

# Believers in Exile

Sermon series on 1 and 2 Peter

Red Bank MBC

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## Outline of 1 Peter

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Acts of Salvation  
1:1-2

- I. Salvation is the work of the Triune God. (1:1-2)
  - A. Election is the work of God the Father. (1:2)
  - B. Redemption is the work of God the Son. (1:2)
  - C. Sanctification is the work of God the Holy Spirit. (1:2)
- II. Salvation is an act of grace from God. (1:2)
- III. Salvation brings us peace with God. (1:2)
- IV. Salvation alienates us from the world. (1:2)

1. Why is salvation a work of God?
2. What does it mean to be God's elect?
3. Describe the relationship that existed between you and God before your salvation.
4. How were you redeemed? Retell your redemption story.
5. How does knowing others have not yet received salvation motivate you?
5. What are some ways God sanctifies you? Which way do you find most difficult?
6. What does Peter mean when he calls believers "exiles?"
7. What are some ways in which you feel alienated from the world?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

## Salvation's Glorious Future 1:3-5

- I. Our future salvation is guaranteed. (1:3)
  - A. Jesus Christ's resurrection guarantees salvation's future. (1:3)
  - B. Jesus Christ's resurrection guarantees a living hope. (1:3)
- II. Our future salvation includes a promised reward. (1:4)
  - A. Our future inheritance is durable. (1:4)
  - B. Our future inheritance is pure. (1:4)
  - C. Our future inheritance is eternal. (1:4)
- III. Our future salvation is secure. (1:5)
  - A. Our future salvation is guarded by God's power. (1:5)
  - B. Our future salvation is guarded until God's revelation. (1:5)

1. What does it mean that God has caused us to be born again? How are we born again?
2. What does Peter mean by a living hope? Who is our living hope?
3. How does having a living hope bring you comfort today?
4. What is the final piece of your salvation?
5. What part of your future inheritance are you looking forward to?
6. Why is it important that your inheritance is pure?
7. How will salvation be revealed in the last time?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Present Trials of Salvation  
1:6-9

- I. Trials are part of our salvation. (1:6)
  - A. Trials will come. (1:6)
  - B. Trials bring us grief. (1:6)
  - C. Trials appear in various forms. (1:6)
- II. Trials have a purpose in our salvation. (1:7-8)
  - A. Trials test our faith. (1:7)
  - B. Trials deepen our praise. (1:7)
  - C. Trials intensify our hope. (1:8)
  - D. Trials establish our salvation. (1:9)

1. Why are trials part of your salvation?
2. Are trials the same as temptations? Explain.
3. Why should you praise God during and for your trials?
4. Why is your faith more precious than gold? What perishes when your faith is tested by fire?
5. What trials have you experienced?
6. Discuss how the purposes of trials were displayed in one trial you experienced.
7. How can you use your trials to glorify God?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Salvation from the Past  
1:10-12

- I. Prophets wrote to encourage us. (1:10-11)
  - A. They wrote about the person of the Messiah. (1:11)
  - B. They wrote about the time of the Messiah. (1:11)
  - C. They wrote about the suffering of the Messiah. (1:11)
  - D. They wrote about the glories of the Messiah. (1:11)
- II. Angels looked to encourage us. (1:12)
- III. Preachers preached to encourage us. (1:12)
- IV. Old Testament prophecies were given to encourage us. (1:10, 12)
  - A. The prophecies were for you. (1:10)
  - B. The good news was for you. (1:12)

1. Why were the prophets looking for the Messiah?
2. What are some important Old Testament prophecies? Where were they fulfilled in the New Testament?
3. Why did the prophets search for the sufferings of the Messiah?
4. How do the prophets and their prophecies serve you? How can you serve others with this information?
5. What are the “things that have now been announced to you?”
6. Why is salvation curious to the angels?
7. Is the Gospel only a New Testament teaching? Where was the Gospel first mentioned? What did it promise? Where else is it found in the Old Testament?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?



