

The Book of 2 Peter

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Chapter 1

Introduction - (1:1-3)

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)
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- 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 an 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 bondslave 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 bondslave 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 bondslave 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

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Know Your Salvation - (1:3-11)

Passage: 2 Peter 1:3-11

Title: Know Your Salvation

Summary: Spiritual life either grows or dies. Believers should not be content to hold their “faith” but should “add” to it with wholehearted “diligence”. In our study today, Peter will cover seven supplements needed to round out and grow the believer’s faith. Two affect the believer’s relationship to God (knowledge, godliness) and five affect his relationship to other people (virtue, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, love).

2 Peter 1:1–11 (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, 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. 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.

Written to

People with like precious faith. These people as we know from the first epistle were scattered from their homes because of the persecution that was upon them, everything they knew as familiar was gone, and they are living in areas foreign to them. But this book is timeless, as it is written to each of you who have that same precious faith that Peter and these people did:

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

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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:

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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.

Why he Writes - 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 Divine 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 a more 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 / Form their God

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. Or the Cults like 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.

Today's Study

Spiritual life either grows or dies. Believers should not be content to hold their "faith" (pistei, belief, assurance, persuasion, as in verse 1) but should "add" (epichorēgēsate, amply furnish, contribute nourishment) to it with wholehearted "diligence" (spoudēn, carefulness, intense effort). Peter listed seven supplements needed to round out the believer's faith. Two affect the believer's relationship to God (knowledge, godliness) and five affect his relationship to other people (virtue, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, love).

Outline of Know Your Salvation - (1:3-11)

- Power Given - (1:3-4)
- Power Added - (1:5-7)
- Power Produced - (1:8-11)

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

(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:

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

More Knowledge – More Grace / Peter Lopping Off Ears – To Grace

The more knowledge, the more understanding of the Lord you have, the more you will understand His grace, and the more peace you will have in your life. Look at Peter, he goes from lopping off ears to writing an epistle with the theme of grace and peace. There is freedom in grace, and the grace brings an abundance of peace in our life

Power Given - (1:3)

(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,

Divine Power

Verse 3 – as His divine power has been given – We live a supernatural life (divine power has been given), but it is a choice of how much we want as we will study and see in our passage today. So the question as we start today? How much of this lie and godliness do we want? Let's ask Him for abundance!

Past Tense / Now Apply It

Notice the past tense used here, has given to us? Everything pertaining to life and godliness has been given to us. Past tense, all we have to do is apply it, we do that through the knowledge of Him, that is why we dig into this Word.

Sounds Simple / Early Life / New Revelation – Conference – Man – Altar Calls – Tongues Trip

It sounds simple, but I spent so much of my early Christian years looking for some new revelation, some magical moment with the Lord that would change my life forever, or I thought I would go to some conference and some new insight would be given to me, or maybe I would meet some great godly man who would speak something mighty to me, prophecy over me. I remember those few times going forward as they pastor called people forward for the laying on of hands, and of course I remember the speaking in tongues trip, if I could just speak in tongues than something mighty was going to happen in my life from that point on. Those early years I so much wanted some special moment that would change me forever, that in a moment I would become super-Christian. But that isn't what the Word says, it says all (meaning All) we need pertaining to life and godliness has been given to us, through the knowledge of Him.

Grow Fellowship of Word

I, you, we, grow and mature through the knowledge of Him, through our fellowship with the Word:

(Romans 10:17 NKJV) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(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;

There Are Special Moments / Danger w/in Calvary's

Now, there are those special times you may have with the Lord. And I want to say that because there is a danger within Calvary Chapel fellowships that there is such an emphasis on the knowledge, that people are only operating with their head, and not their heart. God is love, and love is also an emotion. Our relationship with Him is with our hearts and our minds:

(Matthew 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

(Matthew 22:38 NKJV) "This is the first and great commandment.

