

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 20TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 2 PETER

SCOFFERS (2 PETER 3:1-7)

"STIR UP YOUR SINCERE UNDERSTANDING"

Peter wanted the church to remember the life-changing truth they had received in the past. This wasn't just recalling what was learned; it was about applying that truth.

- **We should be growing daily in our understanding, but if we forget or ignore our foundations, we can easily be discouraged, lose hope, and stumble.**

"ABOVE ALL, BE AWARE..."

Peter wasn't saying that this was the most important thing, but he was saying don't be surprised that people will mock the truth.

- **Jesus and the apostles faced resistance 2,000 years ago. If all we did was quietly follow Christ, we could expect criticism too... but we are not called to silence.**

"FOLLOWING THEIR OWN EVIL DESIRES"

The scoffers denied the return of Christ for one reason: their love of sin.

- **Many arguments against the truth of God's Word are masked in projected intelligence. Most cynics want to protect their self-indulgence and oppose God's ultimate judgment of sin. That was us before salvation!**

"BY THE WORD OF GOD"

As they downplayed God's involvement in history and denied Christ's return, they deliberately overlooked God's sovereignty.

- **The same God that created the universe is the same God who judged the world with water and will someday judge every sin according to His righteousness.**

THE DAY OF THE LORD (2 PETER 3:8-13)

TIMELESS

Peter changes tone and reminds his "dear friends" to NOT overlook God's attributes.

- **Knowing that God exists outside of time should give us comfort. God never does anything late or early; because He's not bound by time, He is the master of timing. It's not about WHEN Christ will return; it's that He WILL return.**

PATIENT AND MERCIFUL

There are real reasons that Christ hasn't returned, and God lets us know His motivation for what looks like delay.

- **God still loves His creation and desires all people to repent and follow Christ. His mercy is revealed in His patience, but He will not wait forever. His judgment is still coming.**

UNTIL THAT DAY

Peter attempts to describe a purifying, awful, and devastating day for the world. His real message is that we should live like we know it's coming.

- **Since this world is temporary, we should live godly (righteous) lives while we wait for the new heavens and new earth where perfect righteousness dwells.**

BE ON GUARD (2 PETER 3:14-18)

THEY'RE STILL HERE

Peter had warned the church that false teachers desired to lead them away from the truth.

- **Sadly, we live in a culture that desires to dismiss the gospel and lead people away from their relationship with Christ. We must be committed to growing in the grace and knowledge (intimacy) of Jesus Christ.**

SEIZE THE DAY

We can live in peace knowing that our salvation is confirmed in our relationship with Christ as God conforms us to His image.

- **Now is our time to live for Christ. Now is our time to grow in the grace of God. Now is the time to serve. Now is the time to make disciples. Now is the time to share Christ with the world.**

REMEMBER

- God is the creator of the universe and has always been actively involved in His creation.
- **People will either follow Christ or their evil desires.**
- **We can know WHAT we should do, but if we aren't actively following Christ, we can easily stumble.**

PERSPECTIVE

- We shouldn't drown in trying to discover WHEN Christ will return. It's that He WILL return that should compel us to live.
- **Although the world is rebellious and self-focused, God is patient and desires a relationship with all that will follow Christ.**
- **Christ will come in His time, and God will judge according to His righteousness.**

RESPONSIBILITY

- Are we living lives ready for Christ's return?
- **What are we doing to make sure we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ?**
- **How can we be serious about sharing Christ with a lost world if we aren't willing to follow Him with our lives?**