

Passage: 2 Peter 1:1-3

Title: What God can do with a Man/Woman who is Reachable and Teachable.

Summary: We start our study of this epistle with imperfect Peter, who is so relatable to all of us in our imperfection, yet we start this epistle off by seeing what God can do with a man/woman who is reachable and teachable, who is willing to grow in the knowledge of who they are, and who "God is".

2 Peter 1:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 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,

Written Peter / 66AD / Dies 67AD / From Prison

Written by Peter around 66AD, it has been about 30 years now since Jesus had ascended into heaven; and in less than a year (According to church tradition/early writings) that Peter will be crucified (67AD). Because of such a late writing, many deduce that Peter is writing this letter from a prison cell in Rome (and according to the writings of the early church fathers).

Peter's Knew Time Near / Just as Jesus Said – John 21 / Hands Spread

Peter clearly knew that his time was near:

(2 Peter 1:14 NKJV) knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

Just as the Lord had shown him:

(John 21:18 NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."

(John 21:19 NKJV) This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

Your hands will be spread Peter and you will have no control over where they take you. Church tradition says that Peter was crucified, but Peter did not feel worthy to die in the same manner of his Lord, so he asked to be crucified upside down.

Time Near – Must Write / Outward Pressures – Inward Pressures / False Teachers – Mocking 2nd

Peter knows that his death is near and writes to the church. In his first letter he had turned his attention outward pressures that were coming upon the church such as the attacks of Nero, and the pressures of the world. But in this second letter he writes concerning pressures within the church such as false teachers, and people mocking the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. You know false teachers are not just these guys with funny hair trying to fleece people of their money. But they are people who diminish the power of Christ in people's life. They water down the Word, they wink at sin, they twist the Scriptures and say this is ok, and that no longer applies. I believe the church is seeing more false teachers than any other time in the history of the church.

Stirs Us Up

Peter tells us in this Second Epistle why he writes to them (and us), to stir us up, to remind us, that we hang on to the things we have been taught in the Old Testament, the Epistles of the Apostles, and the teachings in the Gospels. He says remember these things, hold on to them, no matter how hard life may get.

(2 Peter 3:1 NKJV) Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),

(2 Peter 3:2 NKJV) 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,

Peter's Heart / 30 yrs Later

Peter's heart really comes across to us here, we see the heart of the Shepherd caring for his flock, and we see him 30 years later doing what Jesus told him to do, what a good shepherd is supposed to do, feed the flock:

*(John 21:15 NKJV) So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Feed My lambs.**"*

(John 21:16 NKJV) He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

(John 21:17 NKJV) He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

Peter Feeds / Wants them to Know / 16X / Peter's Solution – Through His power

Peter feeds the flock, and we see this as the theme of this epistle. He wants them to "Know". The word knowledge appears in some form 16 times in these 3 short chapters. It is not too much to say that Peter's primary solution to false teaching is knowledge of true doctrine, the solution against misunderstanding the "end times" is knowledge of true doctrine. But this knowledge is also the solution to every problem and situation in your life. Whatever problem or situation is going on in your life, God has a promise or example in His Word to meet us where we are at. And, it is through the knowledge of Him, that we tap into His divine power, and it is through that power that we have all we need to live this life.

Theme

This knowledge, will give us power. The theme of this book is given to us in chapter 1:

(2 Peter 1:2 NKJV) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

(2 Peter 1:3 NKJV) 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,

Outline of 2 Peter

- Introduction - (1:1-3)
- Know Your Salvation - (1:3-11)
- Know Your Scripture - (1:12-21)
- Know Your Adversaries - (2:1-22)
- Know Your Prophecy - (3:1-18)

More than Birth / Growth & Development / Can't Live Godly Life

The Christian life is more than just a birth, it is also a growth and development. It is only through the knowledge of Christ that you can live down here and grow to be more of a godly person. Everything that you need to live a life of godliness is provided for us by God. We cannot live that life in and of ourselves. We don't have the capacity. I can't say, Well I'm going to live like God. And by my resolve, do it. But God has given to us all that is necessary to live that life of godliness. It's imparted to us, that is, through the word of God.

