

2 Peter 3:14-18

This section gathers up all that Peter has said so far. It is structured around four commands in two pairs – the first set governed by the future hope of the new creation, the second by the knowledge that false teachers will deny it.

Verses 14-16 Get ready for Jesus' return

Verse 14 begins with a 'so then'. So what are all believers looking forward to (see v13) and how should we live as a result? What do you think this means? (You might like to look at 1:4 and 2:13 for a comparison and a contrast)

If verse 14 is about what we do, v15a is about what we need to understand. So what exactly does Peter want us to understand? (You might like to contrast this with the understanding of the false teachers in 3:9). What effect will understanding this have if we really grasp it?

Look now at 15b-16. Why does Peter mention Paul here? What does this show us about the false teachers?

Verses 17-18 Don't fall into error, but grow in grace

How would you summarise what Peter wants for Christians from these verses?

Thinking it through

What does a right response to the promise of Jesus' return look like? What does a wrong response look like?

How can we make sure that we don't get carried away by error?

What will encourage us as we seek to keep growing?