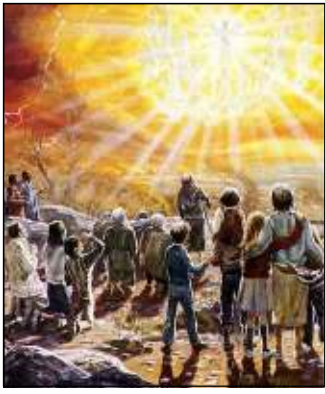


# Godliness and The Day of the Lord



## The Pursuit of Godliness

Peter now emphasizes one of the best motivations for godly living is the fact of Christ's return—here described as “The Day of the Lord.” Because our study is primarily about ‘godliness’ we will not go into the ‘eschatological’ [*end time*] details revealed in the passage. We will focus on Peter's admonition for godliness.

### A. What Should We **BE** Like? 2 Peter 3:11-12

Peter suggests four specific lifestyle areas to which we should pay heed if we believe the Word of God is true and all the events of The Day of the Lord will take place. Here is ‘what manner of persons we should be.’

#### 1. Live lives of holy conduct: [:11]

- a. Peter's key thought: 1 Pet 1:15-16 “...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”
- b. Jesus' key thought: Luke 12:41-46 The parable of the wise and evil servants illustrates how important Jesus considers ‘holy conduct’ in light of His future return. Verse :46 is a sober reminder that a believer's behavior (and unfaithfulness) can result in being separated from God.

#### 2. Live lives of godliness: [:11]

- a. Peter's key thought: 2Pe 1:3 “...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...”
- b. Jesus' key thought: Matt 25:14-30 The parable of the ‘talents’ teaches us the importance godly ‘use’ of the things He has entrusted to us.

#### 3. Live in preparedness [:12]

- a. Peter's key thought: Be faithfully looking for His coming.
- b. Jesus' key thought: Matt 25:1-13 The parable of the Ten Virgins teaches us the importance of ‘spiritual readiness.’

#### 4. Live for the harvest [:12]

- a. Peter's key thought: The Greek word for ‘hasten’ that Peter uses means to “urge oneself on” or “go after something.”
- b. Jesus' key thought: Since God is longsuffering and not willing that any should perish (2 Pet 3:9)—then we all should be involved in the spiritual harvest of Matt 28:19-20.

### B. What Should We Be **Diligent** About? 2 Peter 3:14

Paul says in Eph 5:7 regarding Christ coming back for the church, “...That He [*Christ*] might present her [*the Church*] to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

1. **Be Diligent**: In the parables cited above, some where and some where **NOT** diligent in pursuing godliness. Peter does not discount salvation by grace through faith here—but he does emphasize, like James [James 2:7] that ‘faith without works is dead.’

## Godliness

- (1) Regulating one's conduct toward God and men according to the standard of Biblical holiness.
- (2) Greek: ‘eusébeia’ literally means well-directed reverence; it denotes a life that is acceptable to Christ; it is both an attitude and a manner of life.
- (3) A gift we grow in (sanctification) through an increased knowledge of God and how to please Him.  
*See 1 Pet 1:3-7*

### 2 Peter 3:10-14 (NKJV)

**:10** 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.

**:11** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be **in holy conduct** and **godliness**,

**:12** 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?

**:13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

**:14** Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in **peace**, without **spot** and **blameless**;