

Book of 2Peter

Synopsis



Introduction

Book No	61
Name	2Peter
Written By	Peter
Testament	New
Category	Epistles
Date Written	Approx. 67 A.D
Place Written	Rome
Audience	To All Believers
Purpose	To warn Christians about false teachers and to exhort them to grow in their faith in and knowledge of Christ
History Covered	NA
Chapters	3
Verses	61
Key Verse	According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue (1:3)
Key People	❖ Peter ❖ Paul
Key Places	NA

Purpose of the Book

Second Peter is a letter of warning—from an authority none other than the courageous, experienced, and faithful apostle. And it is the last communication from this great warrior of Christ. Soon thereafter he would die, martyred for his faith.

Previously Peter had written to comfort and encourage believers in the midst of suffering and persecution—an external onslaught. But three years later, in this letter containing his last words, he wrote to warn them of an internal attack—complacency and heresy. He spoke of holding fast to the nonnegotiable facts of the faith, of growing and maturing in the faith, and of rejecting all who would distort the truth. To follow this advice would ensure Christ-honoring individuals and Christ-centered churches.

After a brief greeting (1:1), Peter gives the antidote for stagnancy and shortsightedness in the Christian life (1:2-11). Then he explains that his days are numbered (1:12-15) and that the believers should listen to his messages and the words of Scripture (1:16-21).

Next, Peter gives a blunt warning about false teachers (2:1-22). They will become prevalent in the last days (2:1-2), they will do or say anything for money (2:3), they will spurn the things of God (2:2, 10, 11), they will do whatever they feel like doing (2:12-17), they will be proud and boastful (2:18-19), and they will be judged and punished by God (2:3-10, 20-22).

Peter concludes his brief letter by explaining why he has written it (3:1-18): to remind them of the words of the prophets and apostles that predicted the coming of false teachers, to give the reasons for the delay in Christ's return (3:1-13), and to encourage them to beware of heresies and to grow in their faith (3:14-18).

Addressed to those who “share the same precious faith,” 2 Peter could have been written to us. Our world is filled with false prophets and teachers, who claim to have the truth and who clamor for attention and allegiance.

The concerns of 2 Peter are also concerns of the contemporary church as it counteracts worldliness and humanistic philosophy. There are still false teachers who deal in half-truths regarding the Christian faith, and this letter provides a clear response to them

Listen carefully to Peter's message and heed his warning. Determine to grow in your knowledge of Christ and to reject all those who preach anything inconsistent with God's Word.

Overview

- ❖ 61st book of the BIBLE, 22nd in the New Testament, 17th of the 21 epistles and 3rd of the 7 epistles written by other authors
- ❖ Peter:
 - Was one of the original 12 apostles.
 - Was one of the inner circle of the apostles (Peter, James, & John.)
 - Denied Christ three times on the night of the betrayal.
 - He was given the “keys” to the kingdom of heaven.”
 - He opened the doors to the Jews. Acts 2
 - He opened the doors to the Gentiles. Acts 11
 - Was married and his wife sometimes travelled with him. 1 Corinthians 9:5
 - Was an elder in the church. 1 Peter 5:1-4
- ❖ According to tradition, Peter was crucified upside down in Rome prior to Nero’s death in A.D. 68.
- ❖ Peter authored two books of the New Testament:
 - 1 Peter
 - 2 Peter
- ❖ 2 Peter was written not long before Peter’s death.
- ❖ Peter focuses on the internal opposition caused by false teachers whose “destructive heresies” (2:10) can lead Christians into error and immorality.
- ❖ Peter identifies eight virtues every Christian should have in his life.
 - Faith
 - Virtue
 - Knowledge
 - Self control
 - Perseverance
 - Godliness
 - Brotherly kindness
 - Love

Hebrew Names of GOD used in 2Peter

- ❖ DESPOTES

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

The deity of Christ is evident in the way that God and Christ are closely linked in 1:1, 2. God knows Christ as His “Son” (1:17). The divine purpose and activity are centered in Jesus Christ, as His grace and power are given to believers (1:2, 3, 8; 2:9, 20; 3:18), who are to look for His coming (1:16) and the arrival of His eternal kingdom (1:11). It is the Scriptures that assure the believer of a destiny with Jesus Christ (1:16–21; see also 3:1, 2).

