

3:14 Be Found by Him Without Spot or Blemish

Spotless in Faith.

Hilary of Arles: When he returns, Christ wants to find you spotless in your faith and uncorrupted in the chastity of your body. Introductory Commentary on 2 Peter.³⁷

You Wait for These.

Andreas: Everything in creation was made for our enjoyment, and it will be remade along with us.... This new life is for all who believe, and not just for Israel, for the Lord has exalted the Gentiles, lifting us up by the cross toward himself. Has he not provided for believers? Indeed he has. He has lifted them up and carried them and placed them in the many mansions which there are in the Father's presence. Catena.³⁸

3:15 Count the Forbearance of Our Lord as Salvation

So Paul Wrote.

Augustine: Peter, in his second epistle, urged us to holiness in living and character, declaring that this world would pass. New heavens and a new earth are expected which will be given to the just to inhabit.... Some people had used certain obscure passages from Paul's writings in order to excuse their lack of concern to live well, on the ground that they were secure in their salvation. Peter was saying that some of the things which Paul said are hard to understand and that these people were twisting them to their own ruin. On Faith and Works 14.22.⁴¹

The Wisdom Given Him.

Hilary of Arles: Note that Paul wrote to them not according to the wisdom which he possessed but according to the wisdom which was given to him specifically for that purpose. Introductory Commentary on 2 Peter.⁴²

The Forbearance of Our Lord.

Andreas: This is a reference to what Paul said when he wrote: "Do you not know that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" ⁴⁴ Catena.⁴⁵

The Lord's Patience Is Our Salvation.

Oecumenius: If the patience and kindness of God calls us to repentance, this is because repentance is the way of salvation for us. God's patience always works toward our benefit and salvation. Commentary on 2 Peter.⁴⁸

3:16 *Some Things in Paul Hard to Understand*

Do Not Make the Wicked Confident of Salvation.

Augustine: If it is both true and clear that those lacking in good works will be thrown into the fire,⁴⁹ without doubt another interpretation of Paul's sayings must be sought and his teaching must be adapted in those matters which the apostle Peter says are difficult to understand but ought not to turn people to their own destruction, so that, contrary to the most obvious testimony of Scripture, they make the most wicked confident of obtaining salvation, although they most stubbornly cling to their sin and are not changed by correction or penance. Eight Questions of Dulcitius 1.⁵⁰

Wisdom from Above.

Cyril of Alexandria: It seems that some people find Paul hard to understand, no doubt because he speaks about the wisdom which comes from above, for in him Christ himself is speaking. Catena.⁵¹

Peter Awed by Paul's Brilliance.

Hilary of Arles: Peter says this because he himself was overwhelmed by Paul's brilliance. Introductory Commentary on 2 Peter.⁵²

They Twist Scripture.

John of Damascus: The enemy of our souls has made some people turn away from the straight road and divided them by strange teachings and taught them to interpret certain sayings of the Scriptures falsely. But the truth is one, and it is that which was preached by the glorious apostles and inspired Fathers and which shines in the universal church. Barlaam and Ioasaph 16.134.⁵⁴

Scripture Not Unstable.

Symeon the New Theologian: It is not divine Scripture which suffers from those who twist it according to their own desires and who corrupt themselves in their own passions but rather those who disfigure it.

Discourses 15.2.55

3:17 Do Not Be Carried Away by Error

Beware Lest You Be Carried Away.

Cyril of Alexandria: Peter has to warn his people so that they will not be deceived. Our Lord Jesus Christ himself warned us for our safety, that we should “beware of those who come to us in sheep’s clothing, but inside they are ravenous wolves.”⁵⁶ And again: “Take care that you are not deceived. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will deceive many.”⁵⁷ And Paul cries: “Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers claiming to believe in the Lord Jesus.”⁵⁸ For those who deform the truth by their doctrines of ungodliness and works of evil are like those who killed the prophets and apostles. Indeed, they are worse, because they have killed not only the living but those who have been saved as well.

Catena.⁵⁹

3:18 To Him Be the Glory Now and to Eternity

Grow in Faith and Knowledge.

Hilary of Arles: Grow in the faith which is yours by baptism and in the knowledge which comes from putting that faith into practice. Introductory Commentary on 2 Peter.⁶¹

The Letter Ends in Prayer.

Oecumenius: Just as the other New Testament letters end with prayers, so too does this one, by praying that its recipients might grow in the faith of the Lord. Commentary on 2 Peter.⁶⁴