

Dying Words (A Series on 2 Peter)

"Be Holy"

2 Peter 3:14-18

Are We Living on a Condemned Planet?

In the Bible it's unusual to describe the end of the world as we know it as a burning up or destruction of the present _____ universe (2 Peter 3:7,10-12).

The more common description of the end is that of a renewal and transformation of the old into the _____ (e.g., Romans 8:20-21; Matthew 19:28).

Whether the earth will be destroyed or transformed, it's important to know that...

- God _____ material things and material existence, so we should too.

- Before the new heavens and the new earth, there is _____.

A final judgment is necessary for all the blessings of the New Creation to be _____.

Live a Holy Life (WWJDIHWIMS)

2 Peter 3:11,14

"Holiness can be described as the sum of all moral excellence.... It carries the ideas of being set apart, sacred, separate, of possessing utter purity of character." (Jen Wilkin)

5. Read 2 Peter 2:13-22. How do the bookends (see previous question) speak to the issue of false teachers addressed in 2:13-22?

6. What are some of the differences between What Would Jesus Do (WWJD) and WWJDIHWIMS (What Would Jesus Do If He Were In My Shoes)?

7. What are some of the reasons we get derailed from pursuing holiness?

8. How can we encourage each other to keep striving to be holy?

So what does it mean to live a holy life?

1. "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)

2 Peter 1: 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

hagios (ἅγιος) = "holy"/"sanctified"

hagiazō, (ἁγιάζω) = "to make holy"/"to sanctify"

"D_____ Sanctification" = We are sanctified/made holy by God.

"P_____ Sanctification" = We grow in holiness.

Progressive sanctification can happen _____ because we have been made holy in Christ.

2. Ask WWJDHWIMS and _____ to act on it.

WWJDHWIMS includes imitating Jesus' _____ like prayer, community with others, meditating on the Word of God, solitude, and other spiritual disciplines.

3. Be prepared for a _____ journey.

God calls us to strive to be what we _____.

4. Pursue _____ gains.

It's in heart attitudes and traits like the ones described in the Beatitudes that genuine growth can be _____.

5. Align your _____ with what we know about life in the New Creation.

You and I _____ this. Rightly understood, our deepest longings are for holiness.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. What are some of the ways God has shown us that he values the material world?

3. Read 2 Peter 3:14-18. What are some of the misconceptions people have about holiness and godliness?

4. Read 2 Peter 1:3-7 and re-read 3:11,14,18. How do these passages function as bookends in 2 Peter?