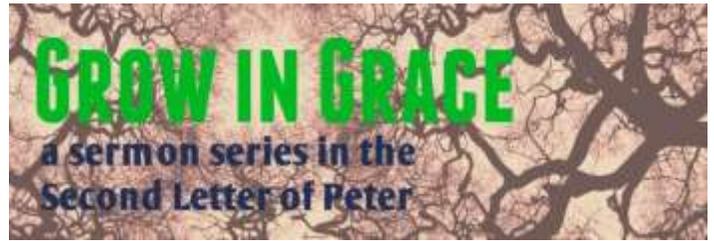




Worship Study Guide for the week of June 5, 2016



WEPC Small Group Network

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

WEPC's Small Group Network meets in homes across Richmond every week to participate in Jesus Christ's mission to Richmond, enjoy fellowship, study God's word, pray together, and explore the fruit of the Gospel on our lives. Simply put, these groups are small enough to be the church to one another, and they serve as bridges between WEPC and the community where God has planted us. It is a place where the church can go deeper in the worship of God and further in Christ's mission.

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a "worship discussion" guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Sermon: *Where is the Promise of His Coming?*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [II Peter 3:1-10](#).

'People need to be reminded more often than they need to be instructed.'

In chapter one of Second Peter he tells us to believe in the very great promises from God. In chapter two, he warns us not to follow the ways of the false teachers. In chapter three Peter returns in part to the theme of chapter 1, namely, that God has given his people precious and very great promises, so that if we trust them, we will have power to resist temptation and remain in the way of righteousness.

You can see in verses 13–14 the connection between the hope which the promises inspire and the power for godliness which this hope gives. "According to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." Confident expectation of a new world of righteousness is what spurs us on in the world right now.

All of this comes to us by way of reminding, of telling us to remember.

First what to do with scoffers who point out that things have remained the same..

The fact that the scoffers scoff is actually a reassurance that these prophetic promises are true. Their scoffing was predicted. Verses 2-3

Second, the false teachers forget that the fact that the world exists as a stable place for people to live has always depended upon and still to this day depends upon the will and word of God. Verses 5-7 'by the word of God'

The Scriptures tell us that in Him 'all things hold together'.

The false teacher miss the fact that things have not always been as they are now and he cites the flood as evidence for that.

Third, God's experience of time is unique. Verse 8

What is a long time and what is a short time?

Fourth, the delay in Christ's coming is a mercy and an indicator of the patience of God. Verse 9

- History is not cyclical
- Jesus is Lord of history
- Judgment should not make us afraid. Soberly hopeful.
- A world of righteousness and justice should move us to work for that now.

Going Deeper in God's Worship

Reflect on the text together. [Hear the sermon here.](#)

- 1.) What is true about God's character, promises or work?
- 2.) What does the Scripture teach you about yourself or others?
- 3.) Are you encouraged to follow Jesus in His mission? How?

Reflect on the whole of Sunday's liturgy together. Locate this week's [Order of Worship here.](#)

- 1.) Was there an element of the worship service that you would like to share with the group?
 - *A Scripture verse that was read?*
 - *A prayer that was prayed?*
 - *A song that was sung?*
 - *A sacrament that was administered?*
 - *A way that glory was given to God?*
 - *A way that someone encouraged you?*
- 2.) Did the Holy Spirit convict, change, or encourage you in any way you wish to share with the group?
- 3.) Is Jesus leading you or the group to take a specific risk to minister the Good News to Richmond? Your neighbors? Your co-workers? Your family and friends?

Going Further in Christ's Mission

- 1.) Have the Scripture text open in front of you as a guide to your prayers.
 - Spend time thanking God and giving Him glory.
- 2.) Ask the Lord for vision, strength and faith as followers of Jesus Christ.
 - Count on the work of the Holy Spirit for change.
 - Ask for God's forgiveness and grace to repent of sin and trust Jesus.
 - Pray for the world, our country, Richmond, and the Church.
 - Pray for members of your group, family members, or co-workers, neighbors and friends.

Kevin Greene, 2016