(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

My Special Moments / War was On /

So be careful of that, knowledge must make its way to the heart, that is how God intends it to be. As for those "special moments", that "special touch" they may happen in your life, but those times are not to turn us into "super-Christian" in a blink of an eye. They are what they are, a special time with the Lord. I can remember such a time, it was some 30 years ago. I was a Christian about 6 months, the light had come on, I saw I was a sinner and needed a Savior, and I saw my wonderful Savior Jesus. But, though He was my Savior I thought the words on drunkardness and the clubbing lifestyle were a little much, I really questioned what was wrong with it. So the war was on in members, the spirit versus the flesh, and I had no peace, I couldn't enjoy anything of the flesh because something was always saying what are you doing, I couldn't enjoy the things of the spirit because things didn't seem right. But I did continue in the study of the Word, growing in the knowledge of Him.

That Night – Waves of Love / Next Day

I remember that night laying in my bed in Cocoa Beach Florida; just saying this just isn't working, I know these things are not right. I said that's it, doesn't matter anymore, Lord your ways are my ways, I'm not fighting it anymore. Then it happened, I can't really describe it, but the best I can describe it as was waves of love started rolling through my body, it was like liquid love, it was a beautiful moment. I felt peace because my rebellion against the Word was over, I could finally rest. However, the next day my flesh was still present, and I still had the battle in my mind to say no against these things.

It was Special / War to Peace – Knowledge of Him / My Surrender

It was a special moment, but what was it that turned that war into peace, it wasn't that moment, it was the knowledge of Him. It was coming to the place that your Word is true, you are for me, you are not against me, you love me and only want the best for me, your Word is to protect me and keep me from harm, to keep me from making the same mistake over and over again – It was my surrender of my will be done.

All We Need Given – Through Knowledge of Him

All we need for life and godliness is given to us through the knowledge of Him, no special revelations needed, no special moments, just fellowship with Him through the Word and prayer.

Knowledge Never Ceases

This knowledge of Him never ceases:

(Hebrews 4:12 NKJV) 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.

Study Morning to Morning / Best Thing I can Give You

Take time to study Him, not just Sunday and Wednesday here, but morning to morning. Always, the best thing I could ever give you as my brother and sister in Christ, is this Word, for it is all you need. Notice the end of verse 3 says that He called us by glory. The word for glory here is the Greek word for the Hebrew word "Kabod" which means "**weighty, of substance**". Jesus Christ is our solid foundation, our rock on which to stand, everything else in life is just shifting sand. Nothing can move us when we stand with Him – thus we have all things pertaining to life and godliness.

(2 Peter 1:4 NKJV) 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.

Precious Promises / Beyond Calculation / 7474

Verse 4 - have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises: all these promises packed away in this book given to us to enjoy. There is a good reason to dig through this book and hear these precious promises. And again, **precious means "beyond calculation of worth"**. Someone counted, bless their heart, and they counted 7,474 promises in this book. Some:

(Hebrews 13:5 NKJV) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Which of the 7+ thousand do you need today? Recall it, because it is yours!

Divine Nature / Don't have to Live in Mud / Slave to Addiction – Lust – Bitterness – Hatred

Verse 4 - that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. - Listen beloved, you do not have to live in the mud, you do not have to be a slave to that addiction, to that sexual lust, to bitterness, hatred, to your depression for we have been given His divine nature. His nature, in us, and it is raised up and released in our lives through the knowledge of Him, and that gives us freedom over these things. Refer back to last study, our identity is in Him, the craziness of the world can be traced directly to lust. Whether regarding money, sex, esteem, or approval, lust simply says, "I've got to have more." And it is from such a mind-set that we have been delivered.

In giving believers "all things" (verse 3), the Lord has granted them "promises" (epangelmata, pledge, self-committal, assurance) that are very valuable and exceedingly great. If believers will claim these precious promises they may, even now, be "partakers" (koinōnoi, sharer, partner) in Christ's "nature" (phuseōs, genus, lineal descent, native disposition, constitution). Peter was speaking here of regeneration, as in 1 Peter 1:3. This divine nature implanted within the believer by the new birth becomes the source of his new lifestyle. The new lifestyle does not come automatically; the believer must make an effort. He must flee away from "lust" (epithumia, passionate desire, strong craving—usually for what is

forbidden) or he will experience “corruption” (phthoras, decay, ruin). “Having escaped” (apophugontes) means “escape by flight.” God helps those who flee the old life to develop the new life if they cooperate with Him.

