Sermon Notes for June 1, 2014

What to Do While Waiting
II Peter 3:11-18

Introduction

Peter warns us about two dangers in chapter 3.

- Don’t listen to the scoffers who say it will never happen. 3:1-10
- Don’t miss the point of why he is coming. Watch and be ready. 3:11-18

I. Be holy. Verse 11

What kind of people ought you to be? We ought to live holy and godly lives.

- Holiness has to do with being separated from sin and dedicated to God.
- Godliness has to do with piety and worship.

When men reject his coming or don’t believe in it, it leads to things like:

- Hedonism
- Greed
- Despair

For the believer, everything is different. We are to live holy lives, worship God and serve him.

"Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him."

That should be our desire too. "Everyone who has this hope in him, purifies himself, just as he is pure." I John 3:3

II. Be hopeful. Verses 12-14

"Look forward to the day and speed its coming."

That day will bring about the destruction of this present universe. But it will also bring in a new heaven and a new earth.

The writers of Scripture are wrestling with how to describe things that are indescribable.

What are we looking forward to?

- We will see Jesus face to face. I John 3:3
- We will see family and friends who trusted in Christ. I Thessalonians 2:19-20
- We will see the new heaven and new earth. Revelation 21:1-5
We will see God in all of his glory. Revelation 21:22-27 and 22:5

III. Be alert. Verses 15-17
Be on your guard. This is the very reason Peter wrote this letter.
Hold to the Scriptures.
Peter affirms Paul’s writing as Scripture. Verse 16
“If you give a man bread, he will eat for a day, but if you teach him to plant, he will eat for a lifetime.”
Hear, read, study, meditate and memorize God’s Word.
It is up to us to use it well.

IV. Be growing. Verse 18
If you are looking for a summary verse for II Peter, this would be it.
“Keep growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
Grace and knowledge. Grace and truth.
Both are essential in the Christian life. Both are necessary for a healthy church. Both are found in Jesus Christ, who “came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14
“To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.
This is a remarkable doxology. This is high Christology. It is a clear declaration that Jesus is God.

Conclusion
What are we to do while waiting for Christ’s return?

• Be holy.
• Be hopeful.
• Be alert.
• Be growing.