Don't Need Further Revelation – New Truth / New Experiences of Old Truths

We do not need further revelation. We need not be interested in new truth. We just need to lay hold of the truths already revealed to us here in the Word. It's all there! I am not interested in these religious systems that want to peddle their formulas for the church. The Latter Day Saints with their special revelations, the Holy Laughter movement, etc. Don't need it. All that is necessary to live the life of godliness has been provided for us, and we don't need further revelations. That also applies to each individual; those who they form in their mind who they think God is, but that is incorrect, it is only through His Word can we know who He is.

When we know who He is, then we will know who we are. Peter immediately brings this point to light in verse 1:

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

When we know who He is, then we will know who we are. Peter immediately brings this point to light in verse 1:

(2 Peter 1:1 NKJV) Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

Peter: Relatable and Teachable

Peter Loveable – Reflection / Sleeping – Talking - Silent

Peter that loveable disciple that is so much a reflection of us.

- Sleeping when he should have been praying (in the Garden).
- Talking when he should have been silent (on the Mount of Transfiguration).
- Silent when he should have been talking (Jesus trial - aren't you with Him, I never knew Him).

Peter is so relatable to us.

Plenty Setbacks / Yet Teachable – Useable / Will do for You – Lord Committed to You

Peter had plenty of setbacks and failures, yet through them all, we see that the Lord saw him through them all. The Lord sees him through because he was teachable, and because he was teachable he was useable, and the Lord established him as a leader in the Church. What the Lord did with Peter, He will do with you, Peter is no special case, for just as committed the Lord was to Peter, so is He committed to you.

Peter Sift – Jesus Prayed

The Lord prayed for Peter; Satan wanted to sift him, but Jesus prayed for Peter:

(Luke 22:31 NKJV) And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

(Luke 22:32 NKJV) "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Romans 8 / Lord Knows our Heart

And in Romans 8 we know that the Spirit is praying for us, interceding for us:

(Romans 8:26 NKJV) Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

(Romans 8:27 NKJV) Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Lord knows our heart, He knows we want to do right, but we so often mess up. But the Lord continues His work in us, and He continues praying for us, until that day we see Him face to face.

Simon Peter: What God can do with Man/Woman who is Reachable and Teachable

Our Proof – Simon Peter / Shifting Sand – Unstable / the Lord Knew when Finished

Our proof text of that, Peter, or better said as this letter is started, Simon Peter. Peter's name was Simon before it was Peter. When he first met Jesus his name was Simon, which means "shifting sand, unstable". That was Simon, he was unstable, he was shifting sand, but the Lord knew what he would be when God was done with him. And God knows what you will be when He is done, no matter how unstable you may feel you are, as long as you continue on with Him:

(Philippians 1:5 NKJV) for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Peter – Rock / 30yrs later Living up to Name / Change came when Got It

Simon you will be called Peter, which means "rock". You are shifting sand, but I will make you solid as a rock. This epistle we read was written some 30 years after his name change. And we see a man living up to his name, we see a man who is a leader in the church, we see a man who has matured. But interestingly, and comforting to us, the name change did not come when after 30 years of "getting it", but one day when he "got it".

(Matthew 16:15 NKJV) He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

(Matthew 16:16 NKJV) Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

(Matthew 16:17 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

*(Matthew 16:18 NKJV) "And I also say to you **that you are Peter**, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

When Does It Change from Shifting Sand – When We See Our True Identity Sand to Rock – After Revelation of Spirit / My Savior – Lamb – My Everything

When did "shifting sand" become the "rock"? After the revelation of the Holy Spirit to him of who Jesus truly is, the Messiah, the Savior, the Lamb of God, the God Man. To Peter, my everything.

When Understood Jesus – Understood True Identity

When Peter understood who Jesus was, then he understood who he really was, what his true identity was.

People today Looking / Plastic – Work - Youth

People today are looking for their identity, trying to find themselves. We see as they line up at the plastic surgeons, we see it as they find their place in the work field, we see it in our youth as they try to find out where they fit in. We see it from youth to the elderly, people confused who they are.

Not About Me / About Him / True Identity / The Gospel

It is when a man or woman, whether 14, 48, or 98, when they finally realize that life is all about Him, not about me, that He is Creator of all things, and that for Him all things were created, it is then that a man or woman will find their true identity. Let me say this, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not to make God acceptable to you (for He is God no matter what you think of Him), the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to make you acceptable to Him, the Holy God. But when a man or woman finally realize that life is all about Him, not about me, that He is Creator of all things, and that for Him all things were created, it is then that a man or woman will find their true identity.

