

Remember How It All Ends

2 Peter 3:1-13

May 22, 2022

2 PETER

A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

Remembering the end is hard; yearning for it is harder; living accordingly is hardest of all. Especially for people like us who enjoy relative ease and many creature comforts. Years ago my Bible study group was talking about the return of Christ and the end of the age. One person blurted out: “I don’t want Jesus to come back; I want to play tennis!” That sounds ridiculous—but haven’t we all had similar thoughts? I came of age in a time when “end times fever” was running hot, and I must admit there were certain carnal experiences that, as a Christian, I knew were years away for me. How sad it would be to miss out if Jesus came back too soon. Countering that, of course, is C.S. Lewis’ great line about people yearning for mudpies in the slums because they can’t imagine a holiday by the sea.

But one thing is certain: The End is near! Jesus is coming! And it will be either unimaginably wonderful or unspeakably horrible. May we live and love and desire like people belonging to the first category.

Read 2 Peter 3:1-13, then discuss.

1. **The World and Its Attitude** (3:1-7)

- Where do you most often experience the world’s scoffing attitude?
- How does it affect you? Do you ever feel yourself pulled into a similar stance and mindset?

2. **The Lord and His Perspective** (3:8-10)

- Does God’s relationship to time and space blow your mind? Explain your puzzlement, and how you try to wrap your mind around it.
- What does God’s patience and longsuffering mean to you? How do you respond to it?
- How do you reconcile the idea that God doesn’t want anyone to perish with the fact that many will?

3. **The Church and Our Response** (3:11-13)

- How do you honestly feel about a sentence like, “You ought to live holy and godly lives”? It can easily strike us as demotivating; how can we receive it as motivating?
- What’s one area right now where you feel a gracious conviction to adjust your life accordingly?
- The Bible suggests that we can *speed* Christ’s coming. Do you believe it? How is that possible?
- What are some things you look forward to about a new heaven and new earth?

Close by P-R-A-Y-ing through this passage: Praise, Repent, Ask, and Yield to God and his Word.