

2 Peter Outline

- I. Remember the Greatness of Salvation (1:1-11)
- II. Trust the Certainty of Scripture (1:12-21)
- III. Beware of Deceptive False Teachers (2:1-22)
- IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-18)

2 Peter 3:1-18

3 *This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

- IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-18)
- A. Remember the Promised Hope (vs 1-2)
 - B. Scoffers Attack our Hope (vs 3-4)
 - C. Hope is Secured in a Cosmic Plan (vs 5-7)
 - D. Hope is Timeless (vs 8-10)
 - E. The Inevitable Transformation of Hope (vs. 11-13)
 - 1. Hope Leads the Way to Holiness (vs 11)
 - 2. Hope Accelerates the Journey (vs 12)
 - 3. Hope Attains Heaven (vs 13)
 - F. Our Hope is a Steadfast Salvation (vs 14-18)
 - 1. **Perseverance in the Path to Peace (vs 14-15a)**
 - 2. Unity in Faith & Fellowship (vs 15b-16)
 - 3. Steadfast & Immovable (vs 17)
 - 4. Grow in Grace to Glory (vs 18)

14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation...

“Beloved” - third time in this last chapter

“Waiting for” - Gr. προσδοκάω (*prosdokaō*) - wait with anxiety or apprehension, expect, look forward to the future

Vs 12 “coming day of God”, vs 13 “New heavens & new earth”, vs 14

“Be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish and at peace”

- Points back to vs 11 - “Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness”
- Peter’s using a lot of **Reminder by Repetition** here at the end of his letter

“Be Diligent” - Gr. σπουδάζω (*spoudazō*) - do quickly, do one’s best, make every effort, be eager

- Same word as “**make every effort** to supplement your faith” in verse 1:5
- Same word as “**diligent** to confirm your calling and election” in verse 1:10

“To be found **BY HIM**” - Gr. εὐρίσκομαι (*heuriskomai*) - discover, to learn something, to attain, to experience

- The base meaning of this verb is the act of searching, examining, or investigating
- Used in the judicial sense

2 Peter 3:10 “¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be **exposed** (*heuriskomai*).”

“Without Spot” - Gr. ἄσπιλος (*aspilos*) - without defect, spotless, not marred in one’s character -> **Christian Character**

1 Timothy 6:14 “to keep the commandment **unstained** and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ”

“Without blemish” - Gr. ἀμώμητος (*amōmētos*) - blameless, unblemished -> **Christian Reputation**

Philippians 2:15 “that you may be **blameless** and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”

2 Peter 3:14-18

Peter has used this same phrase two other times in his letters to contrast Christ and the False Teachers

1 Peter 1:19 (*Christ's perfection*)

¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb **without blemish or spot**.

2 Peter 2:13 (*False Teachers' depravity*)

They are **blots and blemishes**, reveling in their deceptions

"And at peace" - right with God

- As believers, we have been brought from wrath to reconciliation, enemies to friends of God
- As believers, we should not be living in fear, we have had our sins forgiven
- As believers, an eager expectation of Christ's return for His church should settle over us as a peace that defines who we are and how we live day-by-day

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ **And count the patience of our Lord as salvation...**

Another **Reminder by Repetition** in these closing remarks by Peter

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

"When Christians anticipate the day of God, which for them will mean eternal blessing, they should also remember the day of the Lord, which for the lost will mean eternal punishment. With that in mind, the opportunity of God's current patience should only heighten the church's evangelistic zeal" *John MacArthur*

F. Our Hope is a Steadfast Salvation (vs 14-18)

1. Perseverance in the Path to Peace (vs 14-15a)
2. **Unity in Faith & Fellowship (vs 15b-16)**
3. Steadfast & Immovable (vs 17)
4. Grow in Grace to Glory (vs 18)

^{15b} ...just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

In these final thoughts, Peter interjects this section on the Apostle Paul. It seems like there are some things that need to be explained, matters to be settled, confusion to be cleared up.

Paul

- Apostle called by God, not with the original 12 disciples
- With Peter at Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:6-21)
- Both Apostles ministered with Silas/Silvanus (Acts 15:40 & 1 Peter 5:12)
- Paul confronted Peter (Galatians 2:11-14)
- Peter's two letters were in the same area as Paul's letters to Ephesus, Galatia & Colossae
- Paul also wrote of the Day of the Lord, the Return of Christ, judgment, heaven, false teachers
- Peter is acknowledging and confirming Paul & His letters as being in agreement with Peter

2 Peter 3:14-18

Colossians 4:16 (*Paul's letters were distributed*)

¹⁶ And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.

