

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 8/27/2023

### 2 Peter 3 The Life and Letters of Peter

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

**Audio Only:** On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

#### Highlights

- Peter spent most of his life focusing on one thing: the Gospel.
  - God loved us enough to send Jesus – His Son – to earth for you.
  - Jesus lived a sinless life and died on a cross. But because He's God, he rose to life again. (Death could not hold Him\_
  - PLUS: He's coming back again. This is not over. We should not be afraid.
- **Verse 1** Last days – the days after Jesus waiting for His return. They were in the Last Days when Peter wrote this, we're in the last days today.
- **Verses 3-5** The scoffers deliberately forgot that God is God; that He created everything.
  - They forgot who God truly is. **WE** forget who God truly is.
  - We are good at the relationship stuff: God loves us. He is full of grace and forgiveness, but sometimes we take for granted HE IS GOD! **How have you taken it for granted?**
  - Familiarity breeds contempt.
    - We make Him so small He is just our friend
    - BUT, He always was, is and will be. He is Creator of all
- **Verses 6-7** The God who created all things will destroy what He created.
  - EVERYTHING that has been created has been for us – for you and me.
    - EVERY star, animal, plant, cloud, etc.
  - It was all created to get to Day 6 – when He created humans in His image. It's all for us!
- **Verse 8** This is not a puzzle or riddle to be solved. Peter is telling us that God is bigger than time. He's not bound by time!
  - God's plans to not fit in our view of time. He sees things differently.
  - He's not concerned about things happening in a certain time (i.e., our lifetime). His plan is beyond our understanding
- **Verses 9-10** He's patient but there is a day when He'll be done waiting.
- **Verses 11-13** Choose to look more like Jesus because He is coming back.
  - He created Heavens and Earth for us: so we can see Him in Creation.
  - He's doing it again for those who follow Him.
  - Our response shouldn't be fear. Our response is to live a Holy life – to live in a way that you are working to look more like Jesus every day.
- **Verse 13** spotless and blameless – sounds like a lot of pressure. How am I going to do that?
  - We are to make every effort to be moving toward him
  - While we should live like that to look more like Christ, it is His BLOOD that makes us spotless, blameless, and at peace. It's our salvation.
    - We think we'll never be enough spotless and blameless. Truth is we cannot get there without Jesus.
- **Verse 17** Just because you can do whatever you want does not mean you are free.
- **What happened after this letter?**
  - Nero was emperor of Rome. Roman law that then buildings burned down, the land became property of Roman Government.
  - So Nero burned down Rome, but needed someone to blame.
  - He blamed Christians who were then persecuted.

- Peter and Paul (who was also in Rome at the time) were leaders of the Christian movement and were martyred.
  - Peter was crucified upside down (he didn't feel worthy enough to die the same way Jesus did) and was buried in Rome on Vatican Hill
  - Paul was beheaded
- Christianity changed forever after these two apostles died.

**What is God asking us to consider as we read this letter?**

1. God is not bound by time – stay patient.
  - Prayer not answered? Stay patient.
  - His outcomes are perfect, even when not in the time we think they should be.
2. He desires a relationship, but don't forget, He IS God.
3. Every generation is asked to consider the end of all things and anticipate His return.
  - Don't avoid it. Embrace it.
  - Posture yourself that you know the end will come. How will you be different?
4. The Gospel is our reminder of His grace, not just a tool for the non-believer to be saved.
  - Every time we hear the Gospel we should be moved. It produces something inside of you, no matter where you are spiritually.

**The Gospel:**

1. Jesus came to earth for YOU.
2. Jesus allowed His own Creation to kill Him for YOUR benefit.
3. Death could not hold Him. He is God in the flesh. He raised from the dead showing YOU His power over eternity.
4. He is really coming back. In all of His glory; not as a human, but as Glorious God!

**The bottom line: What are you going to do now?**