

2 PETER

2 Peter 1

Greeting the Faithful

★★ **1** Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

D To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our **God and Savior Jesus Christ:**

I 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and **godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these **you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

Fruitful Growth in the Faith

L **5** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness. 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.** 8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peter's Approaching Death

12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*, 14 knowing that **shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.** 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

The Trustworthy Prophetic Word

★ **16** For **we did not follow cunningly devised fables** when we made known to you **the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him **from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, **21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**

1:1 Jesus is God – God is Jesus.


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2 Peter 2

Destructive Doctrines

1 But there were also **false prophets** among the people, even as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will secretly bring in **destructive heresies**, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness **they will exploit you with deceptive words**; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

Doom of False Teachers

 **4** For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to **hell** and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; **5** and did not spare the ancient world, but **saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;** **6** and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, **making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;** **7** and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the **wicked** **8** (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)— **9** **then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10** and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the **lust of uncleanness** and despise authority. **They are presumptuous, self-willed.** They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, 11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

Depravity of False Teachers

I **12** But **these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed,** speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, **13** **and will receive**

- 2:1-3 A church must not tolerate unscriptural teachings in the name of love and unity. False teachers and False prophets deny the Lordship of Jesus Christ. They claim Christ but deny His Lordship over their lives. The greatest sin in the church is the misrepresentation of the truth and its consequent deception by church leaders. Nothing is more wicked than for someone to claim to speak for God to the salvation of souls when in reality he speaks for Satan to the damnation of souls. Satan puts False teachers into the church to deceive people and remember deception is Satan's greatest evil gift. Note: remember Eve in the garden.
- 2:4 Hell here in Greek is Tartarus— the lowest place in Hell— the lowest dimension of Hell reserved for the fallen angels of Gen 6:6 and evil gods and demons. This area of Hell is for punishment of the most evil of angels that follow Satan. On Judgment Day all these evil beings are cast into Gehenna— the Lake of Fire. God must judge wickedness because His holiness requires it.
- 2:7-8 Wickedness always results in Judgment. Do not be tolerant of rampant sin in your society just because society says it is ok and accepts it.

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- I the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, **14** having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. **15** They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; **16** but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.
- I **17** These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

Deceptions of False Teachers

- 18** For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.
- I★ **19** While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. **20** For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.
- ★ **21** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. **22** But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

- 2:9-14 False Teachers are slaves to the corrupt desires of the flesh. They identify with Jesus outwardly, but refuse to live under His Lordship— They refuse to submit to Jesus. Presumptuous means to be brazen and defiant. Self-willed is to be stubborn, determined to do man's will and not God's will. False Teachers cannot get beyond their own instincts and thus will be destroyed by their passions. Immorality and arrogance characterize these men— they are consumed with lust and rebellion. Their unbridled passions are totally opposite to the character of Christ. Some false teachers had so totally lost moral control that they looked upon any woman as a potential adulteress. They were uncontrollably driven by lust, never resting from their sins.
- 2:17-19 False teachers offer people a kind of religion where they can still embrace and hold on to their fleshly lusts and desires. False Teachers do not capture those strong in the Word, but prey on the weak, the unstable and the young in faith. They concentrate on nothing but the forbidden things for which their passions lust. The curse of sin is the dominant thing in their lives and they are damned to hell for their blatant wickedness.
- 2:20-22 False teachers never genuinely convert to Christ. They move toward the gospel, but then turn away from it and reject the true gospel. This is apostasy and the latter end for the false teacher is much worse. By their lives, they demonstrate their ultimate decision to reject Christ. They are always bred in the church, half in and half out, but eventually they reject the truth and try to seduce others in their attempt to fulfill their self-gratification. "to turn from the commandment"— by their sinful lives, the false teacher demonstrates his ultimate decision to reject Christ (Heb 10:26-31). As a washed pig returns to wallow in its mud, a false Christian will often return to practice the sin they used to practice in the past. Whatever you do, don't do this. Do not return to your past life of sin. Do not return to your past evil characteristic sins. Do not return to sin. See Ezekiel 18:24. Spiritual death occurs when the righteous man turns to unrighteousness and commits iniquity (sin).

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2 Peter 3

God's Promise Is Not Slack

★ 1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 **knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,** 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 **But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.** 8 **But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** 9 **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**
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The Day of the Lord

Hol 10 **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.** 11 **Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,** 12 **looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?** 13 **Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

Be Steadfast

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also **our beloved brother Paul**, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 **as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.**

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, **beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;** 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

3:11 Holy conduct refers to the way a Christian should live— separate from sin.

3:17 Anytime a believer seriously listens to a false teacher, he is at risk of being led astray.