



In 1 Peter 1, the author addresses his letter to “those who reside as aliens” as he refers to the believers who have been scattered through persecution. By this Peter is emphasizing that, for the Christian, we are exiles from our true home, citizens of Gods kingdom in a foreign land. Paul talked about this in his letters and has a lot to teach us about living in this time in between.

READ 1 John 3:1-3 and mark the word “we” with a and underline the words “now” and “not yet”.

What do we learn about us now? Who are we?

How does the world see us?

What will be true about us in the future?

How should this hope impact the time between now and then?

READ 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 and mark “we” with a

Also mark “home” with a

In v 1 what comparison is being made? What is the difference between a tent and a building?

In v1-5 how is our heavenly dwelling described and what do we learn about it?

How is our life described now?

What is our guarantee for the future? Explain this.

In v6—7 what do we know that helps us understand our life in the “not yet”? How do we live “now”?

V8-10 How should looking forward to our permanent dwelling with God impact on how we live out our lives?

What do you think causes the sense of groaning that Paul talks about in this passage?

In what ways are you aware of this in your life?

1 John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

In the book of Romans, Paul sets out the fullest explanation of the gospel in the NT. He explains that we are justified, at peace with God and standing in grace. Then he explains that while all this is true, we are still living in the “not yet”.

READ Romans 8:18-25—underline the words “wait”, “longing” and “groaning”

What happened to the creation?

What is creation waiting for? How does this relate to what you read in 1 John 3:1-3?

What do we long for? How do we wait?

What do you think it means to “groan inwardly”?

What do you learn about the Holy Spirit and how does this tie in with 2 Corinthians 5:5? What are first fruits?

In Romans 8:16 Paul has already told us that the Spirit confirms with our spirit that we are God’s children.

READ Romans 8:26-30 and mark God with a  and mark Spirit with a 

V26 What is our weakness & how does this impact us?

V26-27 How does the Spirit help us to walk in a way to please God?

V28 How does God work out that will in our lives?

V29-30 What is God’s purpose as he works in our lives?

In this “in between” time, what lessons can we learn to help us live well with the future in mind?

What is our ultimate destiny?

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

How can we understand the groaning we often feel?

Romans 8:18-30

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.