

2nd PETER



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Introduction to 2nd Peter.

Authorship & Audience

The author identifies himself as “Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ” (1:1). He further confirms his identity by proving he was an eyewitness to Jesus transfiguration (1:16-18; Mat 17:1-8). There is no way of knowing specifically who the audience is. However, we do know that this was the second time he had written them a letter (3:1).

Peter’s Message

Peter writes his brief, final reminder to the church so that his readers will, by God's grace, live in a way that is pleasing to God. In doing so, Peter must also combat the false teachers who were apparently exerting pressure on the churches to depart from the true knowledge of Christ. While the false teaching can be described based on what Peter writes, it is historically impossible to identify who the false teachers were.

The false teaching is not only a theological challenge but also a moral one, promoting forms of sexual permissiveness, greed and dishonesty as legitimate Christian lifestyles (2:9-18). Peter explains the “more fully confirmed” truth of the gospel as an antidote to this heresy. The gospel is like “a lamp shining in a dark place” (1:19).

In chapter 3 Peter focuses on those who scoff at the idea of Christ’s triumphant return and the final judgment. Just as God once destroyed the world with water, he will one day bring his fire to it. In light of this, we should live in “holiness and godliness” as we await his return and the salvation He has promised to all believers. Peter probably wrote this letter about A.D. 67–68, shortly before his death.

Thematic Outline

- Chapter 1: Re-examine Your Christian Calling.
- Chapter 2: Beware of False Prophets & Teachers.
- Chapter 3: Be Prepared For The Day of the Lord.



LESSON 1: *Re-examine Your Christian Calling.*

(Read: 2 Peter 1:1-21)



I) We Have Become Partakers of the Divine Nature (2 Pe 1:1-4)

A) Obtaining a Faith like the apostles (2 Pe 1:1)

1) According to Peter, who is the source of this “Faith?” (2 Pe 1:1; Heb 12:2; Mat 28:19-20; Jn 16:12-14).

2) What is the “righteousness?” (2 Pe 1:1; Rom 3:21-26; Gal 1:3-5).

3) What has God’s divine power granted to believer’s? What does this say about God’s concern for the success of His people while in this life?

4) He called us to His own glory and excellence: As His redeemed people, we are called to live in harmony with God’s moral character. Greek writers often used the word “excellence” to describe the sum total of all desirable qualities of character.



5) What puts Christians in the position to become “partakers of the divine nature?”

6) According to Peter, what is the main reason for corruption in the world? (see also Jas 4:1-4).

II) God’s Grace Should Result In Godliness (2 Pe 1:5-15)

A) Because of this universal, progressive corruption, what should those who’ve been blessed with the things mentioned in verses 3-4, do with their faith? (2 Pe 1:5-7).

1) What is to be said for the Christian who fails to do so? (2 Pe 1:9).

2) According to Peter, what should we do to avoid this (2 Pe 1:10-11; 2 Cor 13:5). What are the spiritual benefits?

3) Why did Peter feel it was necessary to constantly remind these Christians about these godly qualities? (2 Pe 1:12-15).

III) We Can Have Solid Confidence in the Gospel Faith (2 Pe 1:16-21)

A) The Story of Christ is no cleverly devised myth. Peter said that he and others were

_____ (2 Pe 1:16).

B) "We were with Him on the holy mountain." To what event is Peter referring? (2 Pe 1:17-18).

C) How did this event have a bearing on having the prophetic word "more fully confirmed?" (2 Pe 1:18-19).

D) Peter gives three paramount reasons we can have confidence in the word of God, what are they? (2 Pe 1:20-21).

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

LESSON 2: *Beware of False Prophets & Teachers.*

(Read: 2 Peter 2:1-22; Jude 1-15)



I) The Threat of False Teachers (2 Pe 2:1-3)

A) A false teacher is _____

1) According to Peter, how will they subvert the truth? (2 Pe 2:1 see also Jude 4).

2) Why do you think many will follow after them? (2 Pe 2:2a; 2 Tim 4:3-4).

3) What will happen to the Truth of the Gospel? (2 Pe 2:2).

4) What are false teachers motivated by?

a. _____ (2 Pe 2:2 see also Col 2:18).

b. _____ (2 Pe 2:3; Ti 1:10-11).

5) How can we prepare for them?

a. _____ (Mat 7:15-23).

b. _____

_____ (2 Tim 4:2).

c. _____ (Jude 3).

II) Remain Loyal To God: He Will Take Care Of You, & Deal With The Ungodly (2 Pe 2:4-9)

- A) The Rebellious Angels (2 Pe 2:4; Jude 6).
 - 1) Job 4:18.
 - 2) Mat 25:41.
- B) Noah, his family & The Rebellious Ancient World (2 Pe 2:5; Gen 6:5-7:1)
- C) Lot, his family & The Rebellious Cities (2 Pe 2:6-8; Jude 7; Gen 19).

