

Brian Reynolds

Be Not Ignorant

“But let not this one thing be hidden from you, beloved, that one day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord does not delay His promise, as some account of delay, but is longsuffering towards you, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentanc.”

2 Peter 3:8–9

God does not want His dear children, His beloved, to be in the dark about the future. That is the meaning of this verse: “Let not this ... be hidden from you”. The word *ignorant* (in KJV) means “hidden” or “to be unaware” about something. God loves His children too much to leave them floundering in abject ignorance; that’s why He addresses them as “beloved”; they are His loved ones.

There is “one thing” that God especially would not have us to be ignorant about: that the *apparent* delay of Christ’s coming is not really a delay at all; that is only how men view it. The wonderful and compelling fact is that “the Lord does *not* delay His promise” (v. 9). He does not want us to be like the “evil servant” who says, “My Lord delays to come” (Mt. 24:48).

First, “one day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” God does not reckon time as we do. His perspective is much different. Peter is actually quoting Psalm 90:4 here; this psalm is looking at the brevity of man’s life in contrast to Jehovah who is “from eternity to eternity” (Ps. 90:2). Man is like the grass that grows up in the morning and is cut down in the evening (vv. 5–6).

Second, God is working out His purposes of grace in calling sinners to Himself. The Lord’s *longsuffering* should never be understood as His toleration of evil in the world, but rather as evidence of His grace in saving sinners.

