

Small Letters

Week 9 - 2 Peter 1

READ

Read the verses aloud as a group

¹ *Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

² *May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

³ *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,*

⁴ *by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

⁵ *For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,*

⁶ *and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,*

⁷ *and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.*

⁸ *For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

⁹ *For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.*

¹⁰ *Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

¹¹ *For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

¹² Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.

¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder,

¹⁴ since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

¹⁵ And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,"

¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1 ESV

AUTHOR

Commentary on the authorship of the Book of 2 Peter

Peter is the author

He says so in verse 1

There is very little that can be used to challenge his authorship

DATE

Commentary on the date of the Book of 2 Peter

Peter wrote during the time of Nero's persecution

He most likely penned the letter in AD 64-68 after 1 Peter

PURPOSE

Commentary on the purpose of the Book of 2 Peter

"Peter presents his readers with a reminder of the safeguards they have against apostasy as well as a denunciation of the apostates in order to fortify them against these false teachers so that they would continue to grow in their faith."

COMMENTARY

Peter starts out chapter 1 by identifying himself as the author, and claiming apostleship

He then shows that he is writing to anyone who has been saved by Jesus

He then in verse 2 gives a common greeting – similar to that of Paul's greetings

In Green verses 3-7 are one long sentence where Peter is reminding us of the blessings God has given us and how we are to respond

In verses 3-4 Peter's point is that God has given us absolutely everything necessary for us to know him and to live in a way that honors him

In verses 5-8 Peter lays out the qualities that a believer should have. These qualities all stack on top of each other

The final one that Peter lists is love – Biblical love is not a feeling provoked by the beauty of its object but rather is a commitment of the heart, mind, and soul to pursue what is best for the one being loved.

Then in verse 9 Peter warns what happens to those who are neglecting these qualities – they have become nearsighted – blind to what God is doing for them

Peter says that if we are diligent in what he says in 5-8 we will not fail

Not that we won't sin again, but that if we are focused on our growth in the Lord we will not trip

In verses 12-15 Peter says that he is writing this because of his impending death. Knowing that he is going to die soon Peter encourages his readers to focus keep the things of God on the forefront of their mind

In verses 16 Peter tells us that the words he is writing, the words of the Word are from the Lord and

Verses 17-18 is Peter recalling when he was on the mountain seeing the transfiguration of Jesus

He is further strengthening the eyewitness nature of his message

Verses 19-21 is Peter finishing his thought that the message is from the Lord

That all prophecy is from God and not from man – that it is not for man's interpretation but for the Lord

DISCUSS

Discuss the following as a group

1. What questions do you have from 2 Peter 1?
2. How equipped do you feel for life and godliness?
3. Which of the qualities listed by Peter do you consider to be the most important to add to your faith? Why?
4. What is the relationship between knowledge of God and Christ and spiritual growth?
5. What does it mean to be ineffective and unproductive?
6. What can we do in our lives and in our churches to keep reminding ourselves of the gospel message?