



Advent

The Weight of Waiting: The Gift of Waiting

Message Notes, December 9, 2018

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

The Hebrew people were well acquainted with waiting - 400 years since the last prophet - they had been longingly waiting for Messiah.

- Now the Messiah, Jesus, has come – born, lived, died on the cross, rose again and ascended. When he ascended he told his followers he would return to earth again.
 - The early church felt (assumed) Jesus was coming SOON (like months or a few years at most).
- As Peter is writing this letter to Jewish Christians, he is addressing the false declarations of “scoffers” in their midst who are saying, “Jesus is not coming back.”
 - Peter is reminding and encouraging these early believers that Jesus IS, indeed, returning, to gather up His people, destroy the corrupted, temporal things, and make a new heaven and earth.

Peter tells them that God is not slow, but patient.

- To God, 1 day is a thousand years or 1000 years is a day.
- God operates on *kainos* (God time) not *chronos* (human chronological time).
- He waits with purpose – desiring that all would embrace His salvation. We learn much in this passage about timing, about God, about waiting.

1. **It's up to God** (timing)
2. **It's FOR us:** God is at work, for good purposes. Our waiting may be hard, but it is a gift.
3. **In the meantime,** we “live holy and godly lives, spotless and blameless, at peace with Him.” We live for the life-giving, eternal things, not the temporary things of this world. We wait with trust and hope. Jesus has come; he comes daily in our lives; he is coming again.

Let us live in Joyous Advent!