Holiness Demanded by God  
1:13-16

- I. Holiness demands our attention. (1:13-16)
  - A. God demands holiness. (1:16)
  - B. God radiates holiness. (1:16)
- II. Holiness demands internal preparation. (1:13)
  - A. We prepare our minds. (1:13)
  - B. We prepare our hearts. (1:13)
- III. Holiness demands an external response. (1:14-15)
  - A. Holiness is an act of obedience. (1:14)
  - B. Holiness is an act of transformation. (1:14)
  - C. Holiness is an act of behavior. (1:15)

1. Why does God call you to be holy?
2. What does it mean to be holy “in all your conduct?” How has following Jesus changed your conduct?
3. How do you prepare your mind and your heart?
4. What guards your heart and mind? (Ephesians 6:12-20)
5. Why can obedience to God’s commands be hard?
6. Discuss the difference between conformation and transformation.
7. What was your life like before you were saved? How has Jesus transformed your life?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Greatness of Holiness  
1:17-2:3

- A. Jesus Christ secured our holiness. (1:17-20)
  - A. Jesus ransomed us from our sins. (1:18)
  - B. Jesus was revealed on our behalf. (1:18)
  - C. Jesus was raised for our hope. (1:19)
- B. Holiness is expressed as a response to the Gospel. (1:22-25)
  - A. We respond to the truth. (1:22)
  - B. We respond by being born again. (1:23)
  - C. We respond to the Word of God. (1:23-25)
- C. Holiness is manifested by a new life. (2:1-3)
  - A. We discard worldly sins. (2:1)
  - B. We desire God's Word. (2:2-3)

1. From what did Jesus ransom you? How did Jesus do this?
2. Why was Jesus revealed? (Galatians 4:4)
3. How is our hope linked to Jesus' resurrection? Why is Jesus the only hope?
4. Explain the "spiritual milk" metaphor. Compare with 1 Corinthians 3:2 and Hebrews 5:12.
5. How do you conduct yourself with fear?
6. Why is it important that the word of God does not perish? Who is the ultimate manifestation of the word of God?
7. What role does the God's word play in your life? Does your life support your answer?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Holiness Described  
2:4-10

- I. Holy people are a spiritual people. (2:4-8)
  - A. Holy people are built upon living stone. (2:4)
  - B. Holy people are part of a spiritual body. (2:5)
  - C. Holy people are to offer spiritual sacrifices. (2:5)
  
- II. Holy people are a changed people. (2:9)
  - A. Holy people have a changed identity. (2:9)
  - B. Holy people have a changed service. (2:9)
  - C. Holy people have a changed lifestyle. (2:9)
  - D. Holy people have a changed relationship. (2:9)
  
- III. Holy people are a proclaiming people. (2:9-10)
  - A. Holy people proclaim the excellence of Jesus. (2:9)
  - B. Holy people proclaim the excellence of our salvation. (2:10)

1. Who is the living stone? Why did men reject the stone?
2. What is the spiritual house? Why is the church important?
3. Describe the priesthood of the believer. How do you serve as a priest?
4. Why does your belief in Jesus “not put you to shame?”
5. What does it mean that your identity is in Christ?
6. What did it mean to you when Jesus called you out of the darkness? Why is this an important part of proclaiming the excellencies of Jesus? How can you proclaim the excellencies of Jesus?
7. What does it mean to be God’s people? What does it mean to have received mercy?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Behavior in the World  
2:11-25

- I. A believer's behavior is a testimony. (2:11-12)
    - A. A believer's behavior is a testimony to our exile. (2:11)
    - B. A believer's behavior is a testimony to our God. (2:12)
  
  - II. A believer's behavior is marked by submission. (2:13-20)
    - A. We submit to political authorities. (2:13-17)
    - B. We submit to bosses in authority over us. (2:18-20)
  
