

Living Hope

Week 19 – Hope in the Delay

Transition: In our previous text, Peter warned against false teachers who introduced destructive heresies and exploited Christians with lies. Though these false teachers promised freedom, they were slaves to corruption.

Check Point: Would anyone like to share something they worked on from last week's discussion?

Context: In this week's text, Peter stirs up the minds of those he is writing to, to remember the predictions of the prophets and the commandments of Jesus shared by the apostles, particularly as they relate to a future coming of Christ in judgment.

Opening Questions:

- Share a time when something you wanted was delayed. How did the waiting impact your thinking and behavior?
- Is there an occasion where you were thankful something didn't happen on your timetable? Share your story with the group and what you learned from your experience.

Scripture/Storying: 2 Peter 3:1-13

Discipleship Questions:

- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?
- In verses 1-2, Peter wants to stir up the minds of his readers to remember the writings of the prophets and apostles. Why is it crucial that you are reminded of the truths that you already know? What does reminding others of the truths they already know look like practically in discipleship?
- In verses 3-4, Peter reminds his readers that scoffers will mock at a return of Christ in judgment. What other areas of the Christian faith have you observed scoffers mocking? Why must believers know how to defend the faith against scoffers? How will you begin learning to defend the faith?
- In verse 8, Peter reminds us that God's timetable is different than ours concerning his future coming in judgment. What is comforting or challenging to you about God's timetable and why?
- In verse 9, Peter gives us the reason for God delaying his coming in judgment. What opportunities does God's patience afford you as a believer, particularly concerning those who do not follow Christ? How will you begin or continue taking advantage of these opportunities afforded to you by God's patience?
- In verse 11, Peter tells believers they should live lives of holiness and godliness as they wait for Christ's return. What is your biggest challenge in living a life set apart from God in a world opposed to God? What keeps you on track to live a life set apart for God? How can your small group hold you accountable in this?
- Peter describes the new heavens and earth as a place where righteousness dwells. Why do you think believers need to keep their eyes focused on this in a world filled with unrighteousness? How will you maintain focus on the truth of a new heavens and earth in this world of turmoil?

Prayer time: - KARM

Pray for KARM as the warm weather brings more people to their doors. May the Lord equip all staff and volunteers as they love and serve those in our community this summer.