

FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP of Fairfield Glade
Pastor David Evangelista ~ January 4, 2009
Studies in 2 Peter ~ "Final Words" ~ 2 Peter 3:10-18

The great apostle now points to a time in history when everything on this planet will be destroyed. *"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare."* 2 Peter 3:10.

I would like to briefly give you the chronological order of events as I see them in the Scripture. Right now, we are living in the *Age of Grace*—then the *Rapture of the Church*—followed by seven years of *Tribulation*—*The Second Coming of Christ*—*Armageddon*—*The Judgment of the Nations*—*The Millennium begins*—*the Great White Throne Judgment (at the end of the millennium)*—*the "Day of the Lord"* (See 2 Peter 3; 10)—*The eternal state in the New Heaven and the New Earth*. *"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives."* (2 Peter 3:11). We must remember in light of all this—that what we believe does have its effect on us and the way we live! *"As you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat."* (See verse 12).

How should all of this affect us? It should:

1. Create an interest in prophecy;
2. Cause us to seek a more Godly life;
3. Reflect on the awful nature and effects of sin;
4. Think of the emptiness and vanity of the world;
5. Seek to warn the unsaved.

We cannot dispute the fact that God knew all about nuclear energy and the splitting of the atom—long before man

discovered it. The latter part of verse 12 is a graphic, clear picture of this truth! *"But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."* (Verse 13). However firm and secure the earth may appear—we will believe the promises of God! (Please see—*Isaiah 65:17 and Revelation 21:1, 2*). *"So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.* The wonders of man's future are great—both materially and spiritually—bright as the morning Sun for believers! Diligence and self-discipline are necessary for victory—and victory brings peace! *"Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him."* (Verse 15). (See *Psalms 86:15 and Romans 2:4*) A person needs only to approach God's throne—repentant—seeking His kindness and forgiveness, and he shall receive it! *"He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do other Scriptures, to their own destruction."* (Verse 16). The twisting of Scripture is a devilish practice which has been going on since Adam and Eve. Satan said: *"You shall not surely die."* This hellish practice has doomed its millions—there is a proper way to interpret the Bible! It all begins by knowing the Lord Jesus Christ and by comparing scripture with scripture, keeping everything in context! *"Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position."* (Verse 17). We must remember—error is subtle—the heart is deceitful and often looks for justification of

sin. Antinomian Christianity, in my judgment, falls into this category: "*Do what you wish—it's all under the blood!*" "*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (Verse 18)*" Just how do we grow in grace? By being watchful, looking for His return, practicing self-denial, growing in knowledge, by reading the Word, by depending on Him for victory and being faithful!

This week's challenge: There is an important principle in God's Word that indicates that we will not receive more 'light' until we live up to the 'light' we already have—applying the truths of God's Word as we learn them and altering our lives accordingly. It's all up to us!