

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 15, 2009

Passage: 2 Peter 3:1-10

Memory Passage: 2 Peter 3:9

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 2 Peter 3:1-2.** In verse 1, Peter explains what he is doing as a “stirring up” or “stimulating” of His audience’s “pure understanding” (HCSB). How has Peter already addressed this in 1:12-15? How does Peter’s encouragement for them to remember contrast with the nature of the false teachers (3:5, 8)?
- (b) What are the two things that they are told to remember? What is Peter referring to when he mentions the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles (Matthew 5:17-19; 7:24-27; Romans 6:17-18; Galatians 5:22-6:2)? Who are these apostles and are they necessarily of the twelve Apostles (Acts 14:14)?
- (c) How do the predictions of the prophets and the commandments of Jesus through the apostles cause us to be “stirred up”? What is the purpose of being stirred up (1:12-15; Philippians 4:8-9)? How do you stir your thinking so that you take action?
- (d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:1-2. What is Peter referring to when he mentions the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles (Matthew 5:17-19; 7:24-27; Galatians 5:22-6:2)? What is the purpose of being stirred up (1:12-15; Philippians 4:8-9)? What is something that you can do to stir up yourself or others to pure thinking? Write a note to someone with a word of encouragement and piece of scripture that will encourage them in their walk with the Lord. Pray that the Lord would stir your mind and heart to follow after Him more and more.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 2 Peter 3:3-4.** How does Peter warn us in verse three concerning the false teachers? What are the two distinctions of these false teachers? How have both of these already been discussed in chapter 2?
- (b) Can you think of contemporary examples of people who call themselves Christians who scoff at Christianity and follow their own desires? What kind of questions should we be asking if we see Christian groups being critical of other Christian groups?
- (c) What are these scoffers questioning? How and why is it fundamental to Christianity that Christ will return (John 11:25-27; Acts 24:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:50-53)? What is their argument for the reason that Christ is not coming? How is this argument similar to some modern arguments for evolution or for science over faith?
- (d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:3-4. What are the two ways that Peter describes these false teachers? What are these false teachers questioning? Why is it important that Christ returns (John 11:25-27; Acts 24:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:50-53)? What reasoning were these false teachers using? What did Peter tell us that we should remember in verse 2? What have the false teachers placed above the scriptures? Read Psalm 1 and pray that you would be like the man described in it.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 2 Peter 3:5-7.** Self-deception or a rejection of facts is often an accusation that is placed against Christians. What does Peter say that these false teachers have overlooked in their estimation of the return of Christ/future judgment? How does the world so often reject the truth that is laid before them (Romans 1:20-23)?
- (b) How does what Peter says in verse 5 parallel with the creation account in Genesis 1? What is it that Peter wishes to highlight?
- (c) In verse 6, the phrase “by means of these” is intentionally left ambiguous in most translations (ESV, NASB, NET, HCSB) because it is difficult to interpret what it is referencing. Two options are that it either refers to the “waters” in verse 6 (NIV) though this seems redundant or that it refers to “water” and the “word” (preferred) because of Peter’s emphasis of the word both in verses 5 and 7. If this is the case, how then was the world then destroyed according to Peter?
- (d) What is the way in which the world will be judged and for what purpose? How does Revelation 20:11-15 describe this day of judgment? Who is involved? Why will the world be destroyed by fire (Revelation 21:5-8)? How does knowing this affect how you live now? How would not knowing or believing this affect your life?
- (e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:5-7. What is the way in which the world will be judged and for what purpose? How does Revelation 20:11-15 describe this day of judgment? Who is involved? Why will the world be destroyed by fire (Revelation 21:5-8)? How does knowing this affect how you live now? How would not knowing or believing this affect your life? If you have not placed faith in Christ, now is a perfect time to do so. Pray as a family that all of you would have a mindset that looks forward to that day to come.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 2 Peter 3:8-9.** Peter makes a transition here from what the false teachers have deliberately overlooked to emphasize something that his readers and us should not overlook. In your own words, what is that one fact that we should not overlook (vv. 8-9)?

(b) Read Psalm 90:3-6. What point is the psalmist trying to make here? How does he use the phrase “a thousand years...”? How is this phrase “one day is as a thousand years” used to talk about Genesis 1? Does this seem to be the correct use of this illustration? What is Peter’s point in quoting this verse?

(c) How is the Lord patient? To whom is the Lord patient? How does understanding to whom this passage is addressed affect how we read this passage (2:9)? Even so, how do we rectify this verse and 1 Timothy 2:4 with such a passage as Romans 9:15-23?

(d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:8-9. Read Psalm 90:3-6. What point is the psalmist trying to make here? What is Peter’s point in quoting this verse? Why is it important for us to remember that God is so patient with us? What does God’s patience show? How does this help us to be patient with others? Pray that God would help you to develop the same heart toward others.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 2 Peter 3:10.** The phrase “day of the Lord” is a phrase that has a lot of theological meaning. Read through some of these passages and in your own words articulate what the day of the Lord is. (Joel 1:14-16; Amos 5:10-11, 18-20, 14-15; Isaiah 13:9-12; 24:21-23)

(b) There are many who shirk at such a dismal picture of judgment and destruction. They struggle with how a loving God can promise such “evil” in their minds. Why is the day of the Lord necessary (2Peter 2:3, 9; Ecclesiastes 3:16-17; Revelation 20:12-13)? How does “the day of the Lord” answer questions that we have about injustice and sin now?

(c) With such a threatening picture of the day of the Lord, how should we as Christians respond to the “day of the Lord” (Joel 1:14; Romans 8:33-39; John 5:21-24)?

(d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:10. There are many who shirk at such a dismal picture of judgment and destruction. They struggle with how a loving God can promise such “evil” in their minds. Why is the day of the Lord necessary (2Peter 2:3, 9; Ecclesiastes 3:16-17; Revelation 20:12-13)? With such a threatening picture of the day of the Lord, how should we as Christians respond to the “day of the Lord” (Romans 8:33-39; John 5:21-24)? If you had to stand before the judgment of God, what would you say about why you should be with Him? How can we know for sure that we have eternal life? If anyone does not know, pray for them that they would hear God’s message and will recognize Jesus as Savior and Lord.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read 2 Peter 3:1-10. How are you stirring up your mind to remember the words of the apostles and prophets? What are you doing that moves your knowledge into action? How would you respond to someone who said they couldn’t believe in a God who allowed so much pain and suffering in the world? What will be exposed in your own life when everything is laid bare? Is there anything that you need to bring before God now? Thank God that He is faithful to His children and is patient with us in all our failings.

DATE: November 15, 2009

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The Confidence of Our Faith
“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promises...”