate a person to know God, and to have a life filled with spiritual fruits, namely, virtues and various services.

### **Verse 9:**

Conversely, the apostle describes a person ignoring these spiritual stages as being shortsighted or, even, blind spiritually. This is because he would have ignored or forgotten the grace acquired through renewal of his nature and abandonment of antecedent sins - he should have grown in his new spiritual life with God. Lack of a spiritual struggle makes us liable to fall back into our old sins.

### **Verse 10:**

The apostle urges our edification in the Faith, to which God called us, choosing us to be His children, through the spiritual struggle/stages outlined earlier. We shield ourselves against falling into various sins, and against a relapse into our old ungodly lifestyle, by maintaining that struggle and adhering to our Faith.

### **Verse 11:**

St. Peter encourages us to cling to our spiritual struggle, since it paves the way to the kingdom, opening its gates for our enjoyment of eternal joy.

### **Verse 12:**

Consequently, St. Peter does not hesitate to remind his audience of the significance of the spiritual struggle, despite their awareness of it, and their edification in the Christian Faith. Such a reminder nurtures spiritual growth.

### **Verses 13 - 15:**

Feeling the approach of his demise, St. Peter senses a responsibility to remind us of the spiritual struggle. He likens his life unto a temporary abode or tent, that would soon be shed, as he moves towards eternity. He urges his children not to be lax in their struggle, after his departure to join Christ.

+ *Be scrupulous in your struggle against your favourite sin. Rest assured that God highly values your toil; He will support your efforts, not only to experience Him practically, but also to help rid yourself of your sin.*

### **3. The transfiguration - prophecies proving Christ's Divinity - verses 16 - 21:**

***"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent [most high] Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines [prophecies are likened unto a shining light] in a dark place [in reference to the Old Testament], until the day dawns and the morning star rises [this refers to Christ] in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for***

***prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.***" (2 Peter 1:16 - 21)

**Verse 16:**

St. Peter declares that his evangelism is not derived from fables or tales invented by some people. Rather, he was an eye witness to Christ's power and Divinity during His life on earth. This was evident in events such as Christ's transfiguration on the mountain.

**Verses 17 & 18:**

St. Peter emphasizes Christ's Divinity and greatness, manifested by the honour and glory He acquired during His transfiguration on the mountain, when the heavenly Father called upon Him saying, "***This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!***" (Matthew 17:5) Peter, James and John heard the heavenly Father's assertion, since they had accompanied Christ on the mountain.

**Verse 19:**

St. Peter alerts them to heed Old Testament prophecies proving Christ's Divinity. They are akin to a Divine shining light, amidst humanity's ignorance prevailing in the Old Testament, dispelling the gloom, through Christ's incarnation and redemption.

**Verse 20:**

Prophecies recorded by the prophets were the result of inspiration by the Holy Spirit - they were not the product of human efforts.

**Verse 21:**

None of the prophecies was inspired by human will. None of the prophets spoke spontaneously or of his own perception. They were all motivated and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

+ *Read the words of the holy Bible in reverence, knowing that they are the voice of God, and they give you life - you should apply them in your daily life.*



*"Interpretation of the holy Bible - the New Testament"  
taken from the series: "Patristic expositions and meditations"*

*An exegetical study of  
**The Second Epistle of St. Peter***

Chapter 2

**False Teachers**

**1. Emergence of false teachers - verses 1 - 3:**

***"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber."*** (2 Peter 2:1 - 3)

**Verse 1:**

St. Peter reminds them of the false teachers who deceived kings and nations in the Old Testament, to steer them away from the teachings of the Lord's prophets - an example being king Ahab (see 1 Kings 22:22). In the apostle's days, there were also false teachers, spreading heresies, denying the Divinity of Christ, Who purchased us with His precious blood. Such heresies will deny them, and their followers, salvation - eternal perdition awaits them.

