

2 Peter

bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the

works that are done on it will be exposed.

Key Categories & Text

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Head	• How is what I know increasing?
Heart 💓	How is my worship being transformed?
Hands 🖐 🖐	 How am I applying what I know and how I am worshipping in order to serve those around me? (i.e., family, church, coworkers, neighbors, etc.)
Biblical Pericope {2 Peter 3:1-10 ESV}	 1 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, 2 that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly

Life Group Discussion Guide

Introduction:

Continue using "The Moody Bible Commentary" for your preparation for this week's lesson.

Dr. Thomas Constable says in regard to this letter "I like to think of the Book of 2 Peter as a bologna sandwich. Chapters 1 and 3 are the bread, the positive pastoral exhortations, and the middle chapter, 2, is the bologna (i.e., baloney) of the false teachers." With that funny yet helpful illustration in mind, let's jump into chapter 3.

Do you now, or have you ever, longed for an upcoming event like a wedding, a birthday, or Christmas? If so, what thoughts, feelings, or actions accompanied you as you awaited that event? If not, why do you think you haven't longed for anything like that?

What is your go-to method of planning and remembering things? Is there any application or cross-over with your way of remembering and with your faith?

Head:

- What is the purpose of this letter (vv. 1-2)? How would you describe or paraphrase this letter to this point? Why is it important to be able to clearly and concisely describe the contents of 2 Peter?
- In this context, sincere means unflawed by evil. Why would Peter want to stir up the minds of the Christians that he is writing to? (Recall Week 3 Curriculum) Why is it important for their minds to be unflawed by evil? How might these Christians go about minimizing the influence that evil has on their minds? How do you minimize the influence of evil?
- Andrew McNab wrote "An effective antidote to false doctrine is to recall and dwell on the teaching already perceived." What does McNab mean by this? How were these early Christians to recall and dwell on the apostles teaching? How are you currently dwelling and recalling the truth of Scripture? How might the group come together to dwell and recall? Or how might the group help and encourage you as you seek to dwell and recall truth?
- Verses 3-6 highlight that scoffing will take place in the Last Days. A scoffer is one who treats light that which ought to be taken seriously. Read Psalm 1 to see how this Psalm corresponds with what Peter is telling the recipients of his letter. Why should these Christians be aware and cautious of scoffers in their day? Who are the scoffers in our age and culture? How should be aware of them, yet avoid them?

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- In verses 7-10, Peter highlights future events so that his readers would know what would be taking place and how to act accordingly. Tucked into this section is verse 8 which reads "But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." What does Peter mean by this statement? (Leaders, use page 1971 of The Moody Bible Commentary for help with this answer.)
- Verse 9 is a wonderful verse that provides comfort and understanding to God's character and heart. In fact, E.M. Sidebottom in a clarifying statement said "In Greek the notion of repentance is of a change of outlook, in Hebrew thought a turning round and adopting a new way of life. The two are not incompatible." Peter, being a Jew by birth and a Christian by new birth would understand that repentance is key to a relationship with God. In what way(s) has God been patient and slow so that you would come to a place of repentance?
- The End Times theology can be difficult to navigate. The important thing to remember here is that Jesus will again physically and literally return to judge, and that is why the heresy of the false teachers were so destructive.

Heart:

- In "The Bible Knowledge Commentary," Kenneth Gangel writes "The English 'sincere' is from the Latin words sine cera, 'without wax.' Some pottery salesmen would use wax to cover cracks and weak places in pottery. Such a cover-up could be detected only by holding the jug up to the sun to see if any weaknesses were visible. Such a vase was 'sun-judged'. God wants His people to have sun-judged minds, not those in which their sin spots have been covered over." How does this quote, along with the words of 2 Peter convict you? If it doesn't, how are you doing with covering your "sin spots"? Why should you be concerned about not just covering your sin but eradicating it with the help of Christ Jesus?

Hands:

- In regards to verse 9, is there someone that you are praying for that you desperately desire would come to trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? Consider taking time as a group to pray for that person. Check in with one another regularly to see how that person is doing.

Conclusion:

- As we conclude, is there anything from Pastor Kevin's sermon that stood out to you that we have not yet discussed? Why do you think that particular thing stood out to you?

Pray:

Is there anything that you can pray for as a result of today's passage? Spend time praying for one another's needs and requests.