



Faith

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Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God
Writer: Trevor Graves

Epistles of Peter

“The Second Epistle” – January 7, 2018

Lesson – “Diligence”

Scriptures – 2 Peter 3-10

Introduction to lesson

Do you plan on graduating college, serving in the military, or growing your own business one day? Each of these directions in life has something in common. Each one requires diligence. Diligence is defined as a careful and persistent effort. Like most things in life, our relationship with God requires diligence too. After we begin our relationship with God by faith, we must have diligence if we expect God's will to continue being accomplished in us. That is, we must give careful and persistent effort to growing in God's grace by faith. It's not enough to start having faith in Christ and then do nothing. God has more for us, and it will take some effort on our part to receive God's blessings and be all that He wants us to be. In today's lesson, we will learn why diligence is necessary and so important in our relationship with God.

Key Verse: “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you shall never fall” (2 Peter 1:10).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What has God's divine power given to us? (2 Peter 1:3)
- ✚ What is the purpose of God's exceeding great and precious promises given to us who are in Christ? (2 Peter 1:4)
- ✚ Knowing that God has given us all we need for His purpose to be done in our lives, what are we supposed to do? (2 Peter 1:5-7)
- ✚ If we follow these instructions written by the apostle Peter, how will our diligence benefit us? (2 Peter 1: 8, 10)
- ✚ What is God's role in our relationship with him?
- ✚ What is our role in our relationship with God?

Think about it:

Faith in Christ is the foundation of our relationship with God. After we begin a relationship with God through faith in Christ, God wants us to grow to be fully like Christ. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God has provided all that we need to live like Jesus lived when he walked the earth. He has given us many promises recorded in His word, so we can know what it takes to be Christ-like. Though God has provided everything, His plan for us in Christ will not happen if we do not put effort into it. We have a responsibility to give persistent effort in seeking after God and His plan for our lives. We are instructed by the apostle Peter to give diligence in adding to our faith. Through a persistent effort in seeking God and His promises, the characteristics of Christ's nature such as virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love will accompany our faith and become more and more evident in our lives. When these characteristics are in us and fill up our lives, we are kept from backsliding and our salvation through Christ remains secure.

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Epistles of Peter

“The Second Epistle” – January 14, 2017

Lesson – “Remembrance”

Scriptures – 2 Peter 1:9-13; 1Timothy 4:16

Introduction to lesson

Have you ever forgotten something important in your life? Maybe you forgot to do your homework assignment, or you forgot to take out the trash or feed the pets. What happened as a result? When it comes to growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, it is very important to remember the truth. That is, we must be careful to remember what we have learned from the Scriptures. We need to continue in studying God's word not only to be led into more truth, but also to be reminded of the truth we have already received. As we will see, the consequences of forgetting the truth are much worse than forgetting your homework or your household chores. In today's lesson, we will learn why remembering the truth is significant for us as we grow in our faith.

Key Verse: “Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth” (2 Peter 1:12).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ How does Peter describe those who were lacking the characteristics of God's nature in their lives? (2 Peter 1:9)
- ✚ What are the benefits to Christians who are diligent to make their calling and election stable? (2 Peter 1:10-11)
- ✚ How often did Peter intend on reminding the saints of truth they already knew? (2 Peter 1:12-13)
- ✚ The apostle Paul instructed a young pastor named Timothy to give special attention to his lifestyle and the doctrine given from Jesus Christ. What would be the result of Timothy following these instructions? (1Timothy 4:16)
- ✚ What are some things that cause a person to backslide?
- ✚ What are some things we can proactively do to keep ourselves from backsliding?

Think about it:

As Christians who are called to be Christ-like, we must not forget about the truth that we have learned. Not only are we supposed to be led by the Spirit into all truth, but we must also keep in mind what we have already learned from God's word and to be faithful in obeying what we know. We often need to be reminded of the teachings of our Lord and Savior, so that we remain spiritually on guard against the tricks of the enemy. As we seek to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, we will have to overcome temptations, persecutions, and many troubling events in this life. Through these trials, Satan and his forces will try to get our focus off God's truth to make us more vulnerable to his deception. If we do not continue in the Scriptures, we will lose sight of what God has done in our lives, where we are supposed to be going, and we will fall back into disobedience. Therefore, remembering the truth is vital to us, if we intend on making heaven our home!

