



# Faith

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# Focus



*for  
Teens*

*Sunday  
School  
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God  
Writer: Miguel A. Garcia

## EPISTLES OF PETER

“THE SECOND EPISTLE” – March 4, 2018

Lesson – “BELIEVE GOD’S WORD”

Scriptures – 2 Peter 3:2; Genesis 2:16-17;

Matthew 24:42-44; 2 Peter 3:1-7

### Introduction to lesson

It seems that many different voices in the world compete for our attention. But if you listen intently, you will find there are actually only two voices to listen to. In the Garden of Eden, Eve heard two voices: God’s voice giving them instructions and Satan’s voice confusing God’s intended message (Genesis 2:16-17; Gen 3:4-5). We live in a time of diverse messages coming from many religions and philosophies. If we allow the “words” of this world to command our thinking, then we will become spiritually-confused and have a corrupt mindset. The Apostle Peter in 2 Pet 3:1-7 described two major lines of thought: the world speaks to us; but so does God! To be sure, the spirit of antichrist speaks through the many religions and philosophies, but Christ (and his Spirit) speaks through the church (1 John 4:1-6). The message of the church focuses on being ready for the coming of the Lord. Jesus said, “I come quickly” (Revelation 22:7, 12, 20). He warned, “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come...” (Mt. 24:42-44). Many will “scoff” and will ask, “Where is the promise of his coming,” rejecting the authority of the Holy Scriptures in order to follow their own sinful desires (2 Pet. 3:4). Choosing to remain in darkness, Peter labeled this worldly mindset “willingly ignorant” (2 Pet. 3:5). He then encouraged the saints to **BELIEVE** the Word of God over the deception of these last days. We have a great responsibility to declare the truth of Christ’s coming and judgment.

Key Verse: “I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your Apostles” (2 Peter 3:2, NIV).

### Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What does Peter call us to do in 2 Pet 3:2?
- ✚ Why is it important to keep these things in mind?
- ✚ What is Peter warning us of?
- ✚ Why do you think this is important in your Christian walk?

**Think about it:** Jesus Christ plainly declared that he will come again to receive us to himself (Jn 14:3). “And so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Th. 4:17). But as Peter indicated, Christ’s coming will also bring judgment upon this ungodly world (2 Pet. 2:9; 3:7). The only one who stands between the world and its judgment is Jesus. He is the Word who is holding everything together until the Father’s appointed time (He. 1:1-3). Scoffers and deceivers will arise, but we must resist their opposition by placing our faith in God’s Word.

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## EPISTLES OF PETER

“THE SECOND EPISTLE” – March 11, 2018

Lesson – “The Day of Salvation”

Scriptures – 2 Peter 3:4, 9; 1 Thessalonians 5:2

### Introduction to lesson

There is no doubt about it young person; we live in a wicked world, much like the conditions at the time of Noah. “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Ge. 6:5). There is also no doubt, that if it weren’t for God’s mercies, the judgment of the world would happen immediately. But God is so longsuffering (i.e. patient) that he waits for sinners to repent. We are living in “the day of salvation!” (2 Co. 6:2; Is. 49:8). From the beginning of time God’s judgment has been announced. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, “prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all...” (Jude 14-15). Many have become “scoffers” (i.e. mockers) and are asking, “Where is the promise of his coming?” (2 Pe. 3:4). They scoff because they do not understand that God’s timeframe is eternal. Peter wrote, “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (3:8). This is why the Lord is not negligent because of his delayed coming; he operates under a more infinitely and expansive perspective than our limited point of view. He clearly is giving ALL of humanity a chance to come to repentance. But Jesus will come as a “thief in the night;” and we need to be ready to receive a new day – the great millennial reign of Christ (1 Th. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10; Mt. 24:42-44).

**Key Verse:** “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

### Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Why is the Lord longsuffering according to 2 Peter 3:9?
- ✚ What did Jesus compare the last days to? Mt. 24:37
- ✚ What does 2 Peter 3:8 say in regard to how God sees time?
- ✚ Judgment will come to this world; are you ready? Why or why not? (Have Discussion.)

**Think about it:** We eagerly expect Christ’s coming. For the righteous, his coming promises glory and victory. However, for sinners, the day of the Lord brings great tribulation. Moreover, Christ will judge the ungodly, and he will ultimately destroy this present world. The day of the Lord is surely coming; but for now, this is the day of salvation!