(Colossians 1:15 NKJV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

*(Colossians 1:16 NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him.***

(Colossians 1:17 NKJV) And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

(Colossians 1:18 NKJV) And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

(Colossians 1:19 NKJV) For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

(Colossians 1:20 NKJV) and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

(Revelation 4:11 KJV) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, **and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

He holds the Universe / Through Revelation of Spirit / True Identity / Everything Else Shifting Sand

He holds the universe together, He is the center of the universe. When a person realizes this, through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, it is then that a person will find their true identity, for everything they will see is just shifting sand. How we look, where we work, where we live, and all those things we be shifting

sand in our lives. Not until we see that we exist for Him, that He is Creator and I am His creation. I believe you can be saved and not get it. You can realize that He is your Savior, but still be that carnal Christian spoken of in Romans 7, a Christian that continues in the flesh.

Blesses are You Simon / Peter / You Got It / I'll see ya Through

Blessed are you Simon (shifting sand) for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but the Holy Spirit. You are now Peter (the rock); you have got it, you have found your identity, and I will see you through the rest of the way:

(Philippians 1:5 NKJV) for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Starts by Compounding Name / He Never Forgot / God of All Grace

Verse 1 - Simon Peter: Peter starts this epistle by compounding his two names together - Simon Peter. Peter is much older now, much more mature, an elder and a leader, but he starts with Simon Peter because he never forgot who he was. He knows had it not been for the **God of All Grace**, his life would have been greatly different:

(1 Peter 5:10 NKJV) But may the **God of all grace**, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

Good to Remember Where we Came / Where we Would Be / A Life of Shifting Sand

It is a good thing for all of us to remember where we would be right now had it not been for the God of All Grace. Some of us would be in a ditch, on spouse number 5, alcohol eating away at our liver, depression, or equally as bad, the good life, living the American Dream and cruising right along not even seeing eternal damnation coming up in the next turn. For all of us, whether we would have realized it or not, a life of shifting sand, a life of nothing we could not have held on to, or built off of.

Easy to just See Today / Remember Days of Shifting Sand

If you have been saved for any length of time now, it is so easy to forget where the Lord has taken us from. It is so easy to only see the difficulties that are upon us now. It is good to remember and reflect on our days and lives of "shifting sand".

The Beauty of Being a Bondslave

Bondservant - Doulous

Verse 1 - Simon Peter, a bondservant: Then Peter calls himself a bondservant (also called bondslave), the Greek word "doulous":

doulos, doo'-los; from G1210; a slave (lit. or fig., invol. or vol.; frequently therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subvency):--bond (-man), servant.

Failure of Debt / 6yrs / Love my Master / Doorpost / Master Resp / Woman Slave

In that time a person could become a slave for failure to pay a debt, economic hardship, or such, but at the end of six years they were to be set free and be proclaimed debt-free. However if a person loved their master, didn't want to leave, they could become a bondslave to that master. They would take and awl and pierce the person's ear at the doorpost of the house, and then insert an earring specially designed that represented the master's house. The person willingly chose to be a slave, willing to serve his master for life. It then became the master's responsibility to cloth, feed, house, provide medical attention, and even find a spouse for his bond slave. The Master was totally responsible for that person's well being. It is interesting to note, a woman who was a slave, if she was promised to the son of the Father, then she was to be treated like a daughter (we see the picture of the Bride of Christ).

Peter Identifies as Bondservant

Peter identifies himself as a bondservant of Jesus Christ. I have willingly given my life to him, and now I am totally His responsibility Peter is saying. I love my Master, and I never want to leave my Master's house. And, my Master loves me and is willing to keep me for life.

Pray this into your Heart / Puts Perspective / That is what Bondservant Does

Brethren, pray these words into your heart, Ray - a bondservant of Jesus Christ. For when you do it will put perspective on life. There are times when I don't feel like doing the will of God, I don't feel like being obedient, I don't feel like serving, and then these words come flooding back to me, and I say to myself, this is what a bondservant does - and then it is settled in my heart and mind:

(1 Corinthians 6:19 NKJV) Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

(1 Corinthians 6:20 NKJV) For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Sounds like Bondage / No-No – True Identity / True Contentment / Not Doing – Shifting Sand

To some they may say that sounds like bondage, but if you truly get it, no longer Simon, but Peter, then my identity is in Him, it is who I am, and it is only there that I will find true contentment and fulfillment. It is when I am not doing the things God has called me to do, it is then that I find myself drifting back again to shifting sand, dealing with unstable things, and the ultimate result is that I sense a feeling of emptiness, that the things I am doing are in vain, a feeling of unfulfillment.

