

**Knowing God from II Peter chapter 3**

There must be a time in your life that a new concept has astonished you. I remember when I was in early junior high when the teacher introduced 1 and 1 not necessary equals to 2. It is not “2” in binary addition. I had to be old enough in order for that concept to be introduced to me. The concept of time in God’s perspective, presented in II Peter, is another one of those amazing concepts to me. I am not spiritually mature enough to fully understand it nor the Bible has described it in details, but the purpose of this disclosure is well presented. Let’s study it more in depth.

The book of II Peter was written by Apostle Peter between AD 65 to 68. The letter indicated this was the second letter (II Peter 3:1). The first letter (I Peter) to the area Christians was mainly about how to deal with persecution and live a holy life. This letter was mainly about spiritual growth and to confirm one’s calling, how to deal with false teachers, and be watchful because the Lord will return. Instead of focus on Christian growth and weakness of faith, today we turn our perspective towards God’s characters and the concept of God’s time from reading on II Peter.

**1) Knowing God’s characters (almighty, wise, faithful, righteous)**

People not often use II Peter chapter 3 to study God’s characters. However, I found a good list of characters and it can help us to better appreciate the essence of the chapter and its applicability to our lives.

**a) Almighty and wise**

Peter started in this section of his letter (chapter 3) by stating the scoffers, by following their own evil desires, laughed at the promise of God that He will come again. It is also true today that many people neither believe in God nor believe Jesus will come again. Peter’s convincing rebuttal started with God’s creation. God created the heavens and the earth just by His words (II Peter 3:5, Genesis 1). God is so powerful. He is also very wise. “The earth was formed out of water and by water”. God knows the element of water is so important and was created before living things. He created and designed all the matters in the universe so perfectly.

**b) Faithful**

Then the chapter goes on about God’s action on what He has promised or told. In verse 6, “By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed”. This refers to the time of Noah which God destroyed the

earth by water due to the sins on earth. God has told and warned the people beforehand. He is faithful on his words.

c) Righteous

This brings to the point about God is righteous. God can not accept any sin. He destroyed the earth except Noah and family due to sins of the people at that time (Gen. 6:17-22). Then, God sent His only son Jesus onto earth about 2000 years ago to save mankind by taking the penalty of sin by Himself. He died on the cross for each of us for our redemption. Whoever believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

## **2) God's concept of time (love, mercy and patience)**

This chapter highlighted God's concept of time which shows God's characters of love, mercy and patience. He love us so that He want all the people to go back to Him (verse 9). It is like a father wants his child to come home as illustrated in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32).

"With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (verse 8). God's time is not our time. We think a thousand years is a long time. It is like something that will not happen in our physical life time. But, in God's time, we don't know or understand it. It could be a very short period in God's eye. The key is God has mercy on us and has patience with us so that we can repent (verse 9) and receive salvation (verse 15). Parents are patience with their children, and more so is God to us.

## **3) What God want us to do**

a) We know God is faithful and He will be back. We don't know the exact time. In the meantime, God wants us to be spotless, blameless and at peace with Him (verse 14). Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (verse 18).

b) We don't know exactly about God's time system but we know our time. Ephesians 5:15-17 states "So, then, be careful how you live. Do not be unwise but wise, making the best use of your time because the times are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is". We know God's will is all people repent and come back to Him (verse 9). Thus, evangelism is our calling and mission in life.

Ask God to teach us to number our days since our physical life is limited. May God bless you when walk with Him and do His will!