  - III. A believer's behavior reflects the submission of Jesus Christ. 2:21-25
    - A. Christ submitted to suffering. (2:21-22)
    - B. Christ submitted to death. (2:22-24)
    - C. Christ submitted for your salvation. (2:24-25)
- 
1. How do you keep your conduct honorable? What passions of the flesh continue to wage war against you now?
  2. How is your behavior a testimony for God to the world? Briefly write your testimony.
  3. From where do earthly governments derive their authority? Why is this important? (Romans 13:1-13)
  4. Why should you submit to those in authority over you? What do you do when earthly authorities contradict God's authority? (Acts 5:29)
  5. How did Jesus suffer unjustly for you?
  6. Have you ever suffered for following Jesus? How did you respond? How did it make you feel?
  7. How can you follow Jesus' example of submission?
  8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Behavior in Marriage  
3:1-7

- I. Wives are called to Godly submission to their husbands. (3:1-6)
  - A. Submission directs husbands to Jesus (3:1-2)
  - B. Submission is an internal decision. (3:3-4)
  - C. Submission is a sign of holiness. (3:5-6)
  
- II. Husbands are called to love their wives. (3:7)
  - A. Husbands are to display understanding toward their wives. (3:7)
  - B. Husbands are to honor their wives. (3:7)
  - C. Husbands are to recognize their wives' standing. (3:7)
  - D. Husbands are to be prayer warriors for their wives. (3:7)
  
- III. The husband-wife relationship is a picture of the Gospel. (Ephesians 5:30-31)

- 1. Do you find submission difficult? Why?
- 2. Is submission an external or internal characteristic? Explain.
- 3. What does it mean for a wife to submit to her husband? Is submission negative?
- 4. How does a husband honor his wife? Is he to lord authority over her?
- 5. When did God institute marriage? Why? (Genesis 2-3)
- 6. How does marriage reflect the Gospel? If you are married, how can you make your relationship look more like the Gospel?
- 7. If you are not married, how do you apply this to your life?
- 8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Behavior in the Church  
3:8-12

- I. Believers are to strengthen one another. (3:8)
  - A. Believers strengthen one another in unity. (3:8)
  - B. Believers strengthen one another with sympathy. (3:8)
  - C. Believers strengthen one another in love. (3:8)
  - D. Believers strengthen one another in tenderness. (3:8)
  - E. Believers strengthen one another in humility. (3:8)
  
- II. Believers are to bless one another. (3:9-12)
  - A. Believers bless others by doing good. (3:9-11)
  - B. Believers bless others through prayers. (3:12)

1. How do believers strengthen one another? Why is this important?
2. Why is unity in the church important?
3. Of the 5 ways believers strengthen each other, which do you find the easiest to do? Which do you find the hardest? How can you grow in the one that you find most difficult?
4. How can you help strengthen believers in your church right now?
5. Describe a time when you blessed someone by doing good. What was the result? How did it display the Gospel?
6. What is God's posture when we pray? What does this tell you about God's perfections?
7. What part of prayer do you find easy? What part do you find difficult? Describe your prayer life. Does your life support your answer?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Suffering for Righteousness  
3:13-17

- I. Suffering occurs in our lives. (3:13-14)
  - A. Believers suffer for righteous living. (3:14)
  - B. Believers are not fearful while suffering. (3:14)
  - C. Believers look for the blessing in suffering. (3:14)
  
- II. Suffering provides believers an occasion to testify to our faith. (3:15)
  - A. Believers have the occasion to honor Jesus Christ. (3:15)
  - B. Believers have the occasion to explain our hope. (3:15)
  
- III. Suffering provides believers an opportunity to grow in our faith. (3:16-17)
  - A. Believers grow in righteousness while suffering. (3:16)
  - B. Believers grow in recognizing God's will in their lives. (3:17)

