

Diligence.7

By way of reminder

Review

Chapter 1

- An allotted faith and a call to diligence
- Given all we need for life and godliness – pursue virtue
- Work hard from grace and because of grace
- False teachers promote sin, Peter pursues Christ

Chapter 2

- God will judge those who are not his own, make sure you are one of His children
- God opposes false teachers who scoff at authority and promote willful sinning

2 Peter 3:1-7 (ESV)

Overview of Chapter 3

False teachers are promoting willful sinning by scoffing at the return of Christ in judgment.

Peter is combating willful sinning by refuting the false teachers.

The Scoffers' (False Teachers) Arguments - 2 Peter 3:3-4

1. The absence of Christ
2. The continuity of history

Peter's Response

1. God's timing and our perspective
2. The discontinuity of history

The Scoffer's Argument of The Continuity of History

Nothing changes therefore nothing will change – 2 Peter 3:4

Peter's Response: The Intrusion of God in History

Paul's Argument: God has created, has judged, and will judge again, and will create again.

2 Peter 3:5-7

Bauckham: “. . . by his word and by means of water God created the world (v 5); by his word and by means of water he destroyed it (v 6); by his word and by means of fire he will destroy it in the future (v 7).”

Diligently Anticipate Scoffers

Diligently anticipate scoffers (false teachers) who promote a life lived in denial of judgment

Modern day scoffers:

Post-modernists

- We can't know things to be true because truth is a matter of perspective – there is no objective truth
- Because we can't know things to be true, we also are not in a position to judge
- Judgment is derided and frowned upon – John 3:16 versus Luke 6:37

Universalists

- All people will be reconciled to God – regardless of how people live their lives, they will all eventually be accepted by God
- This renders judgment essentially a non-issue

Diligently Remember Prophecy

Diligently remember prophecies of Christ who has fulfilled them and will fulfill them.
2 Peter 3:2

Isaiah 53:11 ESV

Remember the prophecies he has fulfilled . . . and believe that he will fulfil prophecies in the future.

Isaiah 11:1-5 ESV