

2 PETER

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- 17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this,
- **be on your guard** so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.
 - 18 But grow in the **grace** and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (NIV)

2 PETER

I. INTRODUCTION

1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who **through the righteousness** of our God and Savior Jesus Christ
have **received a faith** as precious as ours:

II. BE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN TRUTH ... (TURN TO)

A. EFFECTS OF TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND HIS SON (see NT John 17:3 – Eternal Life)

2 **Grace** and **peace** be yours in abundance
through the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord.

REPENTENCE ...

WITH HEART / MIND SET ON HIM AND HIS WORKS

3 His divine **power** has given us
everything we need for life and godliness
through our **knowledge** of him
who called us by his own glory and goodness.

TURNING TO LORD, FROM THE WORLD

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises,
so that through them you may

- participate in the divine nature and
- escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

... = FAITH TRANSLATING INTO ACTS OF LOVE

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add
to your **faith, goodness**; and
to goodness, **knowledge**; 6 and
to knowledge, **self-control**; and
to self-control, **perseverance**; and
to perseverance, **godliness**; 7 and
to godliness, **brotherly kindness**; and
to brotherly kindness, **love**.

8 For if you **possess these** qualities in increasing measure,
they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive
in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But if anyone **does not have them**,
he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from
his past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure.

For if you do these things,
you will never fall, 11 and
you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

B. TRUE WITNESSES TO THE THINGS OF THE LORD

THIS LETTER

12 So I will always **remind** you of these things, even though **you know** them and are firmly established in the **truth** you now have.

13 I think it is right to **refresh** your **memory** as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will **soon put it aside**, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to **remember** these things.

THE DISCIPLES

16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the **power** and **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

THE FATHER

17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

THE PROPHETS

19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (NIV)

III. BE ON GUARD OF FALSE TEACHERS ... (TURN FROM)

2:1 But there **were** also **false prophets** among the people, just as there will be **false teachers among you**.

A. DISREGARD FOR TRUTH

They will **secretly introduce** destructive **heresies**, even **denying the sovereign Lord** who bought them-- bringing swift destruction on themselves.

2 Many will follow their **shameful ways** and will bring the way of **truth into disrepute**.

3 In their greed these teachers will **exploit** you with **stories they have made up**.

B. CONDEMNATION

Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

4 For

if

God did not spare **angels** when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

5 if

he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the **flood** on its ungodly people, but

protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

6 if

he condemned the cities of **Sodom and Gomorrah** by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

7 and

if he **rescued Lot**, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)--

9 if this is so,

then

the Lord knows how

to **rescue godly men from trials** and

to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

10 This is especially true of those who **follow the corrupt desire** of the sinful nature and **despise authority**.

C. EXTENT OF IGNORANCE

Bold and arrogant, these men are **not afraid** to slander celestial beings;

11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord.

12 But these men blaspheme in **matters they do not understand**.

They are like brute beasts,
creatures of instinct,

born only to be caught and destroyed, and
like beasts they too will perish.

13 They will be paid back with harm for the **harm** they have done.

D. INDULGENT

Their idea of pleasure is to carouse **in broad daylight**.

They are blots and blemishes, **reveling** in their pleasures while they **feast with you**.

14 With eyes full of **adultery**,
 they never stop sinning;
 they **seduce the unstable**;
 they are **experts** in **greed**-- an accursed brood!

E. PROPHETS FOR HIRE - USES RELIGION FOR MONETARY GAIN

15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of **Balaam** son of Beor, who loved the **wages** of wickedness.

16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey-- a beast without speech-- who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

F. FALSE OFFERS OF HOPE

17 These men are **springs without water** and **mists driven** by a storm.
 Blackest darkness is reserved for them.

18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they **entice** people who are **just escaping** from those who live in error.

19 They **promise** them freedom, while they themselves are **slaves of depravity**-- for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

G. TURN AWAY FROM KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS

20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by **knowing** our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of **righteousness**, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. 22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud." (NIV)

IV. ... DO BOTH ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO THE HOPE THAT IS YOURS IN THE LORD (EXPECTATIONS)

3:1 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.

2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

A. HIS PROMISE – DO NOT DOUBT HIS SECOND COMING AND THE JUDGEMENT – AS SOME DO

3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

WATER WAS ONCE A JUDGEMENT

5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

FIRE WILL BE THE NEXT WORLD-WIDE JUDGEMENT

7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

LORD'S PATIENCE SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH NOT EVER COMING TO JUDGE

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

B. OUR FAITH – LIVE APPROPRIATELY NOW IN RESPONSE TO HIS FUTURE RETURN

**THE WAY WE ACT IN THE PRESENT INDICATES WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE FUTURE
(THE WAY WE ACT SAYS WHAT WE REALLY BELIEVE ABOUT THE FUTURE)**

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?

You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you **look forward** to the day of God and speed its coming.

That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are **looking forward** to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. 14 So then, dear friends, since you are **looking forward** to this,

make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

V. PURPOSE OF THE LETTER

17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this,

- **be on your guard** so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.
- 18 But grow in the **grace** and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (NIV)