

Stand Fast

2 Peter 3:1-13 - Last Things
August 21, 2016

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

—2 Peter 3:13

I. REMEMBER THIS...

- Peter wrote this letter to stir up sincere believers to remember some important concepts, namely:
 - The prophets, apostles, and Jesus himself predicted that false teachers (scoffers) would come (Matt. 24:26-28; 2 Pet. 1:12,16; 2:1).
 - There is a deliberate deception taking place; a forgetting or a dismissing that leads to untruths (vs. 5).
- God transcends time. Its passing has no effect upon his being (Ps. 90:4).
- God's patience is due to his desire to see human beings saved (vs. 9; Ezek. 18:32; Joel 2:12-13; Rom. 2:3-5; 1 Tim. 2:4).

II. THE DAY OF THE LORD

- We don't know when the day of the Lord will come, but we do know that it will catch most off guard (vs. 10; Matt. 24:36-44; Mark 13:32-36).
- The end of life as we know it will be sudden, destructive, and will lead to a renewed earth (Rom. 8:18-25; Rev. 21:1-8).

III. WAITING FOR THE DAY

- Now that we know what to expect, we know what is expected of us. We are to live lives of holiness while we wait, in order to hasten the day of Christ's return (Jude 17-23).
- We await a new heaven and a new earth. Righteousness will reign here one day (Rev. 21:1-8).

KNOW: The end is coming, in spite of the scoffing of naysayers. God purified the earth once, and he will do it again, but this time for re-creation. We look forward to a new heaven and a new earth.

DO: Live a life of holiness while you wait for the approaching consummation.

Suggested Reading:

Postmillennialism: An Eschatology of Hope, by Keith Mathison
Kingdom Come: The Amillennial Alternative, by Sam Storms
A Case for Historic Premillennialism, by Blomberg/Chung
Dispensationalism, by Lewis Sperry Chafer
Progressive Dispensationalism, by Blaising/Bock

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 2 Peter 3:1-13

1. Why is it, do you think, that Peter is so intent on reminding his readers about listening to the true teaching of Christ and his apostles and refuting false teachers? Why all the reminders?
2. How should we respond today when people ask why Jesus has taken so long to return?
3. Big question here: If God does not want anyone to perish (be lost), why are some people lost? Does God lack power to save?
4. Why does Peter expect that knowing that God is patient, that he is not bound by time, that people have deliberately perverted the truth, and that he will destroy and renew everything someday will cause us to want to live holy and godly lives? What's the connection? Does it make you want to be holy?
5. What do you think about Pastor Jym's statement that Peter refers to the renewing of the earth, not the destruction of the earth? Agree or disagree?
6. How do you feel about the coming day of the Lord? Fear? Expectation? Joy? Confusion? Talk about that in your group.