Lord Knows Exactly / My Master Puts Me / Flesh Rises – This What Bondservant Does

You see the Lord knows exactly where you need to be, and what you need to be doing. Being a bondservant means my Master puts me in positions and places that are best for me. As a servant, when my flesh rises up, I can quickly put my flesh, my mind in subjection to the Spirit by saying, "this is what a bondservant does, and I am a bondservant of Jesus Christ.

Law or Reaping – Positive / Waking Early – Sunday School - Television

We so often speak of the law of reaping and sowing in the negative sense. Well see you hurting now because you were doing things that you should not have been. But let me tell you about the positive side of reaping and sowing. When you do the things called has called you to do, and sometimes you might not feel like doing it;

- I don't feel like waking early to have quiet time with the Lord before my day begins. I can tell you now, I can clearly see how the difference it makes, and after all these years I can clearly see how poorly my day goes when I skip that time.
- I don't feel like teaching Sunday School, I can clearly see how blessed I am after I have no choice but to get into the Word.
- I chose to not watch this show, the content and the visuals are not fruitful to my soul. I can clearly see how I don't feel "dirty or drained", and how I am so much more attached to my wife when we lay down to sleep.

It's Beautiful / We Get the Better End

It is a beautiful thing to be a bondservant of Jesus Christ. We truly get the better end of the deal of being a bondservant.

Have to Be Disciplined Before Sent Out

Apostle – Disciple / Important to Know

Verse 1 - Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ: An apostle, meaning "sent out one". Different from Disciple, which means "a disciplined one". The application for today is that you have to be a disciplined one before you can be a sent out one. That is why it is important that we "know":

- Know Your Salvation - (1:3-11)
- Know Your Scripture - (1:12-21)
- Know Your Adversaries - (2:1-22)
- Know Your Prophecy - (3:1-18)

Our Faith: Beyond Calculation of Worth

Like Precious / Beyond Calculation / Salvation beyond Calculation

Verse 1 - To those who have obtained like precious faith with: Written to us, for we have like precious faith. This word precious means "beyond calculation of worth". That is what our faith is, and it only comes through the righteousness of Christ. This gift of salvation, it is beyond calculation of worth.

God and Savior / Greek Construction

Verse 1 - by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Interesting to note here, the "and" is not there in the Greek. It simply reads God Savior Jesus Christ. The Greek construction has only one article before this phrase making the entire phrase refer to the same person. Thus, Peter is identifying Jesus Christ as both Savior and God.

Jesus God / That is why Beyond Calculation – God came Down

Peter is clearly saying here that Jesus is God. That is why this faith is beyond calculation and worth, because God became man, and the man became the Lamb, and the Lamb became the worm, suffered, died, was buried, but rose again on the third day. What is it today that you feel you are lacking? Today I pray you will take a quiet moment and consider that, and realize what has been given you. God loves you!

Psalm 22:6 (NKJV) ⁶ But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

Psalm 22:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God.

Psalm 22:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

God became, so we could become!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Peter is Living It / Can say Verse 2

Peter is living it, he is old, getting ready to die, and what does he say, and can he say, verse 2:

(2 Peter 1:2 NKJV) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

Grace always proceeds peace in the Bible because you cannot experience peace with god, until you have received and accepted His grace, which was given to you through the cross.

Grace of God Doesn't Grow: Our Understanding of Grace Does More Knowledge – More Understanding of Grace

The longer you walk with the Lord, the closer you get to the Lord, the more knowledge you have of the Lord, the greater your understanding will be that He is the God of All Grace, and that understanding will multiply the peace in your life. If you do not have peace in your life, peace in your heart today, then ask yourself how much knowledge of God do I have. As I have said before, you can have all of God you want, but not one drop more.

More Know His Grace – More gracious You Will Be

I must also say, the more you grow in the knowledge of Him, the more you know His grace, the more gracious you will be towards others. When you realize that it is done, it is finished, I am forgiven and my sins forgotten, and that my Jesus loves me, and I am totally accepted before Him, then you will show the same to others. If you find that you harbor bitterness and resentment towards others, consider this verse.

(2 Peter 1:3 NKJV) 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,

Back to our theme. Everything we need to live a life of godliness is found right here in His Word.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

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