Harris, R. W., ed. (1989). Hebrews–Jude (p. 323). World Library Press.

Power Added - (1:5-7)

Live to the Max

Now Peter is going on to say, do you want to experience life to the max, then add to your faith, these things:

(2 Peter 1:5 NKJV) But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

Partakers

Verse 4 – You may be partakers of the divine nature – As I did some inventory on these seven attributes of His Divine nature, I came to see how far short I fall in them. I had to ask myself how much am I lacking today regarding having all the “great and precious promises” because of not adding of those things. The Christian life is one of adding or subtracting (verse 5 says), so I stop here and say Lord I want to add to my life these 7-things, so I can receive all your precious (beyond calculation worth) promises.

Spiritual Life – Either Grows or Die

Spiritual life either grows or dies. Believers should not be content to hold their “faith” (pistei, belief, assurance, persuasion, as in verse 1) but should “add” (epichorēgēsate, amply furnish, contribute nourishment) to it with wholehearted “diligence” (spoudēn, carefulness, intense effort). Peter listed seven supplements needed to round out the believer’s faith. Two affect the believer’s relationship to God (knowledge, godliness) and five affect his relationship to other people (virtue, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, love).

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So Simple – 3 Verses – 7 things / No Tapes / Faith – Nourish it

God makes it so simple for us, just 3 verses. We don’t need the 25-tape set sold on PBS, no Tony Evans Seminar, just 3 verses. We don’t need special revelation, just 3 verses. Notice these things are added to your faith. You don’t add faith because it is already a gift from God. So you don’t add to faith, but you can strengthen faith for this word add means to furnish and nourish. So you do so by these 7 things:

The Chorus Dance

Add to your faith: Literally in the ancient Greek, “Lead up hand in hand; alluding, as most think, to the chorus in the Grecian dance, who danced with joined hands.” (Clarke)

Virtue / Moral Excellence – Junk of World

Add Virtue - So faith, you are born-again, now add virtue. **Virtue is “moral excellence”**, the putting away of the junk of the world. I like this phrase, moral excellence, it eliminates that wishy-washy Christianity, it lays it out – moral excellence, no room for anything less than excellence.

Knowledge / Second? / Are you Hungering?

Add Knowledge - To Virtue (moral excellence) add knowledge. Now this seems confusing based on the theme and context of this epistle. Shouldn’t knowledge be second? You see, if your mind is cluttered up with the junk of the world, you will not be able to study the Word and gain the knowledge of Him. I really don’t feel like hitting the treadmill after eating at McDonalds or after downing a bag of Doritos. Christian, if you are not hungering for the Word, then maybe it is because you are feasting on junk food.

(2 Peter 1:6 NKJV) to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

Self Control / Not Letting In

Add Self Control - Now as you gain knowledge, increasing your understanding of the Lord, you will have more and more self-control, you will be saying negative no way, I am not entering into that. Hey just a word for prayer and consideration; sometimes our self, doesn't control, and we say something or do something that now brings us into a place of pride, and rather than repent, or come lowly, or ask for forgiveness, we just continue to live it, defend it, justify it..... and thus we dig a hole we can never get out of because we just keep digging it deeper and deeper. Just stop digging, and start filling the hole back in by asking for forgiveness and begin to make a mends with whoever we offended.

Perseverance / Selling Short / Marriage / Everything Else

Add Perseverance – which is patience. **Self-control will lead us to wait, to wait for what is best.** Too many Christians are selling themselves short because of their lack of patience. That is what sex before marriage does, it sells a person short. A person has no self-control therefore they won't be patient and wait for the person that will grow them deeper in Christ. They get married based on the emotion and then a few years after the pop, comes the fizzle, and they spend the rest of their life in a flat relationship. That is why we need knowledge, so we can have self-control, so we will be patient, and that applies to anything and everything in our lives. Kids getting to you, that boss, how about that so called Christian brother?

