

4. If we take what the Bible says about the second coming seriously, there seems to be a tension between wanting Christ to return and wanting him to delay. How does Paul deal with a similar tension in Philippians 1:21-25?

Philippians 1: <sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup> so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

5. Review some of the key passages in the New Testament about the Second Coming and list some of the key ideas taught in these passages.

Matthew 24:36-25:13

Acts 1:10-11

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:10

6. How much of a role does the Second Coming of Christ play in your life?

### **Dying Words (A Series on 2 Peter)**

“The End of the World”

2 Peter 3:8-10

### **Religious Math (God's Experience of Time is Different From Ours)**

In 2 Peter 3:8 Peter \_\_\_\_\_ to Psalm 90:4.

Psalm 90: <sup>4</sup> A thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has just gone by,  
or like a watch in the night.

“The Lord works according to a different timetable from ours. (In fact, time is part of the created order, and God stands above and beyond it in eternity, so that every point on the time continuum is ‘present’ to him.)” (Donald Morcon)

Because of God’s grace and mercy we can know God personally, and we can know what we need to know about him. But there is immensely more that we don’t know than what we do know. Peter’s (and the Psalmist’s) math should \_\_\_\_\_ us before God and others.

### **“What’s God’s Greatest Weakness? (One Reason for Jesus’s Delay)**

2 Peter 3:9

Peter says Christ hasn’t returned because he \_\_\_\_\_ so much. He doesn’t want anyone to perish, and he want everyone to come to repentance.

On the one hand, we should \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus to return. On the other hand, Peter implies there’s something good about his delay. (2 Peter 3:9)

Philippians 3: <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we **eagerly await** a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Romans 8: <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we **wait eagerly** for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

1 Corinthians 1: <sup>7</sup> Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you **eagerly wait** for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

Should we desire his coming now or should we ask for a delay because people we love may need more time to repent? \_\_\_\_\_.

On the one hand, this passage tells us that God desires for \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved. On the other hand, God doesn't take action to make that happen, even though, theoretically, he could.

Why doesn't God make a vision of life with him so \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone that everyone (or at least a lot more people) would repent?

We can trust God with our unanswered questions. We can trust that when he answers later what he's chosen not to answer now, it will make \_\_\_\_\_ sense because he is a glorious God.

### **"Recalculating!" (If Jesus Didn't Know When He Would Return, Then...)**

2 Peter 3:10a

My pastoral advice...

- Change the \_\_\_\_\_.
- All the events that the Bible clearly outlines as preceding Christ's coming already happened.....in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- However bad things are \_\_\_\_\_, there have been much worse times over the last 2000 years.
- If speculating about the second coming is an interest or hobby for you, don't let it become an \_\_\_\_\_.
- Based on what Jesus and Peter said, we are free from having to figure out the timing. We simply need to be \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions**

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or you?
2. Why do you think so many people get caught up in predictions about the second coming in spite of what Jesus and Peter say about it?
3. If a day "with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day," what does this tell us about time, about God, and about us?