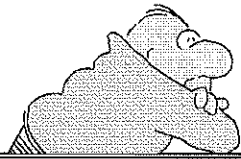


Text: 2 Peter 3:8-9
Topic: Return of Christ. Perspective.
Series: Book of 2 Peter

Pacific Coast Church
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Pastor Mike

98-30



Jesus is Coming Back! ^{part 2}

Then Why Is It Taking So Long?

3:3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. 14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. (NIV)

1. Acquire _____ (v.8)

2. Cultivate _____ (v.9)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of these questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you apply the principles to your life situation. These questions are also used as the basis of discussion for many of our small group studies that meet throughout the week. For times and locations of PCC's small group gatherings that are meeting this week call the church office (949-489-2600).

1. It is easy to doubt God when we fail to acquire his perspective. Seeing things from his vantage point is not always easy. Because of this difficulty we can find ourselves questioning the goodness or faithfulness of God. In what ways have you questioned God's power, goodness, or faithfulness?

Thankfully the Bible addresses our doubts head-on. When it comes to God's promise about the return of Christ, our passage in 2 Peter 3 assures us that God's word is good and can be relied upon! Christ *is* coming! It may seem like it has been a long time but he is faithful to his promise and is unaffected by time. Have you ever doubted that Christ is really coming back? Why do you think it is particularly important that our confidence not wane about this particular promise?

2. Timing is the issue addressed in 2 Peter 3:8. If you know anything about God you probably know that his timing is not like ours, and yet, as is popularly said, "God is never late!" How have you found this to be true and in what ways is it a comfort to you?

3. What are some of the pressures and decisions that you anticipate you will be facing this week?

How do you think an eternal perspective will help you deal with these pressures and decisions?

4. With whom do you have regular contact that has not yet come to the place of repentance?

Spend some time thinking of these people as you memorize the words of 2 Peter 3:9. How does that change your perspective about those people?

How, when, and where can you most effectively communicate to these people the importance of repentance and faith in Christ?