

What is God Waiting For?

2 Peter 3:1-10

November 8, 2020

A _____ to “*dear friends*” to _____ (3:1-2)

1. Cynicism (3:3-7)

- A skeptic is a doubter; a cynic is a disbeliever
- A skeptic questions; a cynic scoffs, sneering pessimism

- a. Living in the **present** for their own pleasures
- b. Mocking the **future** and any accountability
- c. Deliberately forgetting the power of God’s Word
 - i. **Creation** (Gen. 1 & 2; John 1:3; Heb. 1:2)
 - ii. Flood (Gen. 6:1 – 9:17)
 - iii. Coming judgment (Isa. 13:9-13; 2 Thes. 1:6-8)

2. Certainty (3:8-10)

- a. What is God waiting for?
 - i. God’s **timing** is perfect (Psalm 90:4)
 - ii. God’s promise is not **overdue** or “expired”
 - iii. God’s temperament is patient (Rom. 2:4)
 - iv. God’s purpose is **salvation** (1 Tim. 2:3-4)
- b. What will the day of the Lord be like?
 - i. It will come **unexpectedly** (Matt. 24:42-44)
 - ii. The heavens will go with a “Whoosh!”
 - iii. The elements will melt
 - iv. Everything and everyone will be **exposed**

(next week the exciting conclusion to 2 Peter)
Since God’s judgment is coming, what should we be doing?

On Your Own (better with others)

What insight, observation or principle did you find eye-opening, helpful, or troubling?

1. Which person is harder to reach with the gospel, a skeptic or a cynic? What different approaches you would use to share Christ with one or the other?

2. READ Colossians 1:16 and Hebrews 11:3. What do these verses tell you about the power of God’s word?

3. READ Genesis 9:12-16. How is God’s covenant with Noah and the sign of the rainbow evidence of His patience with sin?

4. READ Romans 2:4. How does God act towards sinners? Are those same three character qualities found in your witness?

5. When does God’s patience with sinners run out? *Who* is he waiting for? (Think of someone’s name and pray for them.)