



THE BIG PICTURE

Studies in 1 & 2 Peter

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Is It Safe?

Introduction to II Peter 2-3

In the 1976 movie, “The Marathon Man”, the question was repeatedly asked “Is it safe?” That’s the question most of us want to know as we go out in life each day—“Is it safe?” This week’s study in 2 Peter addresses that very issue from several perspectives. The first danger of which we must beware is that of false teachers. These people use flattering words to entice unsuspecting believers into their webs of destruction. They secretly introduce false teaching that denies the lordship of the One who saved them, and their heresies will cause the truth to be maligned. Their way is characterized by sensuality, greed, indulgence of the flesh, arrogance and predatory behavior. However, while men may be deceived, God will not. Just as in the past He brought judgment on angels,

the world in the time of Noah, Sodom and Gomorrah, and Balaam, so He will judge these deceivers. Simultaneously He will rescue the righteous as He did Noah and Lot. The only way to remain safe with such people is to know the truth and ruthlessly apply it to every purported message from God. Secondly, we must avoid the trap of those who mock the supposed return of the Lord. Because Jesus’ return to this planet has delayed so long it is easy to fall into the trap of believing that this promise is just a fantasy that someone dreamed up. This is very dangerous thinking because it denies the reality of God’s judgment by water on earth’s inhabitants in the days of Noah. Just as God delayed His judgment in Noah’s time while Noah preached for them to repent, in the same



Understanding the big picture of God’s work helps us serve Him no matter what...

way He is waiting again for people to come to Christ. But at one point His day will come, and then we will be glad we avoided the third danger, that of complacency. We must be continually looking for the fulfillment His promise to return, beware of the influence of unprincipled men, and consistently be growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thus, the answer in life to “Is it safe?” is for us to know and stay true the Word of God.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Daily Study Questions for II Peter 2-3

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.thehospitalchurch.com/small_groups/ABFs/leader_resources)

1. Read 2 Peter 2:1-3. What will false teachers do wrong (v1, 2, 3) and why (v3)? What will be the results (v1, 2, 3)?	
2. In 2:4-9 how was God’s justice shown in the past (v4, 5, 6-8)? What does this show will happen in the future (v9)?	
3. From 2:10-16 describe the unrighteous (v10, 12-15). How do they affect the church fellowship (v13, 14)?	

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II Peter 2-3 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From 2:17-22 who is entrapped (v18) and how (v18-19)? What will be the outcome of the deceivers and of the deceived (v19-22)? Apply.

5. Based on 3:1-2 what do we need even if we are sincere (v1-2)? By whose authority should we live (v2)?

6. Looking at 3:3-7 what will some people say in the “last days” (v4)? How are they described (v3) and why are they wrong (v5-7)?

7. Using 3:8-10 why does God delay His return in judgment (v8-9)? What will the “day of the Lord” be like (v10)? How does this make you feel?

8. In 3:11-13 how are told to act in light of Jesus’ return (v11, 12-13)? Why is this good news for us?

9. According to 3:14-16 what should our goal be (v14)? How did both Peter and Paul interpret the delayed return of Christ (v15)? What does this mean?

10. From 3:17-18 of what must we beware (v17)? What is the best way to guard against this (v18)?

11. Review 2 Peter 2-3. What dangers await us from false teachers (2:1-22), mockers (3:1-10), and complacency (3:11-18)? How can we guard against these?

Scripture to Remember

“But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

2 Peter 3:13 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Let’s Get Real about Husbands

(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Talk about some things that you think make a house a “home”. What role do you think the husband plays in that?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:7. What things hinder a husband’s attentiveness to his wife—attitudes, life situations, time demands, etc. What are some keys to overcoming these?
3. Discuss some ways that husbands can “study” their wives? Wives, which of the 5 needs (affection, conversation, honesty and openness, financial support, family commitment) is most important to you, and how can it be better met?
4. Share a time when your submission led to abuse, and a time when it led to being taken care of better. Why does be weaker in this way make us stronger?
5. Why is it so important to God for husbands to show appreciation to their wives? In what sense may husbands’ prayer be hindered if they don’t do this?
6. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday’s message if there is time.