

## 2 Peter 3 – The kind of people you ought to be

### Personal Preparation 1 – The Day of the Lord

Peter has just finished a section on judgement (Chapter 2) but those who are God's enemies would read that and laugh. They've gotten away with ignoring him for so long, and to them there is no evidence that God's ever going to do anything about it. Peter however, is one step ahead of them.



### Read 2 Peter 3:1-13

1. What does Peter say is the purpose of both of his letters? (verses 1-2)
2. What does Peter want to remind Christians of as they face God's enemies who laugh at his judgement? (verses 3-4)
3. What have these scoffers forgotten? How will that affect their future judgement? (verses 5-7)
4. What is God waiting for? (verses 8-9)

As we saw in verse 1 of this chapter, Peter's purpose in writing these letters was not primarily to have a go at false teachers. It was to encourage those who are Christians to have "wholesome thinking". So, the reminder of God's return and the future of the earth, acts not only as motivation for false teachers to repent, but it also helps God's people.

5. What does God's return motivate Christians to be like? (verses 11-12)
6. How do these characteristics reflect a Christian's final destination? (verse 13)

**FOR TODAY:** How does the new creation feature in your day-to-day thinking about what is right and wrong?

### Personal Preparation 2 – So then...

In Personal Preparation 1, we touched on Peter's motivation for writing this letter - that Christians would be encouraged to live "holy and godly lives as we look forward to the day of God."

In these final verses of Chapter 2, we see Peter wrapping up the themes raised throughout this book.

### Read 2 Peter 3:14-18

1. What encouragement does Peter start with in verse 14?
2. In verse 15, for whom does "the Lord's patience" mean salvation?

3. Skim through 2 Peter and note down how verses 17-18 address the main themes Peter has raised in the letter.

### **Personal Preparation 3 – Article: Heaven – Gateway to the New Creation**

Head over to the mpc website, and have a read of the article, “Heaven – Gateway to the New Creation.”

## Group Discussion Questions

Most people would agree that being or doing good is something to be esteemed. What is interesting is that most people seem to have different reasons for why they believe this.

1. What reasons have you heard of (or that you might have) for why people should both act and do good?

In Peter's final chapter, he wants to remind them of what he has been calling them to be and how he has been calling them to think. And the key to understanding **why** they should be this way is to understand the **reason** for being and thinking in this manner.

### Read 2 Peter 3

2. What questions or comments do you have about this week's passage?

#### Wholesome Thinking

3. Peter's claim in verse 1 of Chapter 3 is that he's writing to stimulate them to wholesome thinking. How do you think he's tried to go about doing that already in 2 Peter? What kind of "wholesome thinking" is he talking about?

4. In verses 3-7, what is the difference between scoffers' words and the word of God? What do you think it looks like to "deliberately forget" (verse 5)?

5. While the scoffers might deliberately forget, Peter tells the Christians that they **aren't** to forget (verse 8). How does Peter's explanation in verses 8-9 explain why God allows the wicked to flourish and the good to suffer?

Now we get to the section of this chapter in which we learn how this information should motivate Christians (verse 1). It's not to simply form head knowledge, it's to be knowledge that shapes lives.

#### Eternity

6. What is the Day of the Lord going to be like in verse 10? In the context of this letter, what might Peter be referring to when he says "everything will be laid bare"?

7. What effect should God's return have on Christians? How does this relate to their eternal destination (verses 11-14)?

8. The last two verses are a fair summary of what Peter has been trying to address throughout his whole letter. What issues does he touch on, and where have you come across them previously in 2 Peter?

#### For Us

9. From this chapter, what do you think Peter's argument would be for why we are supposed to both be good and do good?

10. How is this motivation different to that of those who aren't Christians?

11. How is, or isn't, this motivation shaping your life? How is it affecting the salvation of those around you as God waits patiently?

## **Coming up at mpc**

### **Week of Study 1**

28 August - 300 Men for Jesus with Mark Driscoll  
29-30 August - Women's Teaching Weekend

### **Week of Study 3**

12 September - City Workers Lunch  
12-13 September - Men's Training Event (Mount Tambourine)

### **Week of Study 4**

17 September - Growth Group Trivia Night