

OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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Wednesday Bible Study
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The Book of 2 Peter

Introduction:

The epistle called 2 Peter is directed to Christians who are suffering and encountering persecution. Amid the persecution. Amid great persecutions as we discovered in our Bible Study of 1 Peter, and trials under the Emperor Nero, there were false teachers who arose in the church who were attempting to lead the young Christians astray.

And now, he calls them back to the basis of faith. He reminds us God is always on time and Jesus Christ is going to return at God's appointed time. My friends, the Lord always keeps His promises. Please get this – He does not desire for any to perish but that all should come to eternal life. Thus, we should remain faithful.

The Author:

Now, we know Peter is the author by the introductory statement of this letter found in verse one of this chapter – *“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ.”* In addition, we recognize the authorship of the Apostle Peter of this epistle based upon a number of strand (if you will) of internal evidence, including his introductory statement (1:1), his reference to this as his second epistle (3:1) and to his being an apostle (1:1, 3:2), his apparent reference to being an eyewitness at the transfiguration of Christ (1:16-18), and the statement concerning his impending death as the fulfillment of the prophetic statement made by Jesus in St. John 21:18

The Recipients:

Those to who this letter is addressed are not as clearly defined as the recipients of 1 Peter. They are referred to as, *“Those who have obtained faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ”* (1:1). However, we do know they were those Christians who were grounded in the basics of the Christian faith, and Peter is reminding them to stir them up and to remind them of the truth (1:12, 13).

The Occasion:

A.D. 67 is what some scholars suggest shortly before his death. He is writing to a suffering church which is facing the most difficult of all trials.

2 Peter is an excellent book to study so we may not be led astray. The first and third chapters review the basic tenets of Christian faith upon which we should build our lives in these perilous times of 2021.

Outline of 2 Peter

- I. Keep on Following Jesus: 1: 1 – 21
 - A. Greetings: 1:1 – 2
 - B. God's Divine Power Can Be Ours: 1: 3 – 9
 - C. You Need Never To Stumble: 1: 10 – 15
 - D. God's Word Is To Be Trusted: 1: 16 – 21

- II. Keep On Resisting False Teachers: 2: 1 – 22
 - A. The Destructiveness Of False Teachers: 1: 1 – 19
 - B. Entangled Again In the World: 2: 20 – 22

- III. Keep On Trusting God: 3: 1 – 18
 - A. Remember The Basics: 3: 1 – 7
 - B. Remember, God Is Always On Time: 3: 8 – 9
 - C. The Kind Of People We Should Be: 3: 10 – 13
 - D. How to Be Found By Him: 3: 14 – 16
 - E. A Final Word Concerning Growing: 3: 17 – 18

CHAPTER ONE

Keep on Following Jesus – 2 Peter 1: 1-21

Peter here writes to the Christians of the early church who experienced so much suffering and persecution and who overcame so many trials. So this letter is of encouragement and affirmation. He encourages them and us to keep on keeping on!!!

A. Greetings vv. 1 – 2

In His greeting, Peter exposes his humble spirit by referring to himself as a humble servant of Jesus Christ before he identifies himself as an apostle. In other words my friends, he had an understanding of who he was and who he was not . . .(ooh we)

He addresses, *“Those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ”* (vs. 1). Again, his spirit is like that which he communicated in his first letter as he identified himself as fellow elder (1 Pet. 5:1). Can’t you see, his spirit is not of a dictator who is lording over his subjects, no but one of example. . . There is a lesson me, us . . . One of HUMILITY!!!

Peter refers to the precious faith he “shares” with his readers. The is the blood of Jesus Christ that that makes *all* of us righteous. I don’t and you don’t – He does . .

B. God’s Divine Power Can Be Ours vs. 3-9

My friends, I believe an excellent defense to be the best offense. And that’s what Peter does with this second letter. For he contends that an excellent offense can be the best defense. He is now concerned these young Christians will be led astray by these false teachers. It was then, and it’s true today. See, if we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, we will be victors. We will not fall into the false teachings.

Thus, Peter gives us some specific steps to follow if we are to be victorious through Jesus the Christ:

1. *Be aware that, “His divine power has given us all things.”* (vs. 3)

2. *Appropriate the “great and precious promises” God has given us (vs. 4)*
the promises of God are precious for at least three reasons:
 - *First, they allow us to be “Partakers of the divine nature”*
 - *Second, the promises of God allow us to escape “The corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

3. *Give all diligence to our faith (vs. 5)*
He gives us seven steps we should follow in building our spiritual lives:
 - (1) Add virtue to faith vs. 5
 - (2) Add Knowledge to virtue vs. 5
 - (3) Add self-control to knowledge vs. 6
 - (4) Add perseverance to self-control vs. 6
 - (5) Add goodness to perseverance vs.6
 - (6) Add brotherly kindness to godliness vs. 7
 - (7) Add love to brotherly kindness vs. 7

In the aforementioned steps, then, we have the progression of growing in our faith. If we make the these things ours and they abound, says Peter, two specific benefits will follow: (1) They will keep us from being barren (vs. 8) And (2) They will keep us from being “Unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ “ (vs. 8).

Our faith plays an important part to being fruitful. If these things are not ours, Peter says we will reap two negative results (vs. 9). The person who lacks these things faces two dilemmas:

- (1) *He will be blind: He cannot see as far off (vs.9)*
- (2) *He “Has forgotten he was purged from his old sins” (vs.9).*

A. You Need Never To Stumble vs. 10 – 15

After making a strong presentation of the basics of the Christian faith, Peter now goes on to a personal application. Peter makes three specific statements application and accountability:

1. *“Make your calling and election sure” (vv. 10, 11)*

If we do this, and if we are faithful to those basics of the faith, we will enjoy two measurable results:

- (1) . *We “will never stumble” (vs.10).*
- (2) *We will enter Christ’s kingdom (vs. 11).*
Illustration when I was in high school ...

2. *I will “Remind you always of these things” (vv. 12-14)*
3. *I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder” (vs. 15).*

B. God’s Word Is to Be Trusted vss. 16 – 21

Peter’s love and concern for these spiritual children goes beyond his earthly life.

Question: *What are you reminding those whom you love before you depart this life?*

Peter now establishes his credentials and the trustworthiness of the prophecies of the Word of God in contrast to the “Cunningly devised fables” being propagated by the false teachers whom he exposes and refutes in the second chapter of this letter in which we will get to soon. (Smile)

He makes three specific contentions I want us to see in establishing his credibility and reliability to the Word of God:

1. Peter begins by establishing his own relationship to Jesus Christ as “*An eyewitness to Christ’s majesty” (vs. 16)*
2. You will do well to heed the word of the prophets (vs. 19).
3. Finally, we can rely on the word God because the prophecies of Scripture have come from God (vv. 20, 21).

In Conclusion:

My friends, in matters of the Spirit, we must go back to the source – the Holy Spirit. False teaching flows from the minds of men and women such as you and I; truth however, flows from the heart and mind of our Living God. . .