“Wisdom given to him” - not his own wisdom but God’s

- Peter is familiar with Paul’s letters, but don’t know if he’s aware of all of them
- Paul is addressing many of the same topics and issues that Peter is and sees that as the Wisdom of God

“Hard to understand” - Gr. δυσνόητος (*dysnoētos*) - hard to comprehend, requiring great mental effort

- Not impossible to understand but difficult
- The finite understanding the infinite takes great effort

“Ignorant” - Gr. ἀμαθής (*amathēs*) - uneducated, untaught, implied stupid

“Unstable” - Gr. ἀστήρικτος (*astērikτος*) - weak, changeable in views and attitudes

2 Peter 2:14 “They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice **unsteady** souls.”

“Twist” - Gr. στρεβλώω (*strebloō*) - misinterpret, distort

- Originally used as torture by stringing someone to a rack and twisting out of joint

Peter has a final shot across the bow for the False Teachers

- They are ignorant of scripture
- They are not grounded in any solid belief but are waves crashing in the sea
- Unstable predators preying on weak, unsteady souls

“as they do the other Scriptures”

“Scriptures” - Gr. γραφή (*graphē*)

- Peter puts Paul’s writings on the same level as OT scripture

Romans 16:25-26

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

²⁶ **but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings** has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith

1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, **the word of God**, which is at work in you believers

F. Our Hope is a Steadfast Salvation (vs 14-18)

1. Perseverance in the Path to Peace (vs 14-15a)
2. Unity in Faith & Fellowship (vs 15b-16)
3. **Steadfast & Immovable (vs 17)**
4. Grow in Grace to Glory (vs 18)

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.

“Beloved” - fourth time in last chapter

“Knowing this beforehand” - Gr. προγινώσκω (*proginōskō*) - foreknow, select in advance

- “Since you are forewarned” (NRSV)
- “Since you know this in advance” (HCS)
- Where we get the word “prognosis” - forecast of what’s coming
- In reference to God, this is His foreknowledge in Romans 8:29, 11:2, 1 Peter 1:20

“...take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.”

“Take Care” - Gr. φυλάσσομαι (*phylassomai*) - guard closely, watch, keep in custody

“Carried away with” - Gr. συναπάγομαι (*synapagomai*) - be lead astray, share in doing

- Emphasizes a group movement

“Lawless” - Gr. ἄθεσμος (*athesmos*) - wicked, unprincipled men, vile people

2 Peter 2:7 - Lot greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the **wicked**

The guarding involved is not only yourself but those around you - protect the village, circle the wagons, bolster the defenses

Look at the current anti-Israel protests and riots at the so-called “Centers for Higher Learning”

- This is the natural outworking of teaching a worldview that is anti-God, anti-Bible, self-focused, self-serving and woke
- “You made the bed, now lie in it”
- The ideological, progressive left have said “We are coming for your children”

“(Do not) lose your own stability”

“Stability” - Gr. 5113 στηριγμός (*stērigmos*) - place of safety, security, firm position, firmness

Ephesians 4:14

¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

2 John 8

⁸Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.

1 Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brothers, **be steadfast, immovable**, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

F. Our Hope is a Steadfast Salvation (vs 14-18)

1. Perseverance in the Path to Peace (vs 14-15a)
2. Unity in Faith & Fellowship (vs 15b-16)
3. Steadfast & Immovable (vs 17)
4. **Grow in Grace to Glory (vs 18)**

¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Peter’s Closing Doxology

2 Peter 3:14-18

“Grow” - Gr. αὐξάνομαι (*auxanomai*) - increase, spread, extend
• present imperative - “be continually growing”

1 Peter 2:2

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may **grow** up into salvation

Ephesians 4:15

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow** up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ

How? “*In the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*”

“*Grace*” - Gr. χάρις (*charis*) - God’s unconditional love, unmerited favor

“*Knowledge*” - Gr. γνώσις (*gnōsis*) - understanding

Special statement recognizing Jesus’ lordship and deity - Jesus is fully man & fully God

“*Lord*” - Gr. κύριος (*kyrios*)

“*Savior*” - Gr. σωτήρ (*sōtēr*) - OT Messiah, the coming anointed One

*¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.***

“*Glory*” - Gr. δόξα (*doxa*)

Isaiah 42:8

⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name; **my glory I give to no other**, nor my praise to carved idols.

