

5. Read 2 Peter 3:8-9. Peter refers to God's perfect timing and how he does not work in time how we might want or expect. So we must adjust to live patiently and faithfully in his timing. How have you seen God work in unexpected ways or in perfect timing in the Bible or in your own life?

6. Read 2 Peter 3:10-13. What are some ways we can prepare ourselves for the second coming of Christ and be ready each day as the possible day of his return?

7. How do you live with the tension of knowing God is love but he is also just and judges?

Missional Application

God calls us to see his patience toward us as an opportunity to grow in holiness and to call others to repentance.

Christ Connection

When some scoffed at the early Christian hope in Jesus' second coming, the apostle Peter explained that God's timetable is different than ours. He is patient in giving people time to turn to him in faith. The Day of Judgment will come, however, and Jesus will return and establish a new heavens and new earth.

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

The God Who Makes All Things New (Part 3)

"3 Reasons Why Christians Can Eagerly Anticipate the Second Coming"
2 Peter 3:1-13

Jesus often talked about a day when he would come back. He referred to this time when his Kingdom would be established in fullness. It would be a time of judgement, but also a time of _____.

Problems with the "Left Behind" Culture

- While that whole era got the memo that _____ is coming, I can't remember anyone helping me get my head around reconciling God's judgment with God's love.
- In my circles very little was said about the nature of the _____ Jesus was going to establish in the new creation or about the implication of the new heavens and new earth.

3 Reasons Why Christians Can Eagerly Anticipate the Second Coming

1. **At the second coming, everything that is _____ will be made right.**

2 Peter 3:13

Right now we do not live in a world where righteousness _____.

Judgment is about God getting the _____ we created out of the earth so that righteousness will dwell on the earth.

Judgment is necessary because God _____ about the pain and injustice we've unleashed.

I want judgment to be _____ and fair.

Here's how I live in the tension of God's love and justice:

- I _____ God.
- I _____ my doubts more than I doubt my God.
- I try to comprehend the _____ of sin.
- I try to stay in my _____ and within the confines of my pay grade.
- I focus my attention on the New _____.

Your main problem is you look at life, and everything about life, as a play written with you in the lead. (Tim Keller)

2. Looking forward to the second coming will lead to a _____ life now.

2 Peter 3:11-12

3. At the second coming, we will experience the _____ of God's grace.

Family Discussion Questions

These questions are based on the passage the kids studied today, Revelation 1:9-20.

1. How does Jesus' control over all things give our family the courage to live out his love and share the gospel today?
2. When has God seemed distant in your life?
3. How does the certainty of Jesus' presence encourage us as a family?

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. In what areas of your life do you sometimes struggle with impatience and impulsiveness?
3. Read 2 Peter 3:1-7. Peter's appeal to the prophets and apostles for this teaching reminds us that all of the Bible tells one story of God's plan to redeem people through Jesus. How should knowing the Bible is one story shape the way we share Jesus with others?
4. Why might we need constant reminders of the truth that scoffers will seek to infiltrate the church and lead it astray?