

## Living with the End in Mind

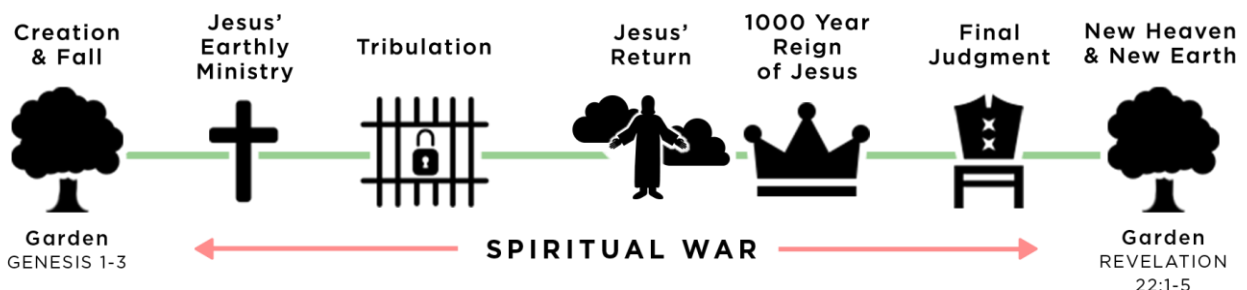
Pastor Jimmy Knott

### Passage: 2 Peter 3:8-18

**8**But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9**The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. **10**But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. **11**Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12**waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13**But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. **14**Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. **15**And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, **16**as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. **17**You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. **18**But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

### Background

In our first two weeks of this series we have looked at God’s salvation story – redeeming His people and restoring their home – along with the signs of the last days. This week, Pastor Jimmy Knott will help us navigate the practical side of the “end times.” How should followers of Jesus live *today* knowing Jesus could return *any day*?



August 28, 2022

## Instructions

Since we believe we are BETTER TOGETHER, this discussion guide serves as a conversation guide with your small group. The “Belong” section offers an ‘ice-breaker’ or reflection question to start your time together. In the “Believe” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Become” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life and to pray for one another.

## Belong

- When you were a kid what was your “dream job?” Who inspired you the most toward your current line of work? How so?

## Believe

As Peter closes his second letter to persecuted believers across the Roman Empire, he challenges them to consider “what sort of people ought you to be?” (vs. 11). In light of persecution, “scoffers,” and the patience of God, how should we live in these “last days?” More succinctly, Pastor Jimmy will call upon us to answer honestly the question: If you knew Jesus would return next Wednesday, what would change about your life today? What would you do differently?

- **Read 2 Peter 3:1-10.** What stood out to you the most in the message? How does Peter encourage them to have the right perspective on their own experiences (vs. 1-8)? How does God’s view of time differ from ours? Why is this important to remember? What is the promise of God Peter is talking about in this passage? How does God’s patience (as seen in this passage) give you hope today? How should it challenge us toward obedience and sharing the Gospel? How does Peter describe this “day of the Lord” (vs. 10)? How should we balance knowing God is both patient and coming “like a thief in the night” (vs. 10)?
- **Read 2 Peter 3:11-18.** Why would Peter ask this practical question (vs. 11)? How does he answer his own question in the following verses? How would you describe a life of “holiness and godliness” (vs. 11)? How should we live in order to be found “without spot or blemish” (vs. 14)? How should Peter’s comment on Paul’s writings encourage us (vs. 15-16)? How do we protect ourselves from being “carried away with error” or “lose stability” (vs. 17)? What does it mean to “grow in grace and knowledge” (vs. 18)? Why both grace and knowledge? What could happen if you emphasize one over the other? How do we see this in the church today? What are you consistently doing right now to help yourself grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus? How are you helping others to grow? What is one helpful way to evaluate our “growth” in knowledge and grace?

## Become

- What is one specific way you can be diligent to *know* Scripture more and *grow* in grace?
- What has been the most helpful tool to be more consistent in hearing, reading, and obeying God’s Word?
- PRAYER POINTS: How can we pray specifically for one another this week?
  - Pray for our church leadership. Pray for our missionaries.
  - Pray for energy and discernment to follow through this week on reading Scripture.
  - Pray God will give you ONE opportunity to share your faith this week.