



SERMON QUESTIONS

2 Peter 3 | May 7, 2017

GATHERING

1. What do you find most distracting in our culture? What things grab your attention or pull you away from something profitable?
2. What contemporary ideas or images do you think are the most destructive to thinking like a Christian today?

This is the last chapter of Peter's last letter and he tells us that he wants to stimulate us to wholesome thinking. In particular, he wants us to recall the words spoken in the scriptures.

LOOKING AT THE TEXT

Read 3:1-2

1. Peter says this is his second letter to these recipients, which naturally makes us think of the canonical book of 1 Peter. But Peter could be referring to a different letter that is now lost. 1 and 2 Peter could be addressed to different audiences. How does Peter refer to the "words spoken in the past?" How does his phrase cover both the Old and the New Testaments?
2. Read Vs. 14-16. How does Peter refer to Paul's writings? What does he say people try to do to his writings? What is the significance of Peter's use of the word "scripture" in verse 16? What is he referring to and what does that tell you about how the early church felt about Paul's writings?

Read 3:3-7

1. Peter's concern is that his readers will be discouraged by the opinions of the those in the culture. How does Peter refer to the critics and what are they saying?
2. To counter the claim that nothing ever changes Peter give three examples of disruptions to the world. What are they?

Read 3:8-12

1. Peter counters the claim that since Jesus has not returned so far he is never coming at all. He tells us something about the way God views time and his motives for delay. What specifically does he say?
 2. What does this tell us about the majesty of God?
 3. What does this tell us about the heart of God?
 4. What does verse 10 tell us about the ultimate plan of God?
 5. It is hard to know if Peter is using metaphorical language when he mentions fire (because of Sodom and Gomorrah it was often an image of judgment as well as purification). If the idea here is not "burned up" but "laid bare" what does that say about the accountability of every person? Compare this with verse 7.
 6. The image of God judging the world is not pleasant. Peter says it should affect our behavior. What does he say about this in verse 11? What is God's ultimate plan in verse 13?
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FURTHER APPLICATION.

1. Notice the balance in this passage. God is delaying his return out of compassion, but he will not delay forever. One day he will destroy this world and make a new heaven and earth. As you think about this do you find yourself leaning toward God's continued compassion or looking forward to his coming?
2. When God judges the earth, he will hold people accountable for all wrongdoing. Is there injustice in the world that really bothers you? what is it and how would you feel if there was never any reckoning for this?
3. How should knowledge of God's plan to judge the world affect our lives? How are we doing at hating the evil in the world? How are we doing at loving the people in the world?