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## EPISTLES OF PETER

“THE SECOND EPISTLE” – March 18, 2018

Lesson – “Living Holy and Godly”

Scriptures – 2 Pe. 3:14; Tit. 2:12-13; Mt. 25:4

### Introduction to lesson

As a church, and particularly as young people, we must live holy and godly in this present world because Christ is coming for a holy people set apart to him alone. When we read Peter’s second epistle, we find that his purpose for writing was not to give us a chronological order of the coming of Christ, but to give us a warning. This world will one day pass away! It will come under the judgment of God (2 Peter 3:10). Peter’s whole point was readiness. Be prepared because the Lord wants no one to perish (3:9). Jesus himself spoke these words: “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Mt. 24:35). Understanding this, the apostle provoked us with a question: “What manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness” (2 Pe. 3:11)? As we prepare ourselves for Christ’s coming, we know that holiness is God’s standard for his church (Tit. 2:12-13). Clearly, Christians should not find their fulfillment in the things of this world. The lines should not be blurred between the church and the world. We should have a lifestyle of purity and holiness, and we should “keep our lamps full of oil” (Mt. 25:4). As we prepare for Christ’s coming, Peter admonished us to “look.” He said, “We, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth” (v.13). He also wrote, “Beloved, seeing that ye look for such things” (v. 14). The reason we look forward is to remain ready – Jesus is coming! But forgetful Christians who lose this focus will caught off guard when Christ comes again (Mt. 25:10-13).

**Key Verse:** “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless” (2 Peter 3:14).

### Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ According to scripture, what is the standard God has set for his people?
- ✚ What is the Apostle Peter’s warning to the church in 2 Peter 3:14?
- ✚ According to Titus 2:12, what are we supposed to deny and how are we supposed to live?
- ✚ Is your lifestyle of holiness something people notice? (Have class discussion.)

**Think about it:** The Apostle Peter’s admonition to be ready for Christ’s coming centers on “diligence”- “Be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless (2 Pe. 3:14). This admonition takes us back to 2 Pet. 1:10, “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” Young people: let us be diligent to live holy and godly in this present world, because Christ is coming for a holy people set apart to him.

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## EPISTLES OF PETER

“THE SECOND EPISTLE” – March 25, 2018

Lesson – “Steadfastness”

Scriptures – 2 Peter 3:15-18

### Introduction to lesson

The church will fulfill her missionary purpose through remaining steadfast in the faith to the finish. To remain steadfast means “to be firm in belief and determined.” Because Christ has not already come, we have a great opportunity in our local communities to see people saved from eternal punishment. Some people think of Christ’s delayed coming as “slackness,” but actually it’s God’s longsuffering attitude toward humanity. Christ will surely come back at God’s appointed time, but until then, let us remain unmovable in the faith and win as many lost souls to Jesus as possible. Peter explained the reason behind Christ’s “delayed” coming: “the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation” (2 Pet. 3:15). Until the Lord comes, we, the church, have a missionary purpose that centers on reaching billions for Jesus. It is an enormous task. Our mission is so great that it encompasses “all the world,” yet so specific that it targets “every creature” (Mark 16:15). Of course, we don’t know the time of Christ’s coming, but as long as we are watching and praying, we’ll be ready. Until then, our main focus should be fulfilling our mission in the world, because people in darkness are depending on us to reveal the light of Christ’s salvation (Jn. 12:46; Mt. 5:14). The key to fulfilling our mission begins with obedience: going and telling (Mk. 16:15). Jesus has commissioned us to finish what he began. Even in opposition, let us make sure to continue to spread the “gospel light.” Let’s be steadfast!

**Key Verse:** “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness” (2 Pe. 3:17).

### Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Define steadfastness in the Christian life?
- ✚ In 2 Peter 3:17, what is Peter concerned about?
- ✚ Should you and I be more concerned about the day and hour of Christ’s coming, or about reaching lost souls?
- ✚ What do you learn from reading Matthew 9:37? Are you willing to take up the challenge? (Have class discussion.)

**Think about it:** Peter closed his epistle with two possible outcomes for us: we will continue to grow in the Lord; or we will fall from our steadfastness (2 Peter 3:17-18). How important is our spiritual growth? Our salvation depends on it. In the same way, the success of our mission will likewise depend on our spiritual growth. The church will finish what Christ commissioned her to do, taking the gospel to the ends of the earth and becoming a glorious church. Our job as individual members is to remain steadfast and faithful to the finish.

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