1. Why do the righteous suffer? Why do you think believers should not suffer?
2. How does suffering lead to blessing?
3. What suffering have you gone through or are you going through? Was it for doing good or for doing evil?
4. How can you use righteous suffering to honor Jesus?
5. Can you give a defense for the hope that you have? How would you? If you can't, what do you need to be able to do that?
6. What is God's will for your life? (1 Thessalonians 4:3) What is God's particular will for your life right now?
7. How can you be zealous for what is good?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Suffering of Christ  
3:18-22

- I. Jesus Christ suffered for you. (3:18)
    - A. Jesus Christ suffered for your sin. (3:18)
    - B. Jesus Christ suffered to bring you to God. (3:18)
    - C. Jesus Christ suffered in your place. (3:18)
  
  - II. Jesus Christ suffered to bring you victory. (3:19-21)
    - A. Jesus Christ is victorious over death. (3:19)
    - B. Jesus Christ is victorious over evil. (3:19-21)
  
  - III. Jesus Christ suffered but was raised in glory. (3:22)
    - A. Jesus Christ is the object of exaltation in heaven. (3:22)
    - B. Jesus Christ is the object of worship in heaven. (3:22)
- 
1. Why did Jesus suffer for us? Why is it important that He only suffered once? (Hebrews 10:1-18)
  2. What does it mean that Jesus was our substitute? Why is that important?
  3. Why is baptism important for a believer? What does it symbolize?
  4. Why is baptism an appeal to God? How does that impact your life?
  5. What should your attitude toward death be? (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)
  6. How would you define worship? Is your definition biblical or personal preference?
  7. How can you exalt Jesus in your daily life?
  8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?



Suffering in this Life  
4:1-6

- I. Believers face suffering by preparing our minds. (4:1-2)
  - A. Believers think as Jesus did. (4:1)
  - B. Believers focus on the will of God. (4:2)
  
- II. Believers face suffering by understanding the world. (4:3-5)
  - A. Believers must abstain from the sins of the world. (4:3)
  - B. Believers must prepare for ridicule by the world. (4:4-5)
  
- III. Believers face suffering by recognizing God's judgment. (4:6)
  - A. Believers know everyone will stand before God's judgment. (4:6)
  - B. Believers know we will not suffer God's wrath. (4:6)

1. How did Jesus think? How does this impact how we should think? How do you need to change your thinking to be more like Jesus? (Philippians 2:1-9)
2. What are some sins of the world? How do you abstain from them?
3. How can you prepare yourself to be ridiculed by the world? How should you respond when you are ridiculed?
4. How did Jesus suffer in the flesh? How is it possible that God suffered in the flesh?
5. What is the difference between God's judgment and God's wrath?
6. On what will believers be judged? (1 Corinthians 3:12-15)
7. Why will believers not face God's wrath? (Revelation 20:11-15)
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Jesus' Return and the Church  
4:7-11

I. The return of Jesus influences how we live now. (4:7-10)

- A. Believers model fervent prayer. (4:7)
- B. Believers demonstrate sincere love. (4:8)
- C. Believers exhibit gracious hospitality. (4:9)
- D. Believers display devout service. (4:10)

II. The return of Jesus influences how we worship now. (4:11)

- A. Believers worship by giving thanks to God. (4:11)
- B. Believers worship by glorifying God. (4:11)

1. What does it mean that love “covers a multitude of sins?” Do you demonstrate this in your life?
2. How can you show hospitality? Why should you do this without grumbling?
3. Would you describe your prayer life as fervent? If not, what can you do to change that?
4. Why is giving thanks important? What does giving thanks create in you?
5. What are some reasons for you to give thanks to God?
6. What gifts do you have to serve God and others? Are you using them? If so, how? If not, why?
7. Why does Jesus' return impact how you live now? If you knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow, what would you do today?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Suffering with Joy  
4:12-19

I. Believers embrace suffering with the correct attitude. (4:12-16)

- A. Believers embrace suffering with normality. (4:12)
- B. Believers embrace suffering with joy. (4:13)
- C. Believers embrace suffering with blessing (4:14)
- D. Believers embrace suffering with honor. (4:15-16)

