

## A Living Hope - Week 10

### 2 Peter 3

Quick reminder of where we have been for the past several weeks in 2 Peter

**1 Peter - You Have been born again to a living hope, so no matter what comes, no matter what they say about you, no matter how hard life gets, you have Jesus, and He keeps you.**

The Father has made a way and a promise for you to be confident of your eternity with Him – our trust in the person of Christ, and our relationship with him by faith is at the core of who we are.

THEME: Your Holiness in Hardship matters, and is possible, in Christ.

**2 Peter - Your Holiness in the face of heresy matters, and is possible, in Christ - namely in a proper understanding of WHO God is and who you now are in Him.**

THEME: Your Holiness in the face of heresy matters

*Peter encourages Christ followers with this – you have all you need for life and godliness through your knowledge of him who called us to his own glory by his power*

*Peter exhorts Christ followers to be diligent, to be faithful, to earnestly seek to know and love Jesus*

*Peter's bold reminder – be on guard against false teachers and false prophets, be on guard against people twisting truth for their own agendas, be on guard against people who will exploit you with false words.*

Today, 2 Peter 3 – where he concludes this letter

### The Day of the Lord Will Come

**3** This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, <sup>2</sup> that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, <sup>3</sup> knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

*Peter says: REMEMBER – scoffers will come in the last days. Literally – there will be people who make fun of God, mocking God.*

<sup>4</sup> They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” <sup>5</sup> For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, <sup>6</sup> and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. <sup>7</sup> But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

*Peter makes this point, he says don't overlook this fact: these people who are making fun of God, these people who are false prophets, these people who are false teachers, these people who Peter calls waterless springs and mists driven by a storm, these people overlook this fact... God made the heavens and earth by His Word – and that same powerful Word is storing up the heavens and earth for fire –*

*and that there is a day of judgment and destruction for the ungodly... let that sink in. Judgment and destruction of the ungodly.*

*The Hebrew word “bara” translated “to create” is a sustained action... creation was started by His word, preserved by His word, and creation is kept by His word until the day of judgment.*

*His powerful word – is immeasurably rich in mercy.*

<sup>8</sup> But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

### **Moses writes in Psalm 90**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

(Ps 90:1–4)

### **Augustine puts God’s perspective of time in helpful contrast:**

*Your years never come nor go, whereas ours both come and go*

*Your years stand together, because they do stand nor are departing thrust out by coming years, for they pass not away, but ours shall all be when they shall be no more*

*Your years are one day, and Your day is not daily, but today*

*For you have made all things and before all times You are.*

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

RC Sproul comments, and thus, “No passage in all Scripture more strongly defends unconditional election than this one. God sovereignly decrees that none of His elect will perish, and that ALL whom he has chosen will come to Him. They WILL repent. They WILL come in faith TO Him, because election is not in the abstract. Election is unto faith, repentance and salvation.”

**Let this sink in –**

**The Lord is patient toward you.**

Remember the intended audience of Peter’s letter:

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

(2 Pe 1:1–2)

*None of His elect will perish.*

*All whom He has chosen WILL come to Him.*

*His sons and daughters WILL repent.*

*They will by grace through faith know God.*

### Peter continues...

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

### That day is before us... and Peter exhorts the church – live holy, godly lives waiting to and hastening the day of His return.

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

### In Matthew 24, Jesus is approached by Peter and the other disciples...

<sup>3</sup> As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

(Mt 24:3–14)

*When Peter says wait for and hasten the coming of the say of God... this life of actively waiting upon the Lord, living with grace-enabled effort in the Kingdom is connected to what Jesus says – that the gospel of this kingdom will be proclaimed to the whole world as a testimony to ALL nations... and THEN the END WILL come.*

*This is why we pray for unreached peoples. This is why we give strategically to missionary and church planting efforts worldwide. This is why we go to the nations who have yet to hear. This is why we have eyes to see our neighbors here. That the matchless name of Jesus would be proclaimed here and to the ends of the earth.*

## Final Words

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. <sup>15</sup> And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. <sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

(2 Pe 3:1–18)

## Peter concludes...

### *Be diligent.*

*This is where Peter reminds us – make every effort to supplement our faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self control, self control with steadfastness, steadfastness with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love (2 Peter 1)*

### *Trust in the righteousness of Christ by faith.*

*This is where Peter reminds us we have all that we need for life and godliness in Jesus*

### *Be at peace.*

*This is where Peter reminds us to humble ourselves before the Lord, to cast all of our anxieties on him*

### *Count the patience of our Lord as salvation.*

*This is when we remember with the Lord one day is as a thousand years*

### *Some things are hard to understand.*

*A word of encouragement to those walking in difficult days – God is true and trustworthy. God has never failed you. His mercy never fails. His grace always stands.*

### *Don't be carried away by false teachers and false teachings.*

### *Grow in the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

### *Grow in knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*Though we don't see you Jesus - we love you  
Though we don't see you Jesus - we believe you*

