Name: _____

DEEP DIVE

Patience, Fire and the New Creation

BIG IDEA	God's patience is salvation; waiting means holy living, against both cynicism and cheap grace.
READING	2 Peter 3

1 Time and patience

2 Peter 3:8–9 But don't forget this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some count slowness; but he is patient with us, not wishing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

1. **Luther: "the first man, Adam, is just as near to him as he who shall be last born before the last day." What does that mean for how we think about delay?**

2. **Read Calvin's comment on 3:9 (debate page) and the Formula of Concord's use of it. State each view fairly.**

2 Fire: destruction or renewal?

2 Peter 3:10–13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore since all these things will be destroyed like this, what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

1. **Compare Calvin's "renovated, their substance still remaining" with Quenstedt's "reduction of the world's substance itself to nothing." What is at stake?**

2. **How is this unlike the Stoic world-fire?**

3 Holy living and the abuse of grace

2 Peter 3:14 Therefore, beloved, seeing that you look for these things, be diligent to be found in peace, without defect and blameless in his sight.

1. **Where is the line between grace that frees and "liberty" that enslaves (2:19)?**

2. **What would "diligent to be found in peace" look like in your week?**

4 Pray

Pray together Calvin’s prayer on Malachi 4 from the Prayers page: “that the Law, the Prophets, the voice of John the Baptist, and especially the doctrine of thine only-begotten Son, may more fully awaken us…”

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