II. Believers receive suffering as part of God's will. (4:17-19)

- A. Believers receive God's refinement. (4:17)
- B. Believers receive God's judgment. (4:18)
- C. Believers receive God's commitment. (4:19)
- D. Believers receive God's assignment. (4:19)

1. Why will trials come upon believers? How do you approach these trials?
2. What does it look like to embrace suffering with honor? How can you rejoice in suffering?
3. How does the Spirit of God resting on you help you while you experience suffering?
4. How do we share in Jesus' suffering? How does sharing in His suffering lead to sharing in His life? (Romans 6:8-11)
5. How has suffering refined you?
6. Why are we called to continue to do good while we suffer?
7. Why does God bring judgment on His house? How does He do this? (John 14:1-8)
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Together in the Church  
5:1-5

I. Leaders in the church are exhorted to serve faithfully. (5:1-4)

- A. Leaders serve willingly. (5:2)
- B. Leaders serve honestly. (5:2)
- C. Leaders serve meekly. (5:3)
- D. Leaders serve obediently. (5:4)

II. Members of the church are encouraged to respond appropriately. (5:5)

- A. Members are encouraged to respond submissively. (5:5)
- B. Members are encouraged to respond humbly. (5:5)

III. The church is a reflection of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:27)

1. What are the Biblical requirements for pastors and deacons?
2. Why should leaders exhibit these qualities as they serve?
3. What is the opposite of humility? (Philippians 2:3)
4. Why is humility important in your interactions with other believers?
5. What do submission and humility have to do with the Gospel? (Philippians 2:5-8)
6. How does the church grow through faithful leaders and members?
7. How do leadership, service, and responding to leadership reflect Jesus?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Commands to the Church  
5:6-14

- I. God gives particular commands to His people. (5:6-9)
    - A. God commands His people to live in contented obedience. (5:6)
    - B. God commands His people to live in confident devotion. (5:7)
    - C. God commands His people to live in spiritual awareness. (5:8-9)
  
  - II. God gives specific promises to His people. (5:10-11)
    - A. God promises to save His people. (5:11)
    - B. God promises to preserve His people. (5:11)
  
  - III. God gives grace to His people. (5:12)
- 
1. Why does God give believers commands? Do you find these commands to be burdensome? Why?
  2. Why is obedience to God's commands important? (John 14:23)
  3. How can you be aware of the devil's schemes? How can you prepare yourself? (Ephesians 6:10-20)
  4. Why would the devil want to devour believers? Why would he want to devour you?
  5. From what does God save His people? To what does God save them?
  6. Why is it important that God preserves His people now and in the future?
  7. How much grace does God give? Can you ever exhaust His grace?
  8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

2 Peter  
An Available Faith  
1:1-2

- I. Faith in Jesus is available to everyone. (1:1)
- II. Faith in Jesus is possible because of His righteousness. (1:1)
- III. Faith in Jesus changes your identity. (1:1)
  - A. We are changed to servants. (1:1)
  - B. We are changed to ambassadors. (1:1)
- IV. Faith in Jesus is a growing faith. (1:2)
  - 1. What does it mean that our faith is “of equal standing?”
  - 2. What does imputed righteousness mean? Why is it important? (2 Corinthians 5:21)
  - 3. How are the roles of ambassador and servant different? Why do you need to be both?
  - 4. How are you a servant to Jesus? How are you an ambassador for Jesus?
  - 5. How does the truth that faith is available to everyone motivate mission work? How can you be a part of missions work? What is your dream mission project?
  - 6. How are you growing in the knowledge of God?
  - 7. What happens if you stop growing? Why is a stagnant faith dangerous?
  - 8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

A Growing Faith  
1:3-11

- I. God calls believers to grow in our faith. (1:3-4)
  - A. God provides the power necessary for growth. (1:3)
  - B. God provides knowledge of Himself. (1:3)
  - C. God provides promises to spur our growth. (1:4)
  - D. God provides an escape from corruption. (1:4)

