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2 PETER

Beware of Religious Imposters

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Chapter 3: It's Going to Happen!

CENTRAL QUESTION

How do we reconcile the apparent delay of Christ's return with the Bible's promise that God is not slow in keeping His promises (2 Peter 3:9)? Does this delay challenge our faith or refine it?

INTRODUCTION

2 Peter 3 is a powerful chapter that encourages believers to remain steadfast in faith, particularly as they await the promised return of Jesus Christ. Peter warns about scoffers who mock God's promises, reminds us of God's timing, and exhorts believers to live holy and godly lives in anticipation of a new heaven and a new earth. This chapter calls us to see the apparent delay of Christ's return not as a failure of God's promises, but as an expression of His patience, giving more people time to repent. Peter concludes with a call to spiritual growth and diligence, urging believers to live in peace and be found blameless before God.

2 PETER CHAPTER 3 OUTLINE

A. Warning Against Scoffers (3:1-7)

- Reminder of the prophetic Word.
- Scoffers mock the promise of Christ's return.
- God's judgment demonstrated in creation and the flood.

B. God's Timing and Patience (3:8-10)

- God's perspective on time.
- The delay is an expression of God's mercy.
- The certainty of the Day of the Lord.

C. Living in Light of Eternity (3:11-16)

- Call to holy and godly living.
- The promise of a new heaven and new earth.
- Peter endorses Paul's writings and warns against misinterpretation.

D. Final Exhortation (3:17-18)

- Warning against falling from stability.
- Encouragement to grow in grace and knowledge of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do we reconcile the apparent delay of Christ's return with the Bible's promise that God is not slow in keeping His promises (2 Peter 3:9)? Does this delay challenge our faith or refine it?
2. Why do scoffers reject the idea of Christ's return? (3:3-4)
3. How does understanding God's perspective on time (3:8) challenge our impatience?
4. What does the certainty of the Day of the Lord teach us about God's justice? (3:10)
5. What does it mean to "hasten the coming of the Day of God"? (3:12)

APPLICATION

1. **Stay** _____: Keep the promise of Christ's return in focus, allowing it to shape decisions, priorities, and behaviors.
2. **Get the** _____ **out there:** Recognize God's patience as an opportunity to share the gospel, participating in His mission of redemption.
3. **Keep** _____: Commit to growing in grace and knowledge through regular study of God's Word, prayer, and fellowship with other believers.

Where to get more information

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Tyndale New Testament Commentary: 2 Peter and Jude, by Michael Green

Wiersbe, W. W. (1984). *Be Alert: Beware of the Religious Imposters*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook Publishers.