“The glory of redemption, the glory of spiritual growth, the glory of manifesting the symphony of grace, the glory of escape from the false teachers, and the glory of His ultimate return— *all* glory belongs to Jesus. And He receives that glory **both now and forever.**”

Gangel, K. O. (1985). [2 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 879). Victor Books.

“*Day of Eternity*” - Final Day of God that ushers in the Eternal State

“*Amen*” - Gr. ἀμήν (*amēn*) - truly, it is the truth, let it be

“Truly I say to you...” (Matthew 5:18, John 1:51)

Additional Resources:

2 Peter 3:14

James 1:27

²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself **unstained** from the world.

The graphic phrase *amōmou kai aspilou*, used in 1 Peter 1:19 to refer to the sinlessness of Christ as One without “blemish or defect,” is artfully rephrased in 2 Peter 2:13 as *spiloi kai mōmoi* (“blots and blemishes”) to refer to the character of the false teachers. The phrase is used again in 3:14, *aspiloi kai amōmētoi* (“spotless and blameless”), to challenge Christians to moral excellence in light of Christ’s return. The use of these and other unique words and phrases in these two epistles provides strong evidence of their common authorship.

Gangel, K. O. (1985). [2 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, pp. 860–861). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

1 Peter 1:19 (*Christ is opposite the false teachers*)

¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb **without blemish or spot**.

Psalms 24:3-4

³ Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully

“Peace” - Gr. εἰρήνη (eirēnē) - harmony, tranquility, welfare, health, freedom from worry

• Being right with God vs being under His wrath

John 14:27

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Peter is speaking about the kind of peace that banishes both earthly worries and cosmic fears—a peace that comes from knowing for certain that one’s sins are forgiven. No matter how terrible things become as human history moves toward final destruction, believers who live in hope have the settled peace sustained by what the Lord has planned for those who love Him (1 Cor. 2:9).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 132). Moody Publishers.

The teachers’ libertine lifestyle and ethic was inseparable from their eschatology. They rejected the future coming of Christ and therefore lived however they pleased. Peter realized that he must convince his readers of Christ’s coming if they were going to live in a way that pleases God. Peter’s argument is not pragmatic. That is, he did not invent the idea of a future judgment to foster ethical living now. On the contrary, the day of the Lord, consisting of both judgment and salvation, was bedrock reality for him. On the basis of this reality, believers are exhorted to godliness.

Schreiner, T. R. (2003). [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#) (Vol. 37, p. 393). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

2 Peter 3:15

Romans 2:4

⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and **patience**, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

1 Timothy 1:16

¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect **patience** as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Luke 15:11-32 (Parable of the Prodigal Son)

Gracious Father welcoming and forgiving the son back into fellowship

“...the **Lord** delays His return in order to save the remainder of His elect. Thus, Christians should **regard** God's **patience** with joy, knowing that He is daily adding to His family until it is complete.”

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). *2 Peter and Jude* (p. 134). Moody Publishers.

2 Peter 3:16

Those complexities opened the door for **the untaught and unstable**—namely, the false teachers—to **distort** what Paul taught about the future. **Untaught** denotes a lack of information, and **unstable** a vacillating spiritual character. **Distort** speaks of wrenching someone's body on a torture rack. The term vividly pictures how the false teachers manipulated certain prophetic issues, twisting them to confuse and deceive the undiscerning. Such distortion often continues today regarding prophetic revelation.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). *2 Peter and Jude* (p. 135). Moody Publishers.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21

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.

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Matthew 22:29

²⁹ But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the **Scriptures** nor the power of God.

Acts 17:11

¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the **Scriptures** daily to see if these things were so

2 Peter 3:17-18

Now the apostle, at one time more comfortable in fishing boats than with the parchments of biblical texts, affirmed the oneness of the Father and the Son in a splendid doxology. The One who is “our Lord” is also “our Savior.” And glory, which belongs only to God (Isa. 42:8), is also the Son’s (cf. 2 Peter 1:17). **To Him be glory** (lit., “the glory”) is Peter’s praise and prayer (cf. 2 Tim. 4:18). The glory of redemption, the glory of spiritual growth, the glory of manifesting the symphony of grace, the glory of escape from the false teachers, and the glory of His ultimate return—*all* glory belongs to Jesus. And He receives that glory **both now and forever**. “Forever” is literally, “to the day of the Age”—from the moment of the Cross, on through the days of the New Testament, throughout the history of the church, to the present hour, and throughout eternity! No wonder Peter concluded with the affirmative word of praise, **Amen!**

Gangel, K. O. (1985). [2 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 879). Victor Books.