- II. God calls believers to work on our faith. (1:5-11)
  - A. We work to grow in Godly virtues. (1:5-7)
  - B. We work to keep from being useless. (1:8-9)
  - C. We work to make our salvation secure. (1:9-11)

1. Why is it important that you grow in your faith?
2. Who assists you as you grow in your faith? How? (John 16:13-15)
3. Who else can help you? How? (Proverbs 27:17)
4. Can you name a time when you were useless in your faith? Why? What did you do to escape that?
5. How does your growing faith advance God's kingdom?
6. Name 2-3 areas where you have seen your faith grow? Name 1-2 areas where your faith needs to grow?
7. How can you work to "make your calling and election secure?"
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

A Truthful Faith  
1:12-21

- I. God's word is authenticated by the apostles' testimony. (1:12-15)
  - A. Their testimony is designed to encourage believers. (1:12-13)
  - B. Their testimony comes directly from Jesus Christ. (1:15)
  
- II. God's word is authenticated by the power of Jesus. (1:16-18).
  - A. Jesus displayed His power at His incarnation. (1:16)
  - B. Jesus displayed His power at His transfiguration. (1:17-18)
  
- III. God's word is authenticated by the prediction of the prophets. (1:19-21)
  - A. The prophets wrote to point us to Jesus Christ. (1:19-20)
  - B. The prophets wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. (1:21)
  
- IV. God's word is authenticated by a changed life. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- 1. Why is the teaching of the apostles important today?
- 2. How can the apostles' testimonies encourage you? How does Peter's testimony encourage you?
- 3. Why is it important to have the prophecies about Jesus? What does this tell you about God?
- 4. Why is it important that the Bible comes from God? (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- 5. How does God's word help you grow in the faith?
- 6. How has God's word changed your life? Do others see this change in you?
- 7. How can you use your changed life to lead others to Jesus?
- 8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?



Dangerous Deceptions  
2:1-10

I. Believers must recognize false teachers. (2:1-3)

- A. False teachers are sneaky. (2:1)
- B. False teachers are destructive. (2:1)
- C. False teachers are blasphemers. (2:2)
- D. False teachers are exploiters. (2:3)

II. Believers know false teachers will face God's judgment. (2:4-6)

- A. God's judgment is swift. (2:4-5)
- B. God's judgment is total (2:6)
- C. God's judgment is eternal. (2:6)

III. Believers live differently than false teachers. (2:7-10)

- A. Believers are consumed by righteousness. (2:7-8)
- B. Believers are comforted by God's protection. (2:9-10)

1. What are some common false teachings? Why are they so popular?
2. How are these teachings destructive?
3. How can you prepare yourself to spot false teachers? How do you combat their false teachings?
4. Why did God not spare the angels, the ancient world, and Sodom and Gomorrah?
5. What distinction did God make when He judged the ancient world and Sodom and Gomorrah? What does this tell you about God's ability to rescue the godly from trials?
6. Why is it necessary for false teachers to face God's judgment? What will be their judgment?
7. How does being consumed by righteousness propel you to action?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Dangerous Arrogance  
2:10-22

- I. Believers identify arrogant teachings. (2:10-16)
  - A. False teachers deny authority. (2:10-11)
  - A. False teachers follow their deviant instincts. (2:12)
  - B. False teachers rejoice in their wickedness. (2:13-16)
  
- II. Believers identify deceitful teachings. (2:17-22)
  - A. False teaching does not offer hope. (2:17)
  - B. False teaching enslaves. (2:18-19)
  - C. False teaching destroys. (2:20-22)
  
- III. Believers identify false truth. (2:20-22)
  - A. False teachers have been taught the truth. (2:20-21)
  - B. False teachers return to their depravity. (2:22)

