

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PETER

Chapter One

I. Simon Peter – a Bondservant and an Apostle of Jesus Christ

- A. Indicating the transformation that Peter went through (Matt. 16:15-26)
 - 1. Our natural man (the self, the fallen soul-life) can be utilized by Satan to hinder the Lord's work
 - 2. The need to deny our "self," to take up our cross to follow the Lord
 - a. Be willing to suffer in the flesh and to lose the soul-life today
 - b. He who suffers in the flesh has ceased from sin (1 Pet. 4:1-2; 3:18; Rom. 6:7, 11; 13:12-14; Gal. 2:20; 5:24; Col. 3:3-5)
 - 3. Keeping the Day of Atonement
 - a. To afflict our souls
 - b. To be fully reconciled to God
 - 4. To accept the chastening of the Father of spirits and live (Heb. 12:5-11)
- B. The GOAL of our faith is the "salvation of our souls" (1 Pet. 1:9)
 - 1. To be saved to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25-26)
 - 2. To allow Christ to be formed in us (Gal. 4:19)
 - 3. To be sanctified completely (1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Cor. 7:1)
 - 4. To be transformed into Christ's glorious image (2 Cor. 3:16-18; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21; 2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:21-24)
- C. Becoming living, precious stones for the building up of Zion – the church, the kingdom of the heavens (Matt. 16:18-19; 1 Pet. 2:4-10; Heb. 12:22, 28-29; Rev. 14:1)

1. Where Christ is the foundation and the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20-22)
2. Thus fulfilling God's eternal plan – the heavenly and holy city, the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21)

II. The Saints Have Received Like *<equal, the same >* Precious *<value, price, quality, and honor>* Faith

- A. It is the faith of God (Matt. 21:19-21; Mk. 11:14, 20-23)
 1. The faith of God who raises the dead and calls things not being into being (Rom. 4:17; Heb. 11:3; Gen. 1)
 2. The definition of faith in Heb. 11:1
 3. The living word of God must be mingled with faith (Heb. 4:2)
 4. The trial of our faith (1 Pet. 1:6-7; Jam. 1:2-3)
- B. The faith that we have received is the same faith that Peter and the other apostles have obtained
- C. Through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ
- D. Grace and peace be multiplied (same as in 1 Pet. 1:2)

III. What God has given to us within the precious faith through His Divine Power

- A. All things that pertain to life and godliness
- B. And the exceedingly great and precious promises in God's word *<the whole Bible>* (2 Cor. 1:20-22; Heb. 6:12-18)
 1. That we may be partakers of the divine nature
 2. Having escaped the corruption in the world through lust
- C. Faith is likened unto a SEED sown into our heart (the soil)
 1. This seed contains the power, the life and nature, and all the glory of the heavenly plant
 2. Peter referred to it as an incorruptible seed, which lives, endures, and abides forever (1 Pet. 1:18-19, 23-25)

3. James called it the implanted word (Jam. 1:21; John 1:1, 14; 6:63)
4. Paul concluded: “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 4:12-13)
5. The Lord Himself is the Sower of the heavenly seed in Matthew chapter 13
 - a. The seed needs a good ground to grow
 - b. The church is God’s farm (1 Cor. 3:6-9; Isa. 5:1-7)

IV. The Urgent Need to Give All Diligence for the Divine Seed to Grow to Maturity (Rom. 12:11; Prov. 24:30-34; Ecc. 9:10; Matt. 25:26-30)

- A. The original meaning of the word “add” is derived from χορός (*chorus*) <ἐπιχορηγέω>, a person employed by the state to provide (supply) all the expenses of a chorus, including training and maintenance (2 Cor. 9:8-11; Phil. 1:19) <ref. Vincent Word Studies>
 1. With this precious faith, God has provided everything we need to make it to the kingdom – the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ
 2. On our part, we need to give all diligence through prayers
- B. The different stages of spiritual growth
 1. Virtue – the important fundamental stage (Phil. 4:8)
 2. The proper knowledge (the science of this heavenly life)
 3. Self-control (temperance) – one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites
 4. Endurance, patience, and steadfastness – faith needs to go through trials (1 Pet. 1:6-7; 4:12; Job 23:10; Ps. 66:10; Mal. 3:3; Rom. 5:3-4; Jam. 1:3-4, 12)
 5. Godliness (1 Tim. 3:16; 4:8; 6:6, 11; Titus 1:1; 2 Pet. 3:11)

6. Brotherly love <Philadelphia> (John 21:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2:17; 3:8; 4:8; 5:14; 1 John 3:11, 14, 16; 4:7-21; 5:1-2; Rev. 3:7)
7. Love <Agape> (1 John 2:5, 10-11; 4:7-8, 18-20)
- C. In every stage, we must gain these qualities in increasing measure <NIV> (2 Pet. 1:8)
 1. Then we will be neither barren nor unfruitful
 2. We will make our calling and election sure
 3. We will never stumble
- D. A warning from Peter to those who lack these things (2 Pet. 1:9)
- E. At the end, a rich and abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be supplied to us

