

The End of the World
Growth Group Discussion
2 Peter 3:10-18

Intro question

- If you found out that the world would end two days from now, what would you do between now and then?
- Do you think there's a reason that Jesus didn't tell us exactly when this would happen? (See Matthew 24:36)
- Peter's words in today's passage give us a glimpse of how the "end of the world" ought to impact our lives in the present.

1. Read 2 Peter 3:10-14, then discuss the following.

- Peter uses graphic language to describe what will happen to the world as we know it. How does this description strike you? Does it raise questions, or particular emotions for you?
- How would you phrase the central question that Peter raises here?
- Peter talks several times in this passage about "looking forward to" the day of God, the day when Jesus returns. To what degree does "looking forward to" capture your feelings about that future day?
- Peter reminds us that what we are looking forward to is a "new heaven and new earth, where righteousness dwells." Review some of the passages (below) that Pastor Josh shared, which give descriptions of life in that new heaven and new earth, then discuss the questions that follow.
 - Isaiah 65:17-25
 - Jeremiah 31:12-14
 - Revelation 21:1-4
 - Revelation 22:1-5
- What aspects of the new heaven and new earth, as described here, most strike a chord with you? What questions do these descriptions raise?
- Is there anything in these descriptions to which you eagerly look forward (which you didn't already share?)
- What experiences have you had in this life, which feel like a foretaste of your heavenly future? How might the new heavens and new earth be an even greater fulfillment of that experience?
- Peter implies that as we eagerly look forward to the day when the present world ends and the new reality begins, our lives will take a certain shape (vv. 11 and 14). In your own words, what does this kind of life look like?
 - In your own life, has the anticipation of Jesus' return made any real change to how you live in the present? If so, please describe.
 - Commentator Michael Green summarized: "The look of hope must produce the life of holiness." How does this process work?
 - Do you sense any area that might need to change now, as you think about your future in Christ?

2. Read 2 Peter 3:15-18, then discuss the following.

- If you are familiar with Paul's letters, what might Peter be referencing here? What's the common theme?
- How do you feel about the fact that Peter calls parts of Paul's writing "hard to understand?"
 - The wording literally implies ambiguity of words, which some readers distort for their own agendas. What warning do you see herein about how we handle difficult or ambiguous passages of Scripture?
- How do you interpret Peter's warning of v. 17? In what way does it challenge you personally?
- In v. 18, Peter gives the antidote to the danger of v. 17, which is also the "how" of the Christian life—how we live distinct lives as we look forward. What has most helped you to grow "in the grace and knowledge of Jesus" of late? Is there any practice you need to add or subtract in order to enhance your growth?

Series wrap-up

- As you think back over 2 Peter, what stands out to you the most?
- What changes, if any, have this series and the ensuing discussions produced in you?
- Do you sense God speaking to you in any particular way presently?
 - If so, how can we support you as a group in your response to God?

3. Prayer

- Pray about the responses shared above, especially if God is prompting some of you to embrace changes or certain action steps.
- Take some time to share and pray about other needs and concerns that may be weighing on your minds.