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

The only direct reference to the Holy Spirit is in 1:21, which describes the Spirit’s work in “moving” the human authors of the prophetic Scriptures, which in turn disqualifies any “private interpretation” (see note on 1:20). However, the Spirit is obviously at work in providing the “divine power” that makes possible growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ (1:2–8; 3:18).

Mega Themes of 2Peter

DILIGENCE

If our faith is real, it will be evident in our godly behavior. If people are diligent in Christian growth, they won’t backslide or be deceived by false teachers.

Growth is essential. It begins with faith and culminates in love for others. To keep growing we need to know God, keep on following him, and remember what he taught us. We must remain diligent in faithful obedience and Christian growth.

FALSE TEACHERS

Peter warns the church to beware of false teachers. These teachers were proud of their position, promoted sexual sin, and advised against keeping the Ten Commandments. Peter countered them by pointing to the Spirit-inspired Scriptures as our authority.

Christians need discernment to be able to resist false teachers. God can rescue us from their lies if we stay true to his Word, the Bible, and reject those who distort the truth.

CHRIST’S RETURN

One day Christ will create a new heaven and earth, where we will live forever. As Christians, our hope is in this promise. But with Christ’s return comes his judgment on all who refuse to believe.

The cure for complacency, lawlessness, and heresy is found in the confident assurance that Christ will return. God is still giving unbelievers time to repent. To be ready, Christians must keep on trusting and resist the pressure to give up waiting for Christ's return.

Life Lessons in 2Peter

Truth	Lesson
<p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>When faced with temptation, look to God, knowing that He is able to deliver you. Understand the strategy behind sin. Temptation will tell you that if you sin, you will be truly free without restrictions. However, sin will enslave you and you will not be able to break free from its mastery. So, stay far from sin and live in the joy and true freedom of godliness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Persevere in godliness. Recall God's faithfulness to His people. Be confident that He is able to keep you and deliver you from temptations. ❖ Be assured that sin enslaves those who participate in it. Beware; sin will control you and become your master, falsely promising you freedom. ❖ Be diligent to study the Bible so that you will be able to recognize false or twisted teaching of Scripture. Understand that deliberately twisting and falsely teaching Scripture leads to eternal destruction.
<p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>The Book of 2 Peter warns against false teachers and false doctrines. Two primary ways we are to fortify ourselves against such deception are: to know Jesus and to know the Bible. Knowing the truth and recognizing the authentic will help equip us to recognize the false. It is imperative then that we make our relationship with the Lord our highest priority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Receive all that has been provided by God's divine power for life and godliness. Understand that all of this is provided simply because we know Him. Cherish and nurture your relationship with the Lord; it is an invaluable gift of grace. ❖ Strengthen your devotional life by reading and studying the Bible until it becomes part of who you are—part of the way you think, talk, and act.

