

Humans are hardwired to hope despite the drip feed of daily hopelessness in the news and on social media. We want to live, and not die. People don't want Earth to end. In Peter's second letter (3:1), after exposing the saboteurs of Scripture (2:1-22) - *'Christians think in believing and we believe in thinking'* (Os Guinness). Peter now returns to his **'dear friends'** (3:1,8, 14), faithful early Christians who were following Jesus, standing firm in the grace of the gospel. Peter reminds them about the words **'the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior'** (3:2)

Stimulate wholesome thinking' (3:1)

Stir up thinking about what is true
Think Christianly with all our mind.

***'Christians think in believing
and we believe in thinking
(Os Guinness)***

Nothing ever just *'comes to mind.'* ***'This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope'***
(Lamentations 3:21-24)

Specifically, we need our mind excited by the future God is preparing.
For the apostles, the second coming of Jesus is the most certain of all realities.

About that Day false teachers were ***'scoffing...following their own evil desires.***
'Where is this "coming" he promised?' (3:4) ***'They deliberately forget that long ago
by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water
and by water.'*** (3:5) -- **'the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters'** (Genesis 1:2).
'By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.' (Noah)

The reason scoffers choose to forget creation is to deny Jesus as Creator and his return as Judge because they want to continue sinning ('following their own evil desires'). Jesus' second coming is the ultimate day of history and of human destiny!
'The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day' (John 12:48). God saves through justice.
'The Lord is known by his acts of justice; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands...God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish' (Psalm 9:16-18). God's judgement is always directed towards right ends.

The present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly' (3:7). ***We prepare by repentance'***

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish. **but everyone to come to repentance'**

For Christians this is a day of joy. Are you expectant? Does this excite you?