V. The Loving, Faithful, and Strong Admonition from the Aged Apostle Peter (2 Pet. 1:12-15)

- A. To remind the saints of the things which he wrote in the second epistle:
 1. To ensure that the saints will not forget these important things even after his departure
 2. To establish them firmly in the present truth (Acts 20:27; Jude 1:3; 2 Pet. 3:2)
- B. Assuring them that Peter and the apostles did not follow cunningly devised fables (like the many false prophets and teachers), but they were eyewitnesses of His majesty at the holy Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-5; 2 Pet. 1:16-18)
 1. Concerning the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
 2. They heard the voice from the Excellent Glory (from God the Father) to Jesus
- C. They (the apostles) had the prophetic word (of the whole Bible) CONFIRMED firsthand with their own eyes

concerning the Lord Jesus from His incarnation to His ascension

1. We must take heed of this prophetic word in our hearts as a light that shines in a dark place (this world today)
2. Until the day dawns and the morning star arises – the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rev. 2:28; 22:16)
3. Concerning the prophetic word, take note:
 - a. No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man
 - b. But holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit

Chapter Two

VI. Severe Judgments upon the False Prophets and Teachers

- A. Satan uses the false prophets and teachers to destroy God's people and the churches
 1. False prophets in the Old Testament times (Is. 9:15; Jer. 14:14; 23:25-26; Lam. 2:14; Ezek. Ch. 13; 22:28; Mic. 3:11; Zech. 13:3)
 2. The Lord Jesus Himself warned about false prophets and teachers (Matt. 7:15-20; 16:6, 11; Mk. 13:22-23)
 3. Warning from apostle Paul (Acts 20:29-31; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:3-4)
- B. Peter exposed their pernicious ways
 1. They secretly, craftily, (Gal. 2:4) brought in destructive heresies
 2. Through covetousness with deceptive <false, fake, fabricated> words, they made merchandise of the saints (Darby Version)
- C. God's judgment had not lingered – it started a long time ago

1. Judgment on the fallen angels (sons of God) at the time of Noah (2 Pet. 2:4; Gen. 6:2-4; Jude 1:6; <1 Pet. 3:19-20>)
 2. The deluge during the time of Noah, where only 8 souls were saved (1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 2:5)
 3. The judgment on Sodom & Gomorrah – total destruction, fully burned to ashes (2 Pet. 2:6)
 4. All the above serve as examples to those ungodly people today
- D. The Lord knows how to rescue (to deliver) the godly out of trials and temptations – the example of Lot (2 Pet. 2:7-9a)
- E. Further descriptions of the ungodly and their judgment (2 Pet. 2:9b-22)

Chapter Three

VII. God's Judgment on the Earth

- A. The apostle Peter continues to stir up the *pure minds* of the beloved saints (2 Pet. 3:1-2)
1. To be mindful of the sure words spoken before by the holy prophets in the Old Testament times
 2. And of the commandments of Peter and the apostles of the Lord and Savior
- B. Warning them that mockers will come in the last days (2 Pet. 3:3-4)
1. Walking according to their own lusts
 2. Challenging: “Where is the promise of His coming?”
 3. They willfully forget what the Bible says

VIII. Previous Judgments of the Earth

- A. In Gen 1:2 – “...the heavens were of old (long time ago, in the beginning), and the earth standing out of water and in water” (2 Pet. 3:5b) – and the earth became (see E.W.

- Bullinger) a chaos <tohu va bohu> (see Isa. 45:18; Job 38:4-7ff)
- B. Noah’s time – “the world which then existed (after it was restored in Gen 1:3ff) perished <was destroyed> being flooded with water” (2 Pet. 3:6)
 - C. The heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word (2 Pet. 3:7)
 - 1. Are reserved for fire (not by deluge – see Gen. 9:8-17; Rev. 4:3)
 - 2. Until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men
 - D. The ignorance and foolishness of the mockers exposed (1 Pet. 3:8-10)
 - 1. One day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day (Ps. 90:1-6)
 - a. God – who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty, is not limited by time
 - b. But we, human beings, are like grass – flourishing in the morning, cut down in the evening and withered (1 Pet. 1:24; Ps. 103:15-16; Jam. 1:10-11; Is. 40:6-8)
 - 2. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, but is longsuffering toward us, still giving mankind time to repent, not willing that any should perish
 - 3. Nevertheless, the day of the Lord will come as thief in the night (2 Pet. 3:10; Acts 2:19-20; Joel 2:30-31; 1 Thess. 5:2; Rev. 6:12-17)

IX. The Encouragement to the Saints to Prepare for the Coming of the Day of God (2 Pet. 3:11-15)

- A. Exercise to live a life that is holy and godly
- B. Hasten His coming by our obedience and cooperation
- C. Make every effort to be found by Him in peace, spotless, blameless

- D. Appreciate the longsuffering of our Lord, consider it as salvation
- E. Beware lest we also fall from our own steadfastness
- F. Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