

Sermon: The Day of the Lord**Text: 2 Peter 3:1-10****Discussion Questions:**

How often do you hear the word “scoffing” used? My guess is not very often. It’s a very potent and strong word. It’s not a word you ever want to hear.

There are times when we disagree with others. Which is fine. Of course we’re not going to always agree with everything we hear. We might even strongly disagree. But buried beneath disagreement still lies a certain measure of respect. We’re still lending credibility and respect to that which we find wrong or disagreeable.

A line gets crossed, though, when we move from disagreement—to mocking. Mocking is defined as “laughing at someone or something in an unkind way.”

- Discuss the difference between disagreeing with someone—and mocking them.
 - What might cause you to mock?
 - What is the intended purpose of mocking?
 - In what ways can mocking be viewed as a form of bullying?

A step beyond mocking is derision. Derision is “laughing at someone or something in a way that shows you think they are stupid or of no value.” When you deride someone, you are treating them as worthless. It’s hard to imagine a more arrogant or haughty attitude than to view the person you’re speaking with as having absolutely no value.

This is the same ballpark as scoffing—which is “to speak about someone or something in a way that you have no respect for that person or thing.” It is mocking with an added dose of contempt (the feeling that a person or thing is beneath consideration, worthless or deserving scorn).

It’s all pretty ugly, isn’t it? It’s awful to be on the receiving end of scoffing. And it’s perhaps even uglier to be the one doing the scoffing. This might be the absolute OPPOSITE of what it means to behave like a follower of Christ.

- Do you see scoffing in our world today?
- Why do people scoff? What motivates them to think and act this way?
- Have you ever been on the receiving end of scoffing? If so, why?

Examination:

- Read **2 Peter 3:1-2**
 - What do you think Peter is intending to do by introducing this final section of his letter with the words, “Dear Friends”?
 - Do you appreciate that Peter indicates that this is, indeed, his second letter? How does this simple statement remind us that these books of the Bible were written by real people, in real places, addressing real problems and challenges?
 - What is Peter’s summary statement as to WHY he has written both 1 Peter as well as 2 Peter?
 - What do you think Peter means by saying “wholesome thinking”? (v. 1)

- Peter points, once again, to the authority of the Old Testament—adding also the authority of the writings of the Apostles. Go back and read 2 Peter 1:19-21. Why do you think Peter is making such an effort to emphasize the authority of Scripture? What is the importance of remembering these words?
 - Peter must certainly be aware that by the time he was writing this (approximately 67AD), other Apostolic books had already been written. How is this borne out by what Peter says in 2 Peter 3:15?
 - What do you think Peter means by saying that Jesus (our Lord and Savior) has “given commands” through the writings of the Apostles? Does this mean, for example, that Jesus is the One speaking through the various letters that the Apostle Paul wrote? Does this lend weight to the authoritative nature of the New Testament books?
- **Read 2 Peter 3:3-10**
 - Peter now turns his attention to scoffers. (vv. 3-5).
 - When will these scoffers come? When are the “last days”?
 - What is motivating these scoffers?
 - Why do you think they will scoff at the message of Christ-followers—namely the belief and firm hope that Jesus is returning to this earth?
 - Might we be living in these precise times today?
 - What event is Peter reminding us of in verses 5-6? Do people scoff at the notion of a world-wide, catastrophic flood?
 - What do you think it means that the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire? Why do you think God will use fire to destroy the earth and heavens?
 - The message of patience might be the most important truth in this entire passage. What does it mean that God is patient? WHY is He patient? What is He waiting for?
 - Who is God waiting for? Why is this such an important truth to understand? What role do we have in fulfilling the purpose for God’s patience?
 - “The Day of the Lord” is a concept we see in numerous places in the Bible (Zeph. 1:14-18; Joel 2:1-2; Isaiah 13:9-11). What day do you think Peter is talking about? Has it already happened—or is it yet to come?
 - According to verse 10, HOW will this “Day of the Lord” come? How do thieves come?
 - What will happen to the current heavens and earth? Doesn’t this seem extremely drastic? Why do you think God will completely destroy the earth and “everything done in it”?
 - Why do you think Peter is going to such effort to remind us of these things? Why is he striking such a “judgmental” and “harsh” tone to conclude these two letters? What do you think is his ultimate motive?

Application:

God the Father is patiently waiting to send Jesus back to this earth in order that AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE will repent and turn their hearts to God. This means that, in many ways, God is waiting on US. He has given each of us the job of sharing the love of God with a lost and dying world. The application is clear. Be a witness! Share Christ. Point lost people to Jesus! And in so doing, be a part of God’s great work to rescue and redeem all people!