

Hold Fast - May 31st - Selective Amnesia Troy Knight

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures:

2 Peter 3:1-7 NLT
2 Peter 3:8-9 NLT
2 Peter 3:11-14 NLT
Deuteronomy 28:63 NLT

Start reading

2 Peter 3:1-7 NLT

This is my second letter to you, dear friends, and in both of them I have tried to stimulate your wholesome thinking and refresh your memory. I want you to remember what the holy prophets said long ago and what our Lord and Savior commanded through your apostles. Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created." They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

2 Peter 3:8-9 NLT

But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

2 Peter 3:11-14 NLT

Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

Deuteronomy 28:63 NLT

Just as the Lord has found great pleasure in causing you to prosper and multiply, the Lord will find pleasure in destroying you. You will be torn from the land you are about to enter and occupy.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- If you knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was coming back at this time next week, what would you do this week?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- 2 Peter 3 mentions 4 major events on the end times calendar. Which event are you looking forward to the most? Why? Which event do you wish you had more information about?
- Read 2 Peter 3:8-9. Why do unbelievers scoff at the prophecies of Jesus' 2nd coming? According to these verses, what is God's reason for delaying the 2nd coming?
- Peter said that those who deny the 2nd coming and judgment have chosen to deliberately forget what God has already done in the world. Why do you think so many people have chosen to have selective amnesia?
- Read Deuteronomy 28:63. Is the justice of God unfair? How is God's sense of justice different than mine? My friends'? My enemies'?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Discuss these quotes. The 1st is from Emma, the refugee from Congo. "You know Mark, I could never believe the gospel if it were not for the judgment of God. Because I will never get justice in this world. But I couldn't cope if I was NEVER going to see justice done." The 2nd is from British pastor Mark Meynell, "We in the West often recoil from God's justice for a very simple reason: We've hardly had to suffer injustice. But most people around the globe recognize that God's justice is praiseworthy and great. Of course his mercy and redemption are even greater, but we need his perfect justice as well." Is it fair? Do you praise God for it? What if God's justice was arbitrary like ours?
- Read 2 Peter 3:11-14. As we are waiting for these things to happen, what should be our game plan?
- Shirley Gilbert's book, *What are You Pretending Not to Know*, has a fascinating title. As you go through this week, ask God to reveal areas in your life in which you currently have "Selective Amnesia". As He shows you, ask Him to give you the strength to overcome them and not slip back to where you were.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Commit to asking God to reveal areas in your life in which you currently have "Selective Amnesia."

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Father, thank you for the truth that is in your Word. Please help us to seek you as to where in our lives we have "Selective Amnesia" and that we would be willing to address these things. In Jesus Name - Amen.

Start digging. For further study.

- Read the article on the 2nd page and discuss it.

Question: "What does it mean that God is a God of justice?"

Answer: Justice is a term used for what is right or "as it should be." Justice is one of God's attributes and flows out of His holiness. Justice and righteousness are often used synonymously in the Bible. Since righteousness is the quality or character of being right or just, it is another attribute of God and incorporates both His justice and holiness.

We cannot begin to understand God's justice unless we first understand sin. Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4) and iniquity (Daniel 9:4-5; Micah 2:1; James 3:6). It embodies everything contrary to God's holy nature and is offensive to Him. Thus, sin is a crime against God, and justice demands a penalty of death and separation from Him for it (Romans 1:18-32; 2:5; 3:23). But God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to pay that penalty for us (Romans 5:8-11; 6:23) and made salvation available to all who believe in His name (John 1:12; 3:15-17; 20:31).

God's own righteousness is provided as a gift to sinners who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and is based upon His grace and mercy in response to our faith (Romans 3:23-26; Ephesians 2:3-7). His mercy and grace are not in spite of His justice, but because of it. He loved us so much that despite the fact that our sin demands our death, He sent His Son to be our substitute upon the cross, thus demonstrating that His justice was not violated, but instead satisfied (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9).

Having been made in His image (Genesis 1:26-27), we humans long for moral justice to prevail upon the earth and are outraged when we see injustice happening around us. Why do we seek justice for crimes? It's in our DNA. King David's outrage when the poor man's lamb was taken away by the rich man resonates within us (2 Samuel 12:1-14). That is why Nathan told the story to David in the first place because it revealed David's own injustice in taking Uriah's wife from him. David's immediate repentant prayer was effective because by admitting his sin against God, he acknowledged the righteousness of God. The Lord told David through the prophet Nathan that even though his sin was forgiven, the child resulting from the adulterous affair would die, demonstrating the fact that his sin still had to be judged.

As for the future, the book of Revelation reveals the justice of God in all its glory during the end times. When the saints watch the destruction of the earth, their song will be of God's righteous judgment upon the inhabitants for their ultimate sin of rejecting Him (Revelation 11:16-18; 15:3-4; 16:7; 19:1-4). And as 2 Peter 3:13 says, we are promised that someday, when Christ physically reigns on earth, God's righteous justice will finally be on full display.