

2 Peter 3 Bible Class Presentation

“The Day of the Lord Will Come”

Opening Prayer

Lord God, heavenly Father, the world mocks Your promises and lives as though judgment will never come. Preserve us from unbelief and spiritual complacency. Fix our hearts upon Your holy Word, strengthen us in repentance and faith, and keep us steadfast in the saving knowledge of Christ until the day of His glorious return. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Introduction to 2 Peter 3

2 Peter 3 addresses one of the greatest spiritual dangers facing the Church: the temptation to doubt the certainty of Christ’s return and to become spiritually careless while waiting for it.

Peter warns that scoffers will arise in the last days. They will mock the promise of Christ’s return because the world appears to continue as it always has. They interpret God’s patience as weakness or indifference.

Peter teaches the opposite. The delay of judgment is evidence of God’s mercy. He continues to call sinners to repentance through the preaching of the Gospel.

Major Themes of the Chapter

- The certainty of Christ’s return
- The reality of final judgment
- God’s patience and desire for repentance
- The destruction of the present heavens and earth
- The promise of the new heavens and new earth
- Holy living in light of eternity
- The danger of twisting Scripture
- Growth in grace and knowledge

Section I — Scoffers in the Last Days (2 Peter 3:1–7)

Dear friends, this is now the second letter that I have written to you. I wrote both of them to stir up your sincere mind with a reminder (2) for you to remember the words spoken earlier by the holy prophets and the command of the Lord and Savior through your apostles. (3) First, know this: In the last days scoffers will come with their mocking, following their own lusts. (4) They will say, “Where is this promised coming of his? For from

the time that our fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they have from the beginning of the creation.” (5) You see, what they are intentionally forgetting is that the heavens came into existence long ago by the word of God and that the earth came together out of the water and between the waters. (6) Through these waters the former world perished, when it was flooded with water. (7) And now, by that same word, the heavens and earth have been stored up for fire, since they are being kept until the day of judgment and the destruction of the ungodly.

Peter reminds believers that the Christian faith rests upon the prophetic and apostolic Word of God. The Church does not invent its message. It receives it.

Scoffers reject the promise of Christ’s return because they follow their sinful desires. Their unbelief is not merely intellectual. It is moral and spiritual.

Peter points to the flood in the days of Noah as proof that God has already judged the world once before.

The same Word that once brought judgment through water will one day bring judgment through fire.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Peter connect false teaching with sinful desires?
2. Why do people often resist the doctrine of judgment?
3. How does the flood serve as a warning for the world today?
4. What happens when churches stop preaching repentance and judgment?

Section II — The Lord Is Not Slow (2 Peter 3:8–10)

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. (9) The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance. (10) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up.

Peter explains that God does not experience time as man does. What appears slow to man is not slowness to God.

God’s delay is mercy. He desires repentance rather than destruction.

This does not mean all people will be saved regardless of faith. Rather, God sincerely calls sinners to repentance through the Gospel.

The Day of the Lord will come suddenly and unexpectedly like a thief.

Discussion Questions

5. How is God's patience often misunderstood today?
6. What is the difference between God's patience and approval of sin?
7. Why is repentance central to Christian preaching?
8. How should the certainty of judgment affect daily life?

Section III — Holy Living While Waiting (2 Peter 3:11–13)

Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, (12) as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. (13) But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Peter asks a piercing question: if the present world will pass away, what kind of people ought Christians to be?

The Christian life is not built upon earthly permanence but upon eternal promises.

Believers await the new heavens and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Christian holiness flows from faith in Christ rather than from fear-driven self-righteousness.

Discussion Questions

9. How does eternal thinking change earthly priorities?
10. What is the difference between Christian holiness and outward moralism?
11. Why does Peter connect doctrine with conduct?
12. How does the promise of the new creation comfort believers?

Section IV — Twisting the Scriptures (2 Peter 3:14–18)

Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight. (15) Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as also our dear brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom that was given to him. (16) He spoke about these things the same way in all of his letters. There are some matters that are hard to understand in his letters, which the ignorant and unstable distort, as they also do with the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. (17) Therefore, dear friends, since you already know these things, be on your guard so that you do not fall from your own firm position by being led astray through the error of the wicked. (18) Instead

grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and forever. Amen.

Peter urges believers to be diligent in faith and to remain grounded in sound doctrine.

He acknowledges that some of Paul's writings are difficult to understand, yet he condemns those who twist the Scriptures to their own destruction.

False doctrine does not merely produce confusion. It destroys faith.

Peter concludes by calling Christians to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

13. What does it mean to twist the Scriptures?
14. Why is doctrinal precision important?
15. How can Christians remain steadfast in a culture of confusion?
16. What does it mean to grow in grace and knowledge?

Law and Gospel Emphasis

- Law: Peter exposes sinful security, unbelief, spiritual laziness, worldliness, and the rejection of God's warnings.
- Law: The certainty of judgment condemns every sinner apart from Christ.
- Gospel: God delays judgment out of mercy so that sinners may repent and believe.
- Gospel: Christ has borne the judgment of sin through His death and resurrection.
- Gospel: Believers await not destruction, but the new heavens and the new earth promised through Christ.

Concluding Summary

2 Peter 3 calls Christians to live with eternity in view. The world mocks the promises of God and treats judgment as fantasy, but Christ will return exactly as He has promised. Therefore believers are called to repentance, steadfastness in sound doctrine, and confident hope in the salvation won through Jesus Christ.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, preserve us from unbelief and spiritual carelessness. Keep us steadfast in Your Word and Sacraments. Grant that we may live in daily repentance and faith while we await Your glorious return. Lead us safely into the new heavens and the new earth where righteousness dwells; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.