

Central Study Hour – Sabbath School Lesson Notes

“Feed My Sheep” First and Second Peter: Lesson 12, “The Day of the LORD”

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read the title. *What does this phrase mean to you? Is the day of the LORD good or bad? Are you eager for it or frightened by it?*

Read the memory verse. *What idea in the memory verse is connected to the day of the LORD? (That we should live holy and godly lives.) If people don’t believe in God and a judgment day, would they be more or less likely to try to live holy and godly lives? Do we need the fear of future judgment to do what’s right? (Seems many do.)*

Share points from 2nd paragraph. *What are better reasons for living a holy life? (Love for God, Appreciation for right principles – cause and effect, and what really makes one happy.)*

Share bottom paragraph. Peter believed that future judgment should be taken seriously.

SUNDAY: THE LINE OF AUTHORITY

In last week’s lesson Peter warned against false teachers promoting false liberty that really put “people back into the bondage of sin.” Before warning of another false teaching, Peter points out the standard for determining truth.

Read 1 Peter 3:1-2 (from the quarterly). *What is the standard for determining truth? What point is Peter making here about why his readers should listen to what he is writing; that they can know that it is true? (He’s saying that the OT prophets anchored us in the truth of which we, the apostles are grounded in what we teach you.) So, what does the title “The Line of Authority” mean? (See bottom paragraph, first sentence).*

Ask the question in the box at the bottom of the page. *If we just followed our culture, what would we believe about death and the soul? What would we believe about sexual morality and marriage? What would we believe about sin and holy living? What would we believe about the Sabbath? Where would we be without the Word of God? (Option: Ask Friday question #2).*

MONDAY: THE SCOFFERS

Peter now warns of another false teaching coming from scoffers who don’t believe Jesus will return. *Why would they think that?*

Read 2 Peter 3:3-4. *What argument do they make against belief in Christ’s return? (Everything just continues as it has always been – nothing changes.)*

Read the middle paragraph (under the lines) and the one sentence question that follows. Go to Friday, question #3 (The answer: There’s a human tendency to change teachings and beliefs to accommodate sins that one desires to follow).

Read/highlight the last three paragraphs. *How do you deal with the fact that Christ has not returned yet? (It’s a hope that I can’t let go. I believe the Scriptures. Other prophecies have come true so this one will also.) Did Peter accept the scoffers’ suggestion that God hasn’t intervened in human affairs? (No)*

Read 2 Peter 3:5-7. Believers in Scripture know that God intervened in human history, first

through Creation, and second, at the worldwide flood, and that He will intervene again, but with fire. Peter saw denial of Creation and the flood as simply willful ignorance.

TUESDAY: A THOUSAND YEARS AS A DAY

Read 2 Peter 3:8-10. *How does Peter respond to the argument that the scoffers will bring? What does he say that even now can help us to understand why Christ has not yet returned?*

Verse 8: God doesn't relate to time just as we do – 1000 years is as a day to Him. So for God it isn't a delay at all. **"God's purposes know no haste or delay."** *The Desire of Ages*, p. 32.

Verse 9: God wants to give people time to come to repentance rather than to perish. God loves us all and doesn't want any to be lost.

Verse 10: It will surely come as a cataclysmic event whether people believe it or not. It may come as a surprise to many, but no one will miss it. Peter assures his readers that any perceived slowness of God to fulfill His promise of judgment in no way decreases its certainty.

WEDNESDAY: SO WHAT?

Share highlights from the opening paragraph.

Read 2 Peter 3:11-13. *How does Peter answer the question, "So, what does that have to do with me now?"*

Verse 11: In the face of the end/second coming, we should live godly and holy lives.

Verse 12: We can look forward to and hasten the coming of Christ.

Verse 13: We can have hope for today because of the promise of a new heaven and new earth. It has everything to do with me, you, and everyone now!

Share highlights from the bottom two paragraphs. *How much does the reality of the second coming affect you in your daily life and thinking? Really, does it have much effect? What does your answer say about your life and faith? Let's be honest! Has our perception of a delay had an effect on us? Does it affect our use of the internet or television? Does it affect our commitment to outreach and witnessing?*

Read or highlight the paragraph in the Teachers' Comments, p. 162, "Just for Teachers" down to the sentence, "He would like to have been able to come sooner, but He could not do so because we have not done the preparatory work He has given us to do." The point is that Jesus hasn't come yet because the harvest isn't ready!

What must take place for the harvest to be ready?

1.) **2 Peter 3:11** says that God is looking for godly and holy people. *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 69 concurs. **"When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.' Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own."** The harvest is ready when the fruit is matured, that is, God has people that have His character.

2.) **2 Peter 3:12** indicates that His people can hasten the second coming by obeying the gospel commission. **Matt. 24:14** says, **"And the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."** *The Review and Herald*, June 18, 1901 says the second coming **"will not tarry past the time that the message is borne**

to all nations, tongues and people.” The sad thing here is that we may tend to think that it’s some other place in the world that is unreached when most of our churches here in the USA haven’t given any truth to the majority of people in their own territory. “This failure on our part, however, does not take God by surprise or cause Him to delay His plans. He knew what was going to happen even if He provided for it [His return] to happen sooner”. He gives us opportunities to take the role to hasten the second coming. We are supposed to *sow seeds* for the harvest. How can there be a harvest where we do not *sow*? Are we actually the cause the delay?

Note the words that immediately follow the above quotation from COL 69. **“It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:12) Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.”**

THURSDAY: A FINAL APPEAL

Share Highlights of 2 Peter 3:14-18. Highlight the narrative as desired.

Peter urges good choices. *What choices help us to grow in grace? Ask the question in the box at the bottom of the page. Does it matter what is viewed on the internet or TV? Does it matter what you talk about with friends or family? Does it matter if you take much time for prayer? Does it matter if you participate in outreach?*

Conclusion: **“The only way to grow in grace is to be disinterestedly doing the very work which Christ has enjoined upon us—to engage, to the extent of our ability, in helping and blessing those who need the help we can give them. Strength comes by exercise; activity is the very condition of life....Thus the Christian who will not exercise his God-given powers not only fails to grow up into Christ, but he loses the strength that he already had.**

The church of Christ is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. Its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. And the obligation rests upon all Christians. Everyone, to the extent of his talent and opportunity, is to fulfill the Saviour’s commission. The love of Christ, revealed to us, makes us debtors to all who know Him not. God has given us light, not for ourselves alone, but to shed upon them.” *Steps to Christ* pp. 80-81, quoted from the *E.G. White Notes for the Sabbath School Lessons*, p. 88.