

Everything We Need – 2 Peter – Week 6 – 2 Peter 3:1-9

2 Peter 2:1-9: *Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. ² I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.*

³ *Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.*

⁸ *But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

INTRO to Series – “Everything We Need: 2 Peter”:

-As we approach the midpoint of this year, the challenges around us are too many to count. It’s sometimes hard to know who to trust, how to think, and how to keep our hearts from growing cold. In the Apostle Peter’s second letter to the Church, God assures us that through His divine power, we have EVERYTHING WE NEED to live a faithful life in godliness and goodness. As we study this letter together, we will be encouraged further that when our lives are built upon God’s firm foundation, we can stand firm no matter our circumstances and no matter what others do around us.

INTRO to **2 Peter 3:1-9:** In the final chapter of this letter, Peter reminds believers that the best ways to counter false teaching are to remember the truth God has revealed to us and to live with the hope of Christ’s return—when He will make all things new.

• Remember God’s truth delivered to you. (vs. 1-2)

-In **Ch. 2**, Peter picked up on two common themes of Scripture: *remember...* and *pass on...*. “Truth needs to be repeated,” one commentator said. There is something very healthy and practical about reminding a person of what they already know to be true!

-In **3:1-2**, Peter picks up on those themes by encouraging believers to remember the ways God has spoken to His people through Scripture and through Christ Himself.

-This way, Peter, says, our minds will be protected by God’s truth which will always *stimulate you to wholesome thinking*.

• Do not be deceived by those who disregard God’s truth. (vs. 3-7)

-We should not be surprised when those who live in blatant disobedience to God—*following their own evil desires*—also openly mock and scoff at those who follow God’s commands and seek to live a Christlike life.

-Until Christ returns to the earth, there will always be those who question whether He is truly coming back and if His word can be trusted. But Jesus Himself told us, using the same example Peter uses in **vs. 6** related to the flood, that no one knows the day or hour of His return but instead He will come at a surprising hour when no one expects Him (see **Matthew 24:36-44** below).

-The scoffers Peter talked about selectively and “deliberately” forget some important, basic truths about God as revealed in Scripture:

- God created everything that exists by His powerful word
- God punishes sin and evil but offers salvation and righteousness to all who put their faith and trust in Him.
- God’s Word and God’s will cannot be frustrated, what He has spoken He has done and what He has promised He will do!

• **Be people of hope, for God’s grace is greater than our sin. (vs. 8-9)**

-Building on the truth of God’s Word, Peter refers specifically to **Psalms 90** (see below): *With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*

-The Lord is not slow...He’s not lazy or “slack,” He hasn’t forgotten, He hasn’t failed. He isn’t being unkind or cruel. In fact, it’s the opposite!

-God’s patience – The most common description of God’s character throughout the Hebrew Scriptures—in fact, the very words God used to describe Himself—is that He is “*compassionate and gracious . . . slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness*” (see **Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Nehemiah 9:17; Psalms 86:5, 15; 103:8; Joel 2:13**).

- God’s patience = time for us to love Him more deeply
- God’s patience = we still have work to do to impart the Good News of the Gospel and be the Church
- God’s patience = you’re still here, you’re not done yet!

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Matthew 24:36-44: *“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at*

the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Psalm 90:1-4: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

² Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

⁴ A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.

Other Quotes/Resources:

-“The Word reveals God’s mind, so we should *learn* it; God’s heart so we should *love* it; God’s will, so we should *live* it.” –Wiersbe