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Epistles of Peter

“The Second Epistle” – January 21, 2017

Lesson – “Eyewitnesses”

Scriptures – 2 Pet. 1:16-18; Mt. 17:1-6 Jn. 1:14; James 2:1

Introduction to lesson

Have you ever heard something about someone else that wasn't altogether true? Sometimes when you hear a story from someone who heard it from someone else, the story gets exaggerated. In fact, the story can get so exaggerated that it becomes more like a fairy tale than reality. It's good to know that the gospel of Christ is not some made up story or fairytale passed down from generation to generation. But the New Testament story was written by several eyewitnesses – people who saw and experienced the events taking place – and their stories agree. Every detail recorded in the New Testament about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ works together to confirm the same message. Today, let your faith in Jesus Christ be strengthened, as you think about the men who wrote the New Testament.

Key Verse: “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (2 Peter 1:16).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What made the apostles' testimony about Jesus reliable? (2 Peter 1:16)
- ✚ Peter, James, and John had a special encounter with Jesus in which His appearance was transformed before their eyes. What happened that day that confirmed their faith in Christ being the Son of God? (Matthew 17:1-6; 2 Peter 1:17-18)
- ✚ How does the Apostle John's description of Jesus compare to Peter's revelation of Jesus being the Son of the Living God? (John 1:14)
- ✚ How does the Apostle James' description of Jesus compare with Peter and John's? (James 2:1)
- ✚ If you could have been an eyewitness of Jesus when He came the first time, what would you have most wanted to see?

Think about it:

We have no reason to doubt that Jesus truly was and is the Son of God, but every reason to believe! The writers of the New Testament were not people who merely heard stories about Jesus, but were eyewitnesses of Him. They saw Him in action as He healed the sick and raised the dead. They heard Him teach the Word of God with their own ears. They even ate with Him after He was raised from the dead. Peter, James, and John had a special experience with Christ as they saw Him in His heavenly glory. They heard the voice of God the Father say, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” This experience only confirmed the revelation they already had; Jesus was the Son of the Living God! The apostles all agree in their revelation. They gave their lives to proclaim Christ as the Son of God and only way of Salvation; and most of them were killed because they would not deny their Lord and Savior. So, if you have faith in Christ today, let your faith be strengthened by the fact that those who wrote the New Testament were not following fairy tales, but they were eyewitnesses of His majesty!

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Epistles of Peter

“The Second Epistle” – January 28, 2017

Lesson – “Sure Word of Prophecy”

Scriptures – 2 Peter 1:19-21

Introduction to lesson

When you are sure of something, you must have a really good reason to believe it. The apostle Peter had many reasons to believe that Jesus was truly the Son of God. He had seen many miracles, heard Him proclaim the gospel, and was privileged to see him shining with heavenly glory while hearing the Father's voice saying, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” But there was something even more dependable than Peter's experience that formed the foundation of his faith in Christ. It was the Old Testament prophecies. We need to build our faith in Christ on that same foundation, so that we can be sure we have a true revelation of Jesus Christ. In today's lesson, we will consider why the Old Testament prophecies are so important to our faith in Christ.

Key Verse: “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the daystar arise in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What do you think Peter meant by “we have a more sure word of prophecy” (2 Peter 1:19)?
- ✚ Is it okay for us to interpret the Scriptures any way we choose (2 Peter 1:20)?
- ✚ Did the Old Testament prophets decide what they wanted to preach/be written? (2 Peter 1:21)
- ✚ How did the prophecies recorded in the Old Testament come (2 Peter 1:21)?
- ✚ Why do you think it is important to pay attention to the Old Testament Scriptures as well as the New Testament Scriptures?

Think about it:

Peter had a unique eyewitness experience when he saw the Lord transformed and shining in glory, but Peter's experience only gave him more reason to believe the revelation that he had already received. He first had a revelation of Jesus given to him by the Spirit through the Old Testament Scriptures. In his second epistle, Peter wrote that “we have also a more sure word of prophecy,” meaning the Old Testament prophecies which reveal Jesus Christ are even more trustworthy than his experience. There are 332 known prophecies from the Old Testament that have already been perfectly fulfilled by Jesus Christ. This could only happen by the will of God! This fact proves that the writers of those prophecies did not just write what they wanted to, but they were “moved by the Holy Spirit.” They did not even understand all they were writing, but God inspired every word. With this in mind, we should pay close attention to the Old Testament Scriptures as well as the New Testament and allow the Holy Spirit to give us a clear revelation of God's plan through Christ from beginning to end.

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