

<sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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 the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

### Review the context.

- How is *destruction* and Jesus' *second coming* are connected (see 3:7)?

### Understand it.

- What is a "holy and godly life?" (v.11) Write down words that describe such a life below:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- How does such a life enable us to "look forward to the day of God"? (v.12 + 14)
- Destruction comes through *fire*. How does the Bible use the visual symbol of fire? (Some examples: Exodus 3:2-6; Numbers 11:1; Lev. 9:23-24; Matt 3:11; Acts, 2:3-4; 1 Cor 3:13; Rev. 1:14)
- "Spotless, blameless, and at peace with (God)" are all phrases that refer to the Biblical narrative of purification from sin. If Jesus' blood brings such peace, what then is the purpose of "making every effort to be found" this way? (v.14)
- What is the benefit of God's patience? (v.15, also v. 9) How does this encourage the Church in its mission?
- What do you make of Peter's opinion of Paul (and of his writing and leadership)? What reason might Church have to know Peter's affirmation of Paul? (v.15-16)
- How might someone *distort* Paul's instruction and bring destruction to themselves?

### Apply it.

- Write down (or share aloud) one promise that God has kept?
- Peter cuts to the chase with his question, "What kind of people ought you to be?" How would you answer this?
- Reflect upon the whole letter's teaching on holding fast to what is true and rejecting what is false. What would you want to be true of you in matters of faithfulness and adherence to true doctrine?
- Look at the words you wrote in the section above. Would these words describe your life? How could you ask God to bring these attributes into your life?