

Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter
Wk #45: Love Propels Longsuffering

2 Peter 3:1-9 NKJV

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,⁶ by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.⁷ But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition (destruction) of ungodly men.

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us (you), not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Colossians 1:15-20 ESV

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Big scientific concepts in these verses:

- How the world came into existence.....creation
- Collapse of and damage to the globe.....flood
- The sensitive balancing of detailed components.....God’s Word
- The time continuum.....eternality
- The coming destruction of the planet.....day of judgment or apocalypse

Show arch of time and that God is outside of that arch with finger. (Todd S with former teacher)

Show the video “The Fine-Tuning of the Universe” (3:15)

Glorious, majestic, preeminence, all powerful, holiness, eminence, pure, praiseworthy, exaltation, magnificence, and stupendous are just a few words to help us understand the reality and presence of our Holy Creator/Designer God.

I fear that many of us have lost the mystery of God. God is mysterious.

Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Creator/Designer

“Big Picture”

“Scientific Reasoning”

“Evidence”

God of the Bible

“Small Picture”

“Personal Application”

“Faith”

(Pull out the long rope)

Greek meaning for longsuffering: “to be patient in bearing the offences and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging; to be long-suffering, slow to anger, slow to punish”

Peter is contrasting the eternality of God with the impatience of human expectations.

(Lay short line next to the long rope)

Greek meaning for repentance: “to come to the point of repenting, or be brought to repentance”

Let’s consider that the false teachers/mockers want to use God’s patience as an argument against God when in reality, it should lead them to repentance.

Timothy 2:3-6 NLT

³This is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. ⁵For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. ⁶He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.

I reiterate..... Vs 9 *“but is longsuffering toward us (you), not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

God has a much larger desire for people to turn to Him than we can comprehend.

Father God sent His one and only Son to make a life changing, forgiveness oriented, spiritually transforming relationship possible.

John 3:16-18 NASB 1995 ¹⁶ *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son (unique, only one of His kind), that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten (unique, only one of His kind) Son of God.*

Hebrews 4:2 NLT *For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn’t share the faith of those who listened to God. (they did not combine what they heard with faith)*

Isaiah 55:6-7 NIV *Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.*

God has not given up on us.....He longs for us to believe/trust/have faith in His good news of repentance.

Father God is longsuffering on our behalf waiting and longing for us to turn to Him in faith.