

Home Group Helps

2 Peter 3:8-9

The Longsuffering of the Lord

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

I. The Lord Is Everlasting (v.8) – ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

II. The Lord Is Patient (v.9a) – ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you

III. The Lord Is Rich in Mercy (v.9b) – not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

1. Launching Question(s):

- What has been a passage in the Bible that really confused you for a time? Does it still confuse you?
- Why is it necessary for Christians to be constantly reminded of God's character?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Read all of 2 Peter chapter 3.
- What has been taught in 2 Peter up to this point? What questions/situations has he been addressing?
- Why are these topics important for our church today?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Read Psalm 90:1-4. What do we learn about the Lord when Peter says that with Him, "One day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"?
- Has God ever seemed slow or poor at timing to you? How do Peter's words in verse 9 correct this mentality?
- How should we reconcile this passage with the doctrine of election? For help, read Exodus 34:6-8, Ezekiel 18:23, and 1 Tim 2:1-4.

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Peter spent an entire chapter dealing with false teachers. He then comes to this verse and declares God longing for even them to come to Christ. How should this affect the way you think about unbelievers in your life?

5. Application Question(s):

- With this verse in mind, how would you evangelize someone else? What would you say to them? Read Isaiah 55:1-3 and Matthew 11:25-30.
- How does the cross manifest the mercy and justice of the Lord better than anything else?