

## 2 Peter 3:1-9 Week 9

### Scoffers

2 Peter 3:1 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. 2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. 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. NIV

- Scoffing is making **fun** of someone and what they believe.
- Peter motivates believers not just to trust that Christ is coming back, but he is encouraging them to have **wholesome** thinking.
- Peter is speaking of the **moral** demands of the Christian faith. Not just staying sexually pure but the moral command to **love**. False teachers of that day believed this to be **foolish** and they scoffed.
- The scoffers believe God is **unreliable** and the universe is doing just fine without Jesus' return.
- Again, **focus** determines reality.

Notice these things about scoffers:

1. They are usually cynical about **life** and people in general.
2. They are mostly preoccupied with **themselves** and their own needs.
3. They always have **opinions** but don't desire to be part of the solution.
4. They choose to **deny** God's intervention in past history.
  - In today's society the scoffers refuse to listen and obey the word of God and call it **irrelevant** for today's society.
  - Peter reminds us of the importance to love those who scoff at the truth because **judgment** is a sure thing.
  - God's delay in coming judgments is not caused by His inability to perform or His indifference to man's sin. God is prompted by His **grace** and love.
5. Scoffers can also be interpreted "**mockers**".

Peter gives us two important facts about God and the return of Christ.

1. God's Word is **true**. Peter **exhorts** the believers to trust the truth.
2. God's word is **consistent**.

Several things we must do:

- We must be believers with pure **motives**.
- This is not about me overcoming in my own **strength**.
- We must **increase** our love and establish the habit of having **forgiving** hearts.

The result? God will make us to be **steadfast**, and will establish us.

Final thoughts

1. Guard your **tongue** and your personal opinions and criticisms without knowing facts.
2. If you know the facts, make sure your tongue speaks the love of God to **encourage** those who are listening.
3. Remember, God's will is **merciful**.