



The Epistles of Peter
2 Peter 3:8-10
From Sermon 6.14. 26

Read *2 Peter 3:8-10*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Following Peter's last admonition regarding mocking false teachers, God the Holy Spirit now has the Apostle focus again on the reader—the Church. With persecution from a decaying world and wolves within the Church, it's easy for us to grow discouraged and even wonder why God isn't doing something. We must have faith that Jesus is indeed returning in righteous judgment. But it will be in His sovereign timing. There is an underlying reason and blessing for His delay.

1. Complete this vital truth from Sunday: Never confuse God's Grace and Patience with Indifference. See *Proverbs 15:3 & Hebrews 4:13*
2. Do you ever grow impatient waiting for God to move or answer? Various Personal Answers.
3. How is time different for us then it is for God? God is eternal. He has existed from eternity past. He will always be into eternity future. So, human time is a minor, separate thing to Him. His perfect timing may not line up with our finite, anxious, and impatient desire.
- 3a. Discuss the literalness of 1000 years vs Peter's point regarding God's timing. Most often, when the Bible gives an exact number like 1000, it is precisely what God means and in our language. (See *Revelation 20:1-7*) Peter, here, is not wanting us to equate heaven's timetable with our calendar in some symbolic formula. He's making the point that what seems like a long time for us is no time for an eternal God.
4. What is Common Grace and how does it differ from Saving Grace? Common Grace = God has a benevolent, universal grace and love for all mankind. See *Matthew 5:45 & Ecclesiastes 2:24*. Saving Grace is that gift of God that resurrects a formerly dead spirit, instills saving faith, leads us to exercise that faith in the Life and completed Work of Jesus Christ (believe the Gospel), and to die to self to serve Him. See also *Ephesians 2:8-10*.
- 4a. What, then, is the Common Grace Peter is highlighting here? That God is showing restraint. He doesn't strike down the sinner where they stand during the sin. He's giving people time to repent. And He's graciously waiting for all His elect to come to faith.
5. How is the delay of Christ's return just as much a blessing as the event of His return? This long dispensation (The Age of Grace/The Age of the Church) is God restraining His wrath until the full number of elect have come to Him. We should rejoice for each day we have for another opportunity to share the Gospel with those God puts in our path—particularly family and friends. We desire justice as long it's not towards us and those we love.
6. Discuss the truth that God is equally glorified in both His Grace/Salvation and His Judgment/Wrath. ____

See also *Romans 9:22-24*