III) The Moral & Spiritual Bankruptcy of False Teachers & Prophets (2 Pe 2:10-22)

- A) They indulge in defiling passions (2 Pe 2:10; Jude 8).
- B) They have no respect for truth or authority (2 Pe 2:10-11; Jude 8-9).
 - 1) False teachers are bold (in a reckless, foolhardy way) and willful (stubborn and arrogant), behaving in ways that even the angels avoid.
- C) Like animals, they have no conscience (2 Pe 2:12; Jude 10).
 - 1) False teachers operate in irrational ways. They act like animals, following neither reason nor truth but instinct, ignoring even the most basic of human values. Yet they behave like this while posturing as Christians (v. 13).
- D) They speak evil and incorrectly of matters they are ignorant of (2 Pe 2:12; 1 Tim 1:6-7).
 - 1) False teachers pride themselves on their wisdom, but they are in fact blind to the truth.
- E) They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin... (2 Pe 2:14).
 - 1) The false teachers are shameless in their sinful deeds—they do not just enjoy sinning but the idea of doing so.
 - 2) Their appetite for sin is never satisfied. Even worse, they entice (Gk. delezō, “lure with bait”) unsteady souls (weak Christians or babes) to join them in their sinfulness (14,18).
- F) They care nothing for right and wrong, only wealth (2 Pe 2:15-16).
 - 1) Balaam could not curse what God had blessed (Num 22-24); his later teaching led the Israelites to idolatry and immorality (Num 31:16; Rev 2:14). False teachers likewise compromise God’s truth by immorality and likely idolatry; they will perish like Balaam (Num 31:8). Compare Jude 11.
- G) Why would it have been better for them to have never known the truth? (2 Pe 2:17-22).

- H) They are often loud and boisterous (2 Pe 2:18; Jude 16).
- I) Who prophesied their doom? _____ (Jude 14-15).

LESSON 3: *Be Prepared for The Day Of The Lord.*

(Read: 2 Peter 3:1-18; Jude 17-23)



I) **We're in the last days: We must prepare our minds (2 Pe 3:1-2)**

A) Peter's Second Letter.

- 1) What reason did Peter give his audience for writing this second letter? (2 Pe 3:1; compare with 1:13).

- a. What wisdom can we gain from the Hebrew author? (Heb 2:1).

- 2) What did Peter want them to remember? (2 Pe 3:2).

- a. The prophets were _____ by the Holy Spirit (2 Pe 1:21).
- b. The apostles spoke as the Holy Spirit gave them _____ (Acts 2:4).
- c. Jesus told His apostles that the Holy Spirit would not "speak on His own _____, but whatever He hears [from Me] He will speak and He will _____ the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and _____ to you." (John 16:13a-14, ESV).

II) **In These Last Days, Scoffers Will Come (2 Pe 3:3-9)**

- A) Peter said that the apostles warned them scoffers would come in the last days, with their scoffing (see also Jude 17-18)

- 1) What is Scoffing?

2) What does “scoffing” say about scoffers? (see Jude 19).

3) Read the following passages below. How else do they confirm that we are in the last days?

a. Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:14-21.

b. Hebrews 1:1-2.

c. Ephesians 3:8-10.

4) What will they scoff at? (2 Pe 3:4).

5) What should we do to avoid following the way of the scoffer? (Jude 20-21; Ps 1)

6) What significant factual event do scoffers overlook? (2 Pe 3:5-6). What relevance does it have to the fate of the world? (2 Pe 3:7)

7) As Christians who are waiting for the end and the Lord’s return, what should we never fail to realize? (2 Pe 3:8; see also Psa 90:4).

8) How does this keen awareness help us to remain faithful? (see 1 Jn 2:28).

- 9) What important lessons can scoffers learn about the patience of God's coming judgment? (see 2 Pe 3:9).

III) The Day of The Lord (2 Pe 3:10-18)

- A) Consider what the ancient prophets said about "The Day of The Lord?" during their generation.
- 1) Isaiah 13:6-9.
 - 2) Ezekiel 30:1-3.
 - 3) Joel 2:1-2.
 - 4) Amos 5:18-20.
- B) After reading these passages, how does Peter's "Day of The Lord" differ? (see 2 Pe 3:10-12).

- C) Knowing these things will take place and given the uncertainty of their timing, how should Christians live each day? (2 Pe 3:11-12, 14).

- a. What important lessons did Paul teach Timothy about godly living? (1 Tim 4:7-8)

- D) We must live our lives in anticipation of obtaining what promise? (2 Pe 3:13).

IV) Hold On & Don't Be Deceived (2 Pe 3:15-18)

A) What should we conclude about the patience/ longsuffering of the Lord? (2 Pe 3:15).

- 1) What did Paul teach about the important connection between God's patience/ longsuffering and salvation? (2 Pe 3:15-16).
 - a. **Rom 2:4:** The forbearance of God leads to _____
 - b. **1 Cor 1:8:** God will _____

 - c. **2 Cor 5:18-21:** Through Christ, God has patiently been trying to _____ people back to Him, not counting their sins against them.
 - d. **Gal 3:10-29:** Since the day God announced His plan of salvation to Abraham, He waited patiently throughout Israel's history—using the Law as a tutor to bring people to _____. That they may become Abraham's offspring, heirs according to His promise.
 - e. **Eph 1:11** God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world (1:4) and through Christ, we have obtained (see also 1 Pe 1:3-5).

 - f. **Phil 3:20** Paul reminded the Philippians that they were destined to be citizens of Heaven and that true Christians _____.
 - g. **Col 1:5** Paul told the Colossian Christians that they could look forward to _____

 - h. **1 Thes 5:9:** Paul taught the Thessalonians not to be worried about the Lords return (5:1) because God has not destined them for destruction, but _____

 - i. **2 Thes 1:3-11:** God will one day give eternal relief to His Saints by executing divine justice upon all those who've persecuted His Saints (4-7), upon those who do not _____ and upon those who do not _____
_____.

B) Beware The Twisting of Holy Scriptures (2 Pe 3:16).

1) Why would some of the things written by Paul be hard / difficult to understand?
(Consider Mat 22:29; 2 Cor 3:14-15).

2) What kinds of individuals twist the Scriptures—to their own destruction? (2 Pe 3:16-17).

3) How can we avoid being led astray from a sincere devotion to Truth? (2 Pe 3:17-18).