<p>Begin reading and studying the Bible. Spend time with the Lord, talk with Him, share your heart with Him, and get to know Him intimately. He loves you and longs to spend time with you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Focus your effort and energy on getting to know Jesus more and more. Grow in His grace and kindness, knowing that He loves you.
<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>The Book of 2 Peter teaches us to recognize the unrighteous behavior of false teachers. The darkness (or hidden secrets) of their lives starkly contrasts with the life of holiness that God enables us to live. Holy living, then, is a safeguard against false teachers. By it, we will be able to quickly discern who they are by the fruit of unrighteousness in their lives. Seek to walk in holy living by the grace and power of God.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Let moral excellence be the mark of your life. ❖ In addition, add knowing God, self-control, endurance, godliness, and love, which will help your life to be meaningful and productive as you grow in your knowledge of Jesus. ❖ Learn to recognize the marks and lifestyle of false teachers. Have nothing to do with them or their teaching. ❖ Continue faithfully in your salvation, knowing that, through Jesus, you have been made blameless and pure and given peace. Be sure to continue in grace.
<p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>Place your faith in what Christ has done for you and in the glory that is yet to come. His promises are great and precious, trustworthy, proven, and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Let the hope of His coming affect the way you live each day, so that when He appears you will be found living in godliness and faith.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Receive by faith the great and precious promises given to you in Jesus Christ, whose very nature has become part of who you are. ❖ Yield your life to the authority and inspiration of Scripture. Place your faith in God's Word. ❖ Do not disregard the OT prophecies; they are proven and inspired by the Holy Spirit, too. ❖ Live your life in light of Jesus' coming, so that you will be found faithful when

	<p>He comes. Put your faith in God's promise and look forward with hope to the coming of a new heaven and new Earth where righteousness will rule.</p>
<p>How to identify the false teacher</p> <p>The false teacher or false prophet is led by the flesh seeking to obtain power or gain for himself from the ministry. Initially his message may not be false but his motivation in ministry is fleshly. So he appeals to the fleshly in others offering them some carnal or soulful satisfaction. He will ultimately introduce some doctrine that is contrary to the truth. Each of us must use the Word of GOD to measure the words any preacher speaks and any variation or imbalance in what is taught must be questioned. We also need to be sensitive to the prompting of the HOLY SPIRIT in this judgement. We are to judge only the teaching. GOD will judge the teacher</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ reject any teaching that denies the lordship of JESUS ❖ know that the false teacher brings about distrust of true ministers of GOD ❖ judge the words of every teaching ❖ Let GOD judge the teacher ❖ Beware teaching what sounds good but means nothing ❖ Be established so that you can not be lured back into sin by false doctrine

Praise Points in 2Peter

- ❖ The fact that faith is a gift from God (1:1)
- ❖ His provision of everything we need for living a godly life (1:3)
- ❖ His promise that we will share in his divine nature (1:4)
- ❖ The trustworthy witness of Scripture (1:16, 20-21)
- ❖ His ability to rescue us from trials when we trust in him (2:9)
- ❖ The power of Scripture to motivate wholesome thinking (3:1-2)
- ❖ His patience, which stems from a loving heart (3:9)
- ❖ The sure promise of Christ's return (3:10).

Worship Insights in 2Peter

- ❖ God has promised to allow us to share in the divine nature (1:4).
- ❖ The first step to living a worshipful life is to recognize what God has done (1:9).
- ❖ As a worshipping people, we need repeated reminders of God's glory and goodness (1:3, 12).
- ❖ Our faith is strengthened by Scripture's eyewitness accounts of God's majesty (1:16).
- ❖ The God we worship is holy and will not wink at sin (2:4).
- ❖ God's Word motivates our worship (3:1-2).

An Outline of 2Peter

I. Keep on Following Jesus: [2Pe_1:1-21](#)

A. Greetings: [2Pe_1:1-2](#)

B. God's Divine Power Can Be Ours: [2Pe_1:3-9](#)

C. You Need Never to Stumble: [2Pe_1:10-15](#)

D. God's Word is to Be Trusted: [2Pe_1:16-21](#)

II. Keep on Resisting False Teachers: [2Pe_2:1-22](#)

A. The Destructiveness of False Teaching: [2Pe_2:1-19](#)

B. Entangled Again in the World: [2Pe_2:20-22](#)

III. Keep on Trusting God: [2Pe_3:1-18](#)

A. Remember the Basics: [2Pe_3:1-7](#)

B. Remember, God is Always on Time: [2Pe_3:8-9](#)

C. The Kind of People We Should Be: [2Pe_3:10-13](#)

D. How to Be Found by Him: [2Pe_3:14-16](#)

E. A Final Word Concerning Growing: [2Pe_3:17-18](#)