

Change at Christmas
II Peter 3:3-13

Review:

1. Christmas reminds us of how little things change, and how sorrowful our world continues to be
2. Christmas reminds us of the tremendous change God brought about when Christ came to us.
3. Christmas gives us a great opportunity to share our joy that the King has come and that He is coming again.

Reflect:

1. Think about your favorite Christmas traditions. Why do you find them encouraging?
2. How does the fact of Christ's birth build your faith that He will come again?
3. How does Jesus' promise to return encourage you during this sometimes difficult season?

Go Further: Read I Timothy 4:1-5

1. What does the Spirit say will happen in later times? What will some people choose to believe?
2. In what two ways does 4:2 describe these people?
3. According to 4:3, what two things will these people forbid? Why is this wrong?
4. What does Paul say about all of God's creation in 4:4? How should we receive these things?
5. How are all created things sanctified, set apart for the glory of God and the good of human beings?

Read II Timothy 3:1-5, 10-17, 4:1-8

6. In 3:1-5, how does Paul describe people in the "last days?" How does he tell Timothy to relate to people like this?
7. In 3:10-11, how does Paul describe his own life and ministry? What effect does he say that his ministry has had on Timothy?
8. What general statement does Paul make about Christians in 3:12?
9. In 3:13, what does Paul insist that evil men and imposters will do?
10. In verses 3:14-15, how does Paul counsel Timothy to avoid such deception?
11. In 3:16, the word "inspired" means "breathed out." Since Scripture is breathed out by God, in what four ways does Paul say it is profitable for us?
12. According to 4:17, how does the Scripture equip Christians for service?
13. Given what he has said about the Scriptures, what does Paul counsel Timothy to do in 4:2 and 5?
14. According to 4:3 and 4, what will happen to those that hear the gospel that will require Timothy to persevere in his ministry?
15. What example does Paul set for Timothy in 4:6-7?
16. According to 4:8, to what promise does Paul cling? When will Paul receive this reward? Who else will receive it?

Summary and Application:

1. Think about Paul's statement in II Timothy 3:12. Has this been true for you? How?
2. Given Jesus' intentions in II Peter 3:9, does it make sense that many people will fall away from the faith before He returns?

3. Even if you aren't a preacher or teacher, how can you apply II Timothy 4:2 and 5 in your own life? How can you speak the truth of Scripture to people who may not want to hear it? How does the Scripture's promise of Christ's return encourage you in the face of opposition?