

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 22, 2009

Passage: 2 Peter 3:11-18

Memory Passage: 2 Peter 3:14

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 3:11.** According to Peter, how are we to respond to the fact that all things are going to be “dissolved” or revealed as he says in verse 10?
- (b) How has Peter defined holiness (1Peter 1:15-16) and godliness (2Peter 1:3, 5-7)? What is the difference between the two (1 Timothy 6:3-10 vs. 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13)? Would you say that you are actively trying to live lives of godliness and holiness? Why or why not?
- (c) What is our attitude to be like with regards to the coming day of God? How does this compare with the false teachers (2 Peter 3:3-6)? Does it surprise you that we can “hasten” the day of God? How do we reconcile this passage where we see our actions affecting a future event with such passages as Ephesians 1:11, Isaiah 46:9-11 and Lamentations 3:37-38?
- (d) Why should we be motivated for this day to be sooner? Do you want to hasten the day of the Lord? Why or why not? What does this say about your heart? What do you need to do to reconcile yourself to this scripture?
- (e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:11. How has Peter defined holiness (1Peter 1:15-16) and godliness (2Peter 1:3, 5-7)? What is the difference between the two (1 Timothy 6:3-10 vs. 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13)? Would you say that you are actively trying to live lives of godliness and holiness? Why or why not? As a family, pray Psalm 63 and ask God to make that Psalm your genuine request.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 2 Peter 3:13.** What is Peter referring to when he says “His promise” (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22)? What is to be the focus of our waiting?
- (b) Often when people die, we talk about our hope that people are “in heaven”. Peter doesn’t talk about our hope being in heaven but about the new heaven and the new earth. Where do we get the idea of “going to heaven” when we die (Luke 16:22-23; Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:6,9; Revelation 6:9)? Do any of these verses talk about “heaven” or about the blessings that are promised elsewhere?
- (c) How does Paul describe this period in Philippians 1:23? What about the new heaven and the new earth, what does it look like in the future (Revelation 21; Romans 8:18-25; Isaiah 65:17-25)?
- (d) How is the popular view of going to heaven after you die often self-focused? How does looking forward to the Day of the Lord rectify that? How does Paul’s view in Philippians 1:23 shift the popular understanding of heaven?
- (e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:3-4. Often when people die, we talk about our hope that people are “in heaven”. Peter doesn’t talk about our hope being in heaven but about the new heaven and the new earth. Where do we get the idea of “going to heaven” when we die and how do these verses describe it (Luke 16:22-23; Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:6,9)? What about the streets of gold and all that stuff? Where does that take place (Revelation 21)? Why then do we hope for the resurrection more than life after death (1 Peter 1:13)? Thank God that one day He will make all things new and that we get to await that day with Him when and if we die!

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 2 Peter 3:14.** How is it that we are to act in light of this waiting for new heavens and a new earth? How does this compare to the way Peter described the false teachers (2 Peter 2:10, 13-14)?
- (b) What do these two words, spotless and without blemish, relate to (Exodus 29:1, 35-36)? What does it mean to be spotless or without blemish (James 1:27; Philippians 2:14-16)?
- (c) In our struggle with sin, how do we attain this state (Colossian 1:21-23)? Why are we able to depend on Christ for this (1Peter 1:17-19; Hebrews 9:13-14)?
- (d) Something that Peter has already talked about in the first chapter is the way in which we can be found without spot or blemish. What does he say about this (1:9, 13)? What is the relationship with actively pursuing holiness and godliness and remembering that Christ has become the perfect sacrifice for us? How should this affect our attitude, our actions, and our thinking when it comes to pursuing these things?
- (e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:14. What do these two words, spotless and without blemish, relate to (Exodus 29:1, 35-36)? What does it mean to be spotless or without blemish (Philippians 2:14-16)? In our struggle with sin, how do we attain this state (Colossian 1:21-23)? Why are we able to depend on Christ for this (Hebrews 9:13-14)? Have you ever tried to be holy/good without Christ’s help? How did that turn out? Pray that you would depend on Christ’s work and the Holy Spirit to help you be holy and godly in all that you do.

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

(a) **Read 2 Peter 3:15-16.** The first command Peter makes is in verse 14 “to be diligent” and the second in verse 15 is to “count the patience of our Lord as salvation.” What is he referring to as “the patience of the Lord” (3:9)? How is it that the Lord’s patience should be reckoned as salvation (Romans 2:4)?

(b) Paul and Peter did not always get along (See Gal 2:11-14), but here Peter calls him his beloved brother. What does this teach us about how we are to relate to one another? (For an example of Paul doing the same as Peter see Colossians 4:10; Acts 15:38). Why is it that loving and forgiving our brothers and sisters in Christ is so important (John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:43-47)?

(c) Take some time and ask God if there is anyone that you have not forgiven or who you have failed to love as you should. Ask the Lord how you might reconcile with that person, and ask the Lord for the strength to do it according to His promises and then act on them in faith (Philippians 2:12-13).

(d) It is encouraging to note that Peter thought Paul hard to understand at times. How are the people who end up twisting Paul described? How does this go against the popular notion that everyone is able to understand the scriptures without study? What does Peter compare Paul’s letters to?

(e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:15-16. Paul and Peter did not always get along (See Gal 2:11-14), but here Peter calls him his beloved brother. What does this teach us about how we are to relate to one another? Why is it that loving and forgiving our brothers and sisters in Christ is so important (John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:43-47)? Is there anyone that you are not forgiving or loving as you should? Ask the Lord how you might reconcile with that person, and ask the Lord for the strength to do it according to His promises and then act on them in faith (Philippians 2:12-13).

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

(a) **Read 2 Peter 3:17-18.** As review, what is it that we should know? There are two more commands that Peter ends with, “take care” (v. 17) and “grow” (v. 18). What are the two things that Peter makes sure that we take care of? How in the latter half of chapter 1 does he inform us that we can be stable? What in chapter 2 does he warn us about the temptations of the “lawless people”?

(b) We are not only to be on the defensive. Peter encourages us to grow as well! How does this growth in knowledge happen (chapter 1)? How does our growth in Christ’s grace happen (chapter 3)? These last two verses summarize and bring a closing to the whole book. We see Peter’s major points and concerns.

(c) Peter ends with what is called a doxology. *Doxa* meaning glory and *logia* meaning word. It is used to describe a formal praise of God’s glory. Many letters end with them. What is Peter’s concern and point with this ending doxology? How does it relate to the book as a whole?

(d) How does this ending doxology remind us of where our hope and our current perspective should be focused? Could you say this doxology right now with all integrity? Why or why not?

(e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:17-18. Peter ends with what is called a doxology. *Doxa* meaning glory and *logia* meaning word. It is used to describe a formal praise of God’s glory. What is Peter’s concern and point with this ending doxology? How does this ending doxology remind us of where our hope and our current perspective should be focused? Could you say this doxology right now with all integrity? Why or why not? Pray that God’s glory would be central in your life and in your hope and that you would live for Him and not for yourself.

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

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read 2 Peter 3:11-18. Where is your heart this week? Is it on the things of this world or on the one to come? Do you feel a longing and a desire for the new creation or are you comfortable with this world? What are those things that are numbing you to fallen aspects of this world? Are you being proactive in renewing your mind and heart with the truth of the Bible and grace and knowledge of our Lord? Ask the Lord to show you where your heart is right now. Is it seeking his glory now and in the future? Pray that God would give you a passion and desire to see Him glorified in everything you do.

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The Growth of Our Faith

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...”