**Verse 2:**

Those false teachers claim to be Christians, despite their false doctrine. They deceive many, leading them to perdition. Such heresies confuse pagans about Christianity, causing them to spread verbal abuse against it.

**Verse 3:**

They play havoc with souls, belittling the precious blood shed for them. They use kind and deceptive words to mislead the simple-hearted. For this reason, they will not escape condemnation and eternal perdition.

+ *Be meticulous about what you read or hear; beware of anything contradicting the Church's teaching, when in doubt seek your confessor's advice.*

## 2. Punishment of evil-doers - verses 4 - 9:

***"For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment [judgment day]; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)-- then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,..."*** (2 Peter 2:4 - 9)

### Verse 4:

St. Peter clarifies Divine justice against those persisting in their wicked ways, such as false teachers; he gives three examples (a, b and c below):  
a- In olden times God punished boastful/arrogant angels, and sentenced them to eternal perdition: He bound them, and prohibited their return to their initial stature, enjoying fellowshiping with Him - now they await their final eternal torment. Since God's mercy did not dissuade Him from justly punishing fallen angels, He will certainly punish heretics.

***"...chains of darkness...."*** - This refers to their sins' fetters prohibiting their fellowshiping with God.

***"...hell...."*** - This is the interim place for evil-doers, who continue to be permitted by God to war against mankind.

***"....to be reserved for judgment..."*** - They await judgment day, fettered, and incapable of seeing God.

### Verse 5:

b- Because of His justice, God did not spare the world in Noah's days. Noah led a righteous life, but nobody responded to him. God brought the flood upon them because of their promiscuity; but He spared Noah along with seven members of his family (his wife, his sons, and his sons' wives).

### Verse 6:

c- God sentenced Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction because of the abundance of their wickedness. He transformed them to ashes, to render them an example for all generations choosing to remain unrepentant.

### Verse 7:

God's justice is demonstrated side-by-side to His mercy for His children; thus, He did not forget Lot and daughters, since they had not participated in the prevailing promiscuity surrounding them.

### Verse 8:

Lot was righteous, and it grieved him to witness the wickedness abounding around him.

### Verse 9:

We could infer from the preceding verses that God will deliver His children from the world's hardships, and preserve them in their orthodox faith. The wicked are cast in hades, awaiting judgment day, where eternal perdition awaits them. Thus, God is perfect in His mercy towards His children, and just in dealing with the wicked.

+ Never persevere in the path of sin, belittling God's longsuffering and mercy; rather, repent, and distance yourself from all sources of evil. All your attempts at repentance greatly please the Lord, regardless of your shortcomings. He will support you and, eventually, lift your sins away from you.

### 3. Attributes of false teachers - verses 10 - 22:

**"...and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority [Christ, the Church, plus those representing it]. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness [heresies],**

***they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."*** (2 Peter 2:10 - 22)

### **Verses 10 & 11:**

False teachers brazenly spread strange ideas and wickedness; they take so much pride in their presumptuousness, that they speak abusively of angels.

Angels demonstrate their righteousness by not judging those false teachers - they leave judgment to God. We must follow their example.

St. Peter enumerates the false teachers' evil attributes - these include:

- a- Despising authority, hence, they despise Christ and the Church.
- b- Uncleanliness, hence, they revel in carnal desires and lust of the flesh.
- c- Pride, hence, their heresies attack Christ, the Church, and its clerics.

### **Verse 12:**

d- Ignorance, hence, rather than preserving their rational human nature, they have fallen to a lower level than animal predators, hunted and killed by people. Despite their ignorance of angels, they invent absurdities concerning that which they do not know. They will perish in the same way as animals, because of their own corruption.

### **Verse 13:**

e- ***"...pleasure in carousing...."*** - They arrogantly take pleasure in indulging in temporal carnal and material desires, which entail eternal punishment.

f- ***"...those who count it pleasure..."*** - They feign righteousness, and participate in Christian "love feasts" attempting to deceive them with their faulty ideas.

