

Pay it Forward!



GROWTH GUIDE DECEMBER 15, 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:8-15

I. SCRIPTURE: 2 PETER 3:8-15

AUTHOR

The author of 2 Peter is the disciple Peter who wrote this letter around A.D. 67, possibly from Rome. Peter wrote to the church at large to warn them about false teachers and to encourage them to grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus. 2 Peter is a letter of warning and is the last communication of Peter. He would die soon, martyred for his faith.

CONTEXT

1 Peter was written just before Nero, the Roman emperor, began persecuting Christians. 2 Peter was written 2-3 years later after the persecution has intensified. In chapter 1, Peter gives growing Christians guidance; in chapter 2 he talks about the danger to growing Christians and in chapter 3 he talks about hope for growing Christians. False teachers were causing people to doubt their faith and turn away from Christianity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Today we light the 3rd candle on the Advent Wreath as a reminder of joy. What is giving you joy in this Advent Season? What challenges or takes away your joy?
2. What is occupying your time most in this busy season? Does it ever feel like Jesus gets lost in all the preparations? How can you guard against this?
3. Read 2 Peter 3:8-15. Some people in this time scoffed that Jesus was never coming back but the Lord is not slow, he is just on his own timetable not ours. What does verse 8 say about time in regards to the Lord?
4. Why is the Lord being patient about returning and what does he hope is accomplished?
5. How does verse 10 describe the Lord's return?
6. How should we be living as we wait on the Lord's return?
7. Read verse 13 again. God's plan for us is not destruction but re-creation. (Read Isaiah 66:22 and look over Revelation 21-22.

II. SCRIPTURE: 1 JOHN 3:11; 16-22

AUTHOR

The author of 1 John is the disciple John who wrote this from Ephesus between A.D. 85-90 as a pastoral letter which was sent to several Gentile congregations. The purpose was to reassure Christians in their faith and to counter false teaching.

CONTEXT

The 3rd chapter talks about living as children of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 John 3:11; 16-22. What is the message we have heard since the beginning?
2. What is the greatest act of love?
3. Are you as generous as you should be with your money, possessions, and time?
4. Do your actions reflect God's love?
5. How might you give more attention to Jesus during Advent this year?