

WHEN CHRISTIANITY GETS TWISTED

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting **THEME:** How to deal with cynicism

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read II Peter 3

20.00 – 20.10 Start Cynical thoughts: do you ever have these? Concerning what/whom? And why?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and build you up when you listen to God's Word.

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage: Read II Peter 3

Look again at verses 1-4 'The aim of Peter's letters'

- What was Peter's aim in writing his letters? (Also look at 1:15)
- Lesson: Peter wants his readers to look at the cynical question concerning God's promise from God's Word. So: we shouldn't approach God's Word from our questions. But we must learn to approach our questions from the perspective of God's Word.
- Which argument do the mockers/scoffers have for their cynicism?

Look again at verses 5-13 'The answer to the cynical question'

Verses 5-7 provide the first half of an answer to the question: look at God's Word, look at the past. When God said judgement would come, it did come. Therefore, you may be sure that the predicted future judgement will also come. Verses 8-10 provide the second half of the answer: don't conclude that God is slow. God is patient with a slow humanity. He doesn't want people to perish in his judgement.

Verses 11-13 draw the inference: God keeps his promises, is patient, so judgement and new heavens and earth will come, therefore we must grow in Christ-like and Christ-honouring living (not to earn, but to reflect what we received).

- How often do you think of and pray about the coming of God's promised future?

Look again at verses 14-18 'Attitudes flowing from this answer'

In these verses Peter uses three 'imperatives': be diligent, take care, grow.

- What do you learn from verses 14-16? [to dig deeper: look at 2:13. and look at Romans 2:4]
- How could Christians today 'be carried away with the error of lawless people and lose their stability?'

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

Take 3 – 5 minutes of silence. Try to say in one sentence what you learnt from reading II Peter.

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together.