#### Verse 14:

g- **"...eyes full of adultery..."** - Their unclean hearts lead to evil-searching eyes, seeking adultery.

h- **"...deceptions..."** - They are not content with evil deeds, rather, they try to influence the simple-minded whose faith wavers.

i- **"...a heart trained in covetous practices..."** - They fall into the love of possessiveness, and whole-hearted indulgence in evil desires.

Due to such despicable attributes, they will incur God's curse, punishment and eternal perdition.

#### Verse 15:

j- **"...the way of Balaam...who loved the wages of unrighteousness...."** - Those false teachers used to be upright members of the Church; but they decided to stray and follow their lustful desires. Like Balaam, who offended and deceived the Israelites, they sought material gains. St. Peter quotes from Numbers Ch. 22 - 25.

#### Verse 16:

In Numbers 22:28 - 30 we read of Balaam, whose donkey alerted him to repent, speaking in a human voice; false teachers' ignorance is akin to Balaam's.

#### Verse 17:

Those evil-doers' hypocrisy is likened unto **"wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest"** - they neither quench a person's thirst nor satisfy a farmer's expectation of rain. Eternal perdition awaits them - likened unto **"the blackness of darkness forever."**

#### Verse 18:

k- **"lusts of the flesh"** - Believers who reject heresies spread by those false teachers, are prone to being enticed to fall into unclean desires and fornication, aimed at distancing them from God.

#### Verse 19:

l- **"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption..."** - False teachers impart a false sense of freedom; they falsely believe that freedom means being steeped in lusts. They transmit this false belief to those whom they lead astray. This fake belief in freedom is, in fact, bondage to sin. Being captivated by sin, how can they possibly liberate others? To be truly free, they are in dire need of repentance.

#### Verse 20:

m- **"....after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of....Jesus Christ, they are again .....overcome..."** - False teachers were purified upon their belief on Christ, and upon

abandonning their evil ways. However, returning to wickedness and antecedent wrong-doings, rendered the latter days of their lives worse than the former since, after having been enlightened by belief on Chjrist, they preferred the former wicked lifestyle.

**Verse 21:**

They are condemned by their very knowledge of life in Christ. They could have had an excuse had they not known it - but now, their transgression is greater.

**Verse 22:**

St. Peter quotes Proverbs 26:11, "***As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.***" Hence, false teachers are akin to a dog that vomits, yet returns after cleanup - consequently, the dog remains unclean and repulsive to all. He also likens them unto a sow: "***....a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.***" Pigs consistently return to their unclean habits....Similarly, false teachers return to their wicked ways, as though they had never known life with Christ.

+ God will accept your repentance regardless of the extent of your prior sinfulness. However, you should not be complacent, forgetting all your blessings, such that sinful ways lure you back. Remembering judgment day and the eternal perdition awaiting evil-doers should motivate you to shun sin.



*"Interpretation of the holy Bible - the New Testament"  
taken from the series: "Patristic expositions and meditations"*

An exegetical study of  
**The Second Epistle of St. Peter**

Chapter 3

**Faith in God - Preparation for His Second Coming**

**1. The epistle's objective - verses 1 & 2:**

***"Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior...." (2 Peter 3: 1 & 2)***

**Verse 1:**

St. Peter confirms that this second epistle reaffirms the first epistle's aim at reminding believers of God's commandments, of continuing to care for their spiritual life, and of Christ's second coming. He kindly refers to his audience as having "pure minds," by way of encouraging them to accept his message.

**Verse 2:**

The commandments to which the apostle is referring are Christ's, plus those of the Old Testament prophets.

+ *Praising those with whom you converse will render their hearts receptive to what you say, especially if your intent were reproach or admonishment. Rest assured that words of praise will not only make you more at ease, but will also make your discussion more palatable to your audience.*

**2. Response to scoffers' denial of Christ's second coming - verses 3 - 10:**

***"....knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved***

***for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.***" (2 Peter 3:3 - 10)

### **Verse 3:**

St. Peter alerts believers to the emergence of unbelievers during end times, hence, the period preceding Christ's second coming. Steeped in evil desires, they will mock and assail God and the Church.

