



Sermon Discussion Questions  
December 31, 2023,  
**A NEW YEAR**  
2 Peter 3:17-18

*Have A  
Blessed  
New Year!*

## 1. Opening Discussion Questions

- a. As children our parents often warned us of dangers and taught us how to avoid them (e.g., “look both ways before crossing the street”). What were some of the warnings you were given and, if applicable, which have you passed on to your own children. How have the things we need to be warned about changed since you were a child?
- b. One of the biggest issues facing individuals in this internet age is how to know if the information they are receiving is factual (true). Being careful to avoid getting into a political debate, discuss some of the ways you think Christians should evaluate information. How important is it to accurately assess the truthfulness of the information we download?

## 2. Study/Discussion Points:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – Since this sermon is presented on New Year’s Eve many will be in the process of formulating their “New Year’s Resolutions” – or even if you don’t do that almost everyone recognizes it as a time to start anew. Spend time this afternoon thinking about the text in 2 Peter and decide on at least one thing you believe God would have you start, or do differently, in 2024.

- b. **Monday** – *Welcome to 2024!*

In preparation for the study questions this week, New Year’s Day would be an excellent time to read the entire book of 2 Peter so you can see the sermon text (2 Peter 3:17-18) in context. At an average reading pace the book can be easily read in 10 minutes.

- c. **Tuesday**

- i. Read the sermon text, 2 Peter 3:17-18, slowly, meditating on each phrase. Do so using several different translations if possible.

1. What is the main point that you see in these verses?
2. How would you paraphrase verses 17 and 18a in today’s language?

- ii. How would you characterize Peter’s relationship to the ones he is writing to based on these verses?

1. Peter calls those he is writing to “beloved” four times in chapter 3 – each time combining it with a command to “be” something. Read the following verses and determine what Peter wanted his beloved to be:

- a. 2 Peter 3:1-2 “Beloved ... be \_\_\_\_\_”
- b. 2 Peter 3:8 “Beloved ... be \_\_\_\_\_”
- c. 2 Peter 3:14 “Beloved ... be \_\_\_\_\_”
- d. 2 Peter 3:17 “Beloved ... be \_\_\_\_\_”

2. Why do you think Peter emphasized his love so much? Read John 21:15-17. Does this suggest any reason?

- d. **Wednesday**

- i. The ESV begins verse 17 with the word “you” (as do the original language texts) and follows it with a “therefore”. Usually “Therefore” begins a verse. What do you think is the significance of “you” occurring first?

- ii. Compare verse 17 & 18a with 2 Peter 1:3-11. What similarities do you see in the opening and the closing of this letter? What does that tell you?
- iii. What do you think the phrase “knowing this beforehand” (ESV), “since you have been forewarned” (NIV), “since you know this in advance” (CSB) means and why is it important to the message of these verses?
  - 1. Compare this with Mark 13:23 and 2 Peter 1:12.
  - 2. How might you have said the same thing in a warning to your children?

*e. Thursday*

- i. Peter has described the lawless (false teachers) previously in Chapter 2. Review the chapter and make a list of the characteristics of the lawless (false teachers). How does Peter describe the way God will treat them?
- ii. The word “fall” is not in the ESV translation of verse 17 but is prominent in many other translations (including NIV and CSB). The phrase “lose your own stability” does, however, suggest falling. Read Romans 11:11, 22; 14:4; 1 Corinthians 10:12; Hebrews 4:11; Revelation 2:5. Based on these passages what do you think Peter is warning about in verse 17?

*f. Friday.*

- i. Peter shifts from the negative appeal to avoid false teaching in verse 17 to a positive to appeal to grow in verse 18. What are the two areas in which Peter wants growth to occur?
- ii. Peter’s appeal to grow in grace presents “grace” not as a static one-time experience at salvation (i.e., “God’s Redemption At Christ’s Expense) but as His ongoing help living the Christian life from salvation to death. Read 2 Corinthians 6:1; 9:8; 12:9; 2 Timothy 2:1; 1 Peter 4:10. How do these verses depict “grace”?
- iii. Peter also appeals to us to grow in the “knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” How would we go about doing that (hint: think about Five to Thrive)?

*g. Saturday*

- i. Instead of the normal greetings that were usually at the end of the letter Peter closes with a doxology in verse 18b. Compare Peter’s closing with his opening prayer (2 Peter 1:2) and the doxology at the end of Jude (verses 24-25). How are they similar and what do they communicate about God and about Christ? Meditate on these closing words as you pray in the coming weeks.
- ii. Read Colossians 3:1-4 as a conclusion to this week’s studies.

3. **Application:** Peter teaches us that our daily task is to grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. That’s best done by Bible study, prayer, and meeting with other Christians for discussion and worship. Plan to incorporate or increase those activities in your life in 2024.

**4. Prayer Points:**

- a. **A**doration – 1 Peter 4:16
- b. **C**onfession – James 5:16
- c. **T**hanksgiving – 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- d. **S**upplications – James 4:2-3

Happy New Year!