

# ***Personal / Small Group Sermon Study***

## **Scoffers**

**Week of May 14, 2017 A.D.**

Jesus is coming again – not as a savior – but as a conquering King! In the meantime, those who follow Christ are to be working as servants of the coming King. The servants of Jesus are to be sharing the gospel of the kingdom to the ends of the earth so that all people may have the opportunity to come to repentance and salvation.

### **Read 2 Peter 3:1-2**

1. What is wholesome thinking? Why does Peter consider wholesome thinking to be so important? Please explain your answer.

### **Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17**

2. How do these verses relate to the verses in 2 Peter 3:1-2? Consider in your answer that the words spoken by “the holy prophets” are written in the Old Testament and the words spoken “through your apostles” are now written in the New Testament.
3. Does right thinking always result in right behavior? What is required in order for right thinking to translate into right behavior? What principle for life application can be drawn from these verses to guide and direct a person who wants to be a faithful follower of Jesus? Please explain your answers.

### **Read Psalm 119:9-16**

4. How do these verses relate to the verses in 2 Peter 3: 1-2? What is the basic principle which is common to the three Bible passages which we have read thus far in this week’s study? Is following this principle essential to living a life which is obedient to Christ? Please explain.

### **Read 2 Peter 3:3-7**

5. Identify some contemporary “scoffers”. Why do you consider them to be scoffers?
6. Peter says that the scoffers have evil desires. Do you agree? Please explain your answer.

7. What is Peter talking about in verses 5 – 7? What do these verses have to do with “wholesome thinking” and/or scoffers? Please explain.

**Read 2 Peter 3:8-9**

8. Do these verses provide a response to (a) the scoffers and/or (b) Christians who await the second coming of Jesus? Please explain your answer.
9. What is the “promise” mentioned in verse 9? Why is God waiting to fulfill that promise? What does this tell us about God’s priorities for mankind? Based on this verse, what should be our priority for mankind? Please explain.

**Read 2 Peter 3:10-14**

10. What does the future have in store for the present heaven and present earth? Why does God plan such a future? Please explain.
11. Why should a Christ-follower look forward to a new heaven and a new earth? Please explain.
12. How should a Christ-follower behave while living on the present earth? Please explain your answer.

**Read Revelation 22:12-13**

13. Which excites you more (a) your personal plans for your life or (b) the second coming of Jesus? Why? In what ways, if any, does the second coming of Christ affect your daily actions and decisions? Be specific.
14. How do these verses relate to the other verses which we have read in this week’s study? Please limit your answer to no longer than 3 hours.

**Consider** : To live for Jesus requires wholesome thinking. Wholesome thinking is developed by applying biblical teaching to our lives. The world scoffs at biblical teaching. But, remember, God is in control. At the proper time, God will reveal a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells. Therefore, we should make every effort to be found blameless and at peace with God so that we may be invited to inhabit His eternal kingdom.