### **Verse 4:**

Those evil-doers will reject the notion of Christ's second coming, stating that the earth has existed unchanged for many years, insisting that ***"since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."***

### **Verse 5:**

St. Peter gives evidence rebutting disbelievers in Christ's second coming:  
a- Creation: Heaven and earth were non-existent - God created them by His Word. God separated the waters and created heaven above and dry land below (see Genesis 1:9 & 10). As God created them, He can eliminate them at His second coming.

### **Verse 6:**

b- The flood: A second piece of evidence of Christ's second coming, and the accompanying change in heaven and earth, is the flood (see Genesis 7:11), when water flooded mankind and the whole earth.

### **Verse 7:**

The word of God will preserve the present heaven and earth until judgment day, when He will destroy the ungodly.

### **Verse 8:**

c- Timing: The third piece of evidence of Christ's second coming is the fact that, whereas humans have a finite measurement of time, hence, we say that many years have passed since the world's creation, time is a non-issue with God, thus, ***"...with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day...."*** The same concept is conveyed in Psalm 90:4. Consequently, Christ will most certainly come a second time, regardless of the length of time it may take.

### Verse 9:

God's longsuffering, giving everyone a chance for repentance, is mistakenly interpreted by some as "neglect," leading them to doubt His words.

### Verse 10:

St. Peter announces an important fact, namely, judgment day will come suddenly as **"a thief in the night."** In that day, great sounds will be heard, **"and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."** In modern times, atomic bombs and incendiary bombs have demonstrated the capability of mass destruction.

+ Never doubt the words of God. Faith transcends human reasoning. Try to understand, but never contradict God's words in the holy Bible.

### 4. Preparing for the second coming - verses 11 - 18:

**"Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."** (2 Peter 3:11 - 18)

### Verse 11:

Since heaven and earth will disintegrate and change, the apostle urges us to be prepared accordingly:

a- **"Holy conduct and godliness..."** - Believers' conduct should be upright, righteous, and in conformance with God's commandments. They should know that their lives are holy and consecrated to God, without being preoccupied with worldly matters.

### Verse 12:

b- **"...looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God..."** - Since heaven and earth will burn and pass away, believers, rather than being attached to materialism, should desire to be liberated from the body's imprisonment, in order to enjoy fellowship with God and permanent presence with Him.

### Verse 13:

c- **"...we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells...."** - The world may be rife with wickedness, while we struggle to adhere to righteousness - throughout, our hope continues to be in the kingdom of heaven, where righteousness abounds.

### Verse 14:

d- **"...be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless..."** - Believers' starting point should be purging their hearts of any worldly desires. This imparts inner peace, followed by Christ indwelling us, prior to the permanent heavenly abode.

### Verse 15:

e- **"...consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation..."** - Our life is considered an opportunity for repentance, which God granted us through His longsuffering; it is also an opportunity for good deeds in preparation for the heavenly kingdom, as St. Paul asserted in 1 Thessalonians 5:6, 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18 and 1 Corinthians 5 - 8.

### Verse 16:

St. Peter alerts readers to the fact that St. Paul's epistles embody philosophical concepts that some may falsify and present out of context - this leads to their perdition. Consequently, believers should adhere to the Church's interpretations of the entire Bible, to guard against potential misconceptions.

### Verse 17:

f- **"....beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked..."** - Believers should stay away from distorted teachings promulgated by false teachers, and should remain steadfast in, and submit to, the Faith taught by the Church.

### Verse 18:

g- **"...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..."** - Believers should focus on their spiritual growth and the knowledge of Christ, through the holy scriptures, the Church's teachings, service, and their spiritual struggle.

+ Always bear in mind that you must prepare for eternity, since your life on earth will end someday. Be diligent in your daily prayers and readings. Hasten to repent whenever you fall. In this way, you will always see God in your life.

