

## 2 Peter 3:1-13

What do you do when the world doesn't end?

The failed prediction of Harold Camping (that the world would end on May 21<sup>st</sup>) is worth reflecting on for important lessons about life and faith: *what do you do when the world doesn't end?*

Remember that no one knows the time of Christ's return

- Like a thief (v10) – the Bible has been explicitly clear that the day of Christ's return has not been made known (Matthew 24:36-50, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4)
- The absolute, sure message of Harold Camping places him in the category of "false teacher" (not false prophet)
- living with "readiness" includes planning wisely for the future (because we don't know the time of the end)

Remain sure that Christ will return

- The Scriptures tell of a last day, and Jesus commanded us to live with readiness for it (v2)
- Scoffing and mockery are not proper responses (even to failed predictions of the end) (v3-4)
- How we react to teaching about a day of judgment can be revealing about what is in our hearts
- Living with readiness means by faith, with integrity

Consider what sort of person you ought to be

- The patience of God – that all should reach repentance (v9)
- Jesus came to ready us for that day
- Our minds are to be stirred up by this teaching (v1) so we might consider: what sort of people ought you to be? (v11)
- When life is at its worst the promises of God are most precious (v13)

## Questions for reflection

1. If you had heard of Harold Camping's teaching that May 21<sup>st</sup> was to be judgment day, what was on your mind when you went to bed on May 20<sup>th</sup>? Did you live differently in any way on May 21<sup>st</sup>? Why or why not?
2. When you think about a day of judgment (when the world as we know it ends, when we stand before God to give an account for our lives), how do you feel? What is your emotional response, and what does that teach you about what you believe about God (or your relation to him)?
3. God has made the way for us to repent (we can turn from our sins to God because of what Jesus has done), and has given us time to do it. What keeps you from a thorough turning to God? How can you ready yourself for the day of judgment?
4. What does it look like to live each day with the mindset that Christ might return that day? How can such an attitude inspire productivity, faithfulness and hope, rather than fear or regret?
5. Why does the church need a deep theology of grace to be able to honestly consider such things? How can you grow in the confidence of God's goodness and mercy for you?