

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Floral Heights  
Church of Christ  
1814 Buchanan  
Wichita Falls, Texas  
76309  
(940) 322 - 1650

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## Our Elders:

*Mike Chancellor*  
(322 – 6374)

*Tom Witherspoon*  
(766 – 5368)

## Deacons:

*Joe Cronin*

*Jim Hall*

*David Witherspoon*

## Preacher:

*John C. Robertson*

## II Peter

(An Overview of Peter's II Epistle)

*“Ye therefore, beloved, knowing these things  
beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with  
the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own  
steadfastness”*

**II Peter 3:17**

Peter is the author of II Peter (see II Pet. 1:1; 3:1-2). It is just as difficult to place a date on II Peter as it is to date his first. Persecution upon members of the body of Christ and the death of Peter are the only dates we have to go by in dating I Peter (i.e., between 33 and 68 AD). This second epistle was written sometime after the first (see II Pet. 3:1) and thereby at a later unspecified date. The audience is general; i.e., “*them that have obtained a like precious faith*” (II Pet. 1:1).

Peter states the objective of this epistle at II Peter 3:1 saying, “*This is now, beloved, the second epistle that I write unto you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind my putting you in remembrance.*” Peter’s audience is admonished to remember (II Pet. 1:12, 13, 15) all the inspired apostolic writings that are designed to bring one to salvation (II Pet. 3:15). The primary life objective of every right thinking individual is to obtain the “*divine nature*” as a glorified saint of God (II Pet. 1:4). There were; however, false teachers during Peter’s day whose objective was directly opposed to such eternal bliss.

The Apostle Peter reveals one particular damning doctrine of these false teachers in this epistle. Some false teachers were claiming that Jesus would not come again (i.e., a second coming) (II Pet. 3:3-5). To substantiate their claims they challenged their audience to look at the supposed claims of Jesus’ second coming and the current date. Many years had elapsed since Jesus Christ had promised another coming to save

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

**April Gresham** took her new baby **Benjamin** to Oklahoma City this past week for some medical test. She learned that Benjamin has “kidney reflux” and that it is very likely that he will grow out of it. If not, the surgical procedure to fix it is common and not too invasive.

The **flu bug** has hit with a vengeance in Wichita Falls. Keep those affected by it in your prayers.

**Mac McBroom** is recovering from a recent back injury and doing well.

**Deirdra Wilson** remains in Mexico helping a friend who has cancer.

We will continue our series of lessons on the book of **Deuteronomy** this evening. Please read chapter 29.

Our Sunday AM Bible study is over II Peter and Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM we are studying Ecclesiastes.

### Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

**Bessie Murphy**  
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

the world from the consequences of sin (see Matt. 24:36ff). Seeing that Jesus had not yet come they concluded that he was not going to come (see II Pet. 3:4).

These false teachers made “*merchandise*” (II Pet. 2:3) of “*many*” (II Pet. 2:2) who were “*un-steadfast*” in their faith (II Pet. 2:14) and newly converted (II Pet. 2:18). The tactics of the false teachers was opinionated preaching (II Pet. 2:1) and railing at people who hold positions of authority as to stir up others against them (II Pet. 2:10-12). The more error that was put on the spiritual plate of the un-steadfast and new convert the more truth would be evil spoken of (II Pet. 2:2). Peter compares these erroneous teachers to Balaam in that they loved riches and honor more than truth (II Pet. 2:15-16). False teachers not only destroy their own souls but the souls of others (II Pet. 2:12). God views the false teacher as an unwanted animal that is put down in death (II Pet. 2:12). Peter makes it clear, God will not “*spare*” men or women who teach and oppose His divine truths (see II Pet. 2:4-5). This epistle is thereby a warning to the faithful child of God. Peter states, “*Ye therefore, beloved, knowing these things beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own steadfastness*” (II Pet. 3:17).

Remaining steadfast (i.e., firm and confident) in one’s faith is the key to “*escaping the corruption that is in the world by lust*” (II Pet. 1:4) and the error of “*false teachers*” (II Pet. 2:1). The apostle Peter thereby speaks of “*diligence*” (II Pet. 1:10; 3:14), “*spiritual growth*” (II Pet. 3:18), and obtaining “*knowledge*” (II Pet. 1:2, 3, 5, 8) as keys to spiritual survival. Said achievements will produce conviction within the soul and the ability to differentiate “*cunningly devised fables*” from the truth of the gospel message (II Pet. 1:16). Furthermore, diligence, spiritual growth, and knowledge will help one make a distinction between truth and error in general (i.e., divine revelation from pseudo religious words) (see II Pet. 1:19-21). When the Christian makes said distinctions and puts on the “*Christian Graces*” of II Peter 1:5-7 he will not be “*idle nor unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (II Pet. 1:8) and thereby obtain the “*divine nature*” (II Pet. 1:4). Let all Christians be watchers on the mountain tops of life so that error from the lips of men who disrespect the authoritative divinely revealed word of God may be vigorously opposed. Let us put on the conviction of Moses against said false teachers in that we will not “*consent, hearken, neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:*” (Deut. 13:8).

*John C. Robertson*

# **“Gather not my Soul with Sinners”**

## **Psalms 26:9**

### **Introduction:**

David was a man of “like passions” with all of us (see James 5:17). He sinned from time to time and disappointed God. David committed adultery with Bathsheba and compounded his sin by having her husband Uriah killed in battle (see II Sam. 11:1-14). On another occasion, David sinned by numbering the fighting men of Israel and Judah (II Sam. 24). Joab counted 800,000 men in Israel and 500,000 men of war in Judah. David’s sin was that he put his trust in numbers rather than God. The Bible says, “*And Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel*” (I Chron. 21:1). God responds by killing 70,000 Israelites with pestilence in one day.

Sin was a part of David’s life just like it is every other man’s on the face of the earth (Rom. 3:23). The difference between sinners like David and those who continue in their sin is that he was genuinely bothered by his sin (See Psalms 51; II Sam. 12:13; 24:17). This great sorrow over sin drove the king to say to God, “**Gather not my soul with sinners**” (Ps. 26:9). Where will our soul be “gathered” after we die?

### **I. The Reality of Death:**

- A. As man has an existence even so all mankind have a day of death (Eccl. 3:2).
- B. Though the body dies the soul lives on (Eccl. 12:6-7).

### **II. All go to Sheol (NT Hades):**

- A. When a man dies his spirit continues in the realm of the dead (i.e., Hades or Sheol).
- B. “It must be noted that nowhere in the OT is Sheol described as a place of torment or punishment for the wicked. At most it is a place of confinement away from the land of the living” (ISBE; vol. 4, pp. 472) (see Eccl. 9:10).
- C. Revelation 20:13 uses the NT equivalent to Sheol (i.e., Hades) as a place where disembodied souls exist who await the final judgment.

### **III. Sheol is divided into two sections (Lk. 16)**

- A. Jesus’ parable of the rich man and Lazarus illustrates that there is a division in the Hadean world.
- B. Suffering, torment, and wretchedness exist in one part of Hades while comfort and joy the other (cf. Luke 16:19ff).

### **Conclusion:**

Where will you and I be “gathered” at death? This study has proved that one’s gathering place after death is dependant upon whether one lives faithfully to the Lord. David did not want to be “gathered with sinners” after death because their eternal existence is wretched. May we always strive for an eternity with God in heaven!