Outline for 2 Peter

- II. Remember the Greatness of Salvation (1:1-11)
 - A. The Great Source of our Salvation (Justification) (1:3-4)
 - 1. Divine Power
 - 2. All Sufficient Supply
 - 3. Intimate Knowledge of His Majesty
 - 4. Magnificent Promises
 - 5. Companionship with God
 - B. The Great Journey of our Salvation (Sanctification) (1:5-8)
 - 1. Our Attitude for the Journey
 - 2. Seven Attributes for Holiness
 - 3. Settled Assurance
 - C. The Great Destination of our Salvation (Glorification) (1:9-11)
 - 1. Know for Certain your Destination (vs 9)
 - 2. Be Persistent in your Confirmation (vs 10)
 - 3. The Riches of our Glorification (vs 11)
- II. Trust the Certainty of Scripture (1:12-21)
 - A. Peter's Passion (vs 12-15)
 - 5. His Heartfelt Exhortation (vs 12)
 - 6. His Rallying Cry (vs 13)
 - 7. His Sober Realization (vs 14)
 - 8. His Steadfast Pursuit (vs 15)
 - B. Peter's Illumination (vs 16-18)
 - 1. He didn't Deceive You (vs 16)
 - 2. Jesus is Indeed the Christ (vs 17)
 - 3. His Prime Testimony (vs 18)
 - C. Peter's Revelation (vs 19-21)
 - 1. Heed the Light of Scripture (vs 19)
 - 2. Don't Look Inward for Scripture (vs 20)
 - 3. Be Confident of the Sure Source of Scripture (vs 21)
- III. Beware of Deceptive False Teachers (2:1-22)
 - A. High Alert for False Teachers (vs 1-3)
 - 1. A Breach Has Been Made (vs 1a)
 - 2. This Isn't Over Yet (vs 1b)
 - 3. Casualties are High (vs 2-3a)
 - 4. Retribution is Near (vs 3b)
 - B. Divine Precedent for False Teachers (vs 4-8)
 - 1. Supernatural Judgment (vs 4)
 - 2. World-Wide Judgment (vs 5)
 - 3. Hellfire Judgment (vs 6)
 - 4. Righteous Rescue (vs 7-8)
 - C. The Lord Knows (vs 9)
 - 1. How to Rescue the Redeemed
 - 2. How to Guard the Guilty
 - D. Carnal Traits of False Teachers (vs 10-16)
 - 1. Unrestrained Licentiousness (vs 10a)
 - 2. Reckless Arrogance (vs 10b-11)
 - 3. Senseless Impiety (vs 12)
 - 4. Disgusting Deception (vs 13)
 - 5. Pathological Sinner (vs 14)
 - 6. Unmerciful Mercenary (vs 15-16)

2 Peter 3:14-18

- E. Awful Wreckage by False Teachers (vs 17-22)
 - 1. Product of Empty Promises (vs 17)
 - 2. Confusion of Confident Stupidity (vs 18a)
 - 3. Trap of Alluring Temptation (vs 18b)
 - 4. Promise of Freedom through Bondage (vs 19)
 - 5. A Bitter End for a Bright Beginning (vs 20-21)
 - 6. Slippery Slope of Self-Delusion (vs 22)
- IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-18)
 - A. Remember the Promised Hope (vs 1-2)
 - 7. Wake up to Wholesome Thinking (vs 1)
 - 8. Hope from the Past, Hope for the Future (vs 2)
 - B. Scoffers Attack our Hope (vs 3-4)
 - 1. By Mocking (vs 3a)
 - 2. Because of Sensual Pleasures (vs 3b)
 - 3. From Uniformity (vs 4)
 - C. Hope is Secured in a Cosmic Plan (vs 5-7)
 - 1. Creation (vs 5)
 - 2. Catastrophe (vs 6)
 - 3. Consummation (vs 7)
 - D. Hope is Timeless (vs 8-10)
 - 1. God is Infinite (vs 8)
 - 2. Mercy is Longsuffering (vs 9)
 - 3. The End is Near (vs 10)
 - E. The Inevitable Transformation of Hope (vs. 11-13)
 - 1. Hope Leads the Way to Holiness (vs 11)
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