

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – December 10, 2023

Theme: The Urgency of the Last Days **Topic:** The Season of the Lord's Patience

Main Texts: 2 Peter 3:1-18

Key verse: 2 Peter 3:14 – *“Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Life can become so predictable that the idea of Christ's second coming and the end of days begin to seem too far-fetched. This is the danger Apostle Paul tries to warn believers about as he writes to the Jewish believers scattered abroad. In today's text, Apostle Peter specifically warns believers on the dangers of becoming unaffected by the events of the last days, and the prophecies surrounding Jesus's second coming. He reminds believers that in these last days, scoffers will come, trying to put doubt in their hearts concerning the Lord's return, and he highlights the difference between God's concept of time and ours, citing Psalms 90:4 NKJV, *“For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night”*. He then goes on to affirm that, *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9 NKJV). The truth is that God will keep His promises without delay, according to His timing. What we may consider to be a 'delay' in His coming, is actually a display of His grace and mercy, and His long-suffering kindness towards us, which must not take lightly.

1.(a) Read 2 Peter 3:4. How do you feel when you hear people make similar comments concerning something central to our faith as Jesus' second coming? (b) According to 2 Peter 3:9 and Ezekiel 33:11, what is the ultimate reason why God is delaying the second coming of Christ? (c) Read Deuteronomy 7:9-10; Psalm 145:13; and Isaiah 55:1. What do these verses tell you about God and His promises and why must we be careful not to take God's patience for granted?

In 2 Peter 3:10-13, Apostle Peter paints the picture of a new world order, describing how everything in the world as we know will be burned up. Apostle Paul echoes this in his letter to the Corinthians, *“Those who use the things of this world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away”* (1 Corinthians 7:31 NLT). Heaven and earth will pass away... In light of all this, Peter poses a very important question for the believer, *“...what manner of persons ought you to be?..”* (2 Peter 3:11b NKJV). Given that this world and the things associated with it will be dissolved, we ought to live our lives seeking first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness. And as the Scripture says in Matthew 6:33 NKJV, *“...all these things shall be added to you”*.

2.(a) We learn from 2 Peter 3:16 that people can twist the Word of God and lead others to error. What remedy does Peter offer as a means of avoiding being led astray? How does that happen, according to Colossians 1:9; Ephesians 1:17-18? (b) What does holy conduct and godliness look like in practical terms in today's Nigeria? (Read Romans 12:9-12; Ephesians 4:22-24, 29-32) (c) Let participants discuss some of the challenges we face in living holy lives, and how we can overcome them.

Jesus says that He who hears His words and does them is wise (Matthew 7:24). In verse 26 of the same passage, it says he who hear the words of Jesus and doesn't do them is a foolish man. We must therefore be doers of God's word, and not hearers only. Becoming who God want us to be cannot be achieved on the bed of indifference or unseriousness. Rather, it requires that we each do our very best to be pure and faultless in God's sight, not in man's sight.

3.(a) How can we be pure and faultless in God's sight and not in man's sight? (Read Romans 12:2; Proverbs 14:12). (b) Let participants discuss ways in which we can fall into the trap of being hearers only. (c) What can we do to avoid these traps?

Prayer: *Father, thank You that You are not slack concerning Your promises towards us! Align us with Your purposes O Lord, and help us to live our lives holy, peaceful, without spot and blameless until You return, in Jesus Name we pray, Amen.*