1. Why do false teachers deny authority? When they do that, in what position does it place them?
2. Why is wickedness so alluring? How can our heart mislead us? (Jeremiah 19:9)
3. What do false teachers “offer” people? How long does this offer last?
4. Why does knowing some truth make false teachers more dangerous?
5. How can you identify false teachers?
6. How are you seeing false teachings in the world today? How have they weakened the church?
7. What are some characteristics of false teachers found in chapter 2? How does this differ from faithful leaders in 1 Peter 5?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Return of the King  
3:1-7

I. The return of Jesus Christ provides security for believers. (3:1-2)

- A. Believers think on the return of Jesus. (3:1)
- B. Believers are assured Jesus will return. (3:2)

II. The return of Jesus is ridiculed by the unbelieving. (3:3-6)

- A. Unbelievers appear in the last days. (3:3)
- B. Unbelievers attack the veracity of God's word. (3:4)
- C. Unbelievers ignore the obvious. (3:5)
- D. Unbelievers disregard previous judgments. (3:5-6)

III. The return of Jesus Christ brings judgment on the ungodly. (3:7)

- A. Judgment is already prepared. (3:7)
- B. Judgment brings destruction. (3:7)

1. How can we be assured Jesus is returning?
2. How often do you think about Jesus' return? Does this bring you comfort or anxiety?
3. What are some signs of the last days? Do you see those signs occurring today?
4. Why is the desire to know when the end is so appealing? How do false teachers exploit this for their gain? How can you guard against their exploitations?
5. How can you prepare for the return of Jesus?
6. What does Jesus' return mean for the righteous? What does it mean for the unrighteous?
7. Why is the return of Jesus an encouragement for believers? (2 Thessalonians 5:1-11)
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Reasons for the Delay  
3:8-10

I. God operates on a different timeline than we do. (3:8)

- A. The Lord views time from eternity. (3:8)
- B. The Lord views time from above time. (3:8)

II. God acts differently than we do. (3:9)

- A. The Lord fulfills His promises. (3:9)
- B. The Lord is patient toward us. (3:9)
- C. The Lord desires repentance. (3:9)

III. God will return. (3:10)

- A. The Lord's return will be sudden. (3:10)
- B. The Lord's return will be visible. (3:10)
- C. The Lord's return will be audible. (3:10)
- D. The Lord's return will be complete. (3:10)

1. How does God's different timeline bring you comfort? How does it bring you anxiety? How can you combat your anxiousness?
2. How can we know the Lord fulfills His promises? What promises has He kept for you?
3. Describe how God has been patient toward you.
4. What is repentance? Is it necessary for salvation? (2 Corinthians 7:9)
5. Why does the Lord desire all to reach repentance? How can you help others come to repentance?
6. Can you know when Jesus will return? What should you do while you wait?
7. Why will Jesus come suddenly? How can you be ready for His sudden return?
8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?

Keep Going Until the End  
3:11-18

- I. Believers are to be active until the end. (3:11-14)
    - A. Believers work toward sanctification. (3:11)
    - B. Believers work toward evangelization. (3:12)
    - C. Believers work toward purity. (3:14)
    - D. Believers work toward peace. (3:14)
  
  - II. Believers are to trust until the end. (3:12-17)
    - A. Believers trust God will renew creation. (3:12-13)
    - B. Believers trust God will remove all unrighteousness. (3:14-7)
  
  - III. Believers are to remain steadfast until the end. (3:17-18)
    - A. Believers remain steadfast to reject false teaching. (3:17)
    - B. Believers remain steadfast in their spiritual growth. (3:18)
1. Why are believers called to work out their sanctification?
  2. Why is purity important in a believer's life?
  3. Why will God renew creation? What will it look like? What will be absent in the new creation?
  4. What do you think it will be like to be removed from all unrighteousness?
  5. Why must we reject and confront false teaching?
  6. Why do you never stop growing in your faith?
  7. How can you increase in holiness and godliness?
  8. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to obey Jesus?