(2 Peter 1:7 NKJV) to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

Godliness / Attributes of God / Gracious – Merciful / Knowledge we become more like Him

Add Godliness – Patience produces the attributes of godliness, **the likeness of God.** We will be gracious, because God is gracious and we are growing in His knowledge and that is making us more like Him. We will be more merciful towards others because God is merciful and we are growing in His knowledge and that is making us more like Him.

Brotherly Kindness - Love

Add Brotherly Kindness and Love – we will be these things because God is love. As we grow in His knowledge we become more like Him, and the inward work will naturally flow out of us.

(1 John 4:8 NKJV) He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 Corinthians

We see 1 Corinthians 13 here in 2 Peter:

(1 Corinthians 13:4 NKJV) Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

(1 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV) does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

(1 Corinthians 13:6 NKJV) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

(1 Corinthians 13:7 NKJV) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

(1 Corinthians 13:8 NKJV) Love never fails.

The Fruits of Spirit

We also see the fruits of the Spirit here in this list:

(Galatians 5:22 NKJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

(Galatians 5:23 NKJV) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

These are Things of Salvation

These are the things of salvation, these are all things we can be and abound more in. What beautiful words.

Power Produced - (1:8-11)

(2 Peter 1:8 NKJV) For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ever Feel Dry / Add These things / Pray them – Seek them / Checklist

Ever feel dry, ever feel barren? Then add these things, start working on these things, add them to your life and you won't be dry or barren. Take these words and pray them, seek them. This is a wonderful practical checklist for us.

Waiting for Ministry / Bearing Fruit / That is What Ministry Is – Being Picked

Many times people say they want to be in the ministry (like they are waiting for some type of opening). It says here that if you do these things then you will be fruitful (opposite of unfruitful). Fruitfulness, that is what the ministry is; the ministry is allowing yourself to be picked and enjoyed by others, nourishing them and refreshing them.

Who Can Be All These / Jesus Modeled Them / Abide In Him

You may say who can be all these things, who can attain such things. There is one man, the God man who has all these. He modeled all these attributes when He walked this earth, and as we hang out with Him, gaining knowledge of Him, as we abide in Him, then these things will naturally start working themselves out in our lives, without even having to strive:

(John 15:4 NKJV) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

(John 15:5 NKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Resultant Ministry / In Home – Schools – Work - Community

And the resultant will be ministry, in our homes, in our schools, in our community, workplace, because we will be producing fruit for others to pick, eat of, enjoy, and be nourished by so that they too may be strengthened.

In the Book of Acts, they did not go into the ministry, the ministry went into them!

It is a Cycle / Every Time

What we have here is a cycle; a little virtue will produce knowledge, the knowledge will produce self-control, that self-control will produce patience, that patience will produce godliness, and that godliness will produce brotherly kindness and unto love. Every time you grow in the Knowledge of Him, you will grow in these things. That fact should wake us in the morning to seek Him.

(2 Peter 1:9 NKJV) For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Know Your Salvation / Don't Be Blind

Know your salvation, don't be blinded, don't just settle on being saved, grow in the knowledge of Him.

Don't Forget Where Came From / You won't be These / Saved by Grace – Will Diligently Seek Him

The epistle starts with Simon Peter, Simon was Peter's name before He met the Lord. When you forget where you came from, you will do none of these things. You will have no self-control, patience, godliness. When you remember that you were saved by grace, you were destined for hell, then you will diligently seek these things because you will want to know more about this awesome God who became man to save you.

Never Consider Evolution / Who Could Love

You know I never even considered that evolution was a possible creation for man until I got saved. It was after I got saved that I started to examine the Evolution Theory, not because I thought it had any scientific merit, because it really does stretch the Laws of Science, actually it defies the Law's of Science. I struggled with it because I struggled that there could be such a person that could love, as the Lord loves.

I questioned His existence because I couldn't grasp the magnitude of His love. But I continue diligently seeking these things, and my faith was added unto, strengthened, He spoke His Words of love to me every time I opened this Word.

(2 Peter 1:10 NKJV) Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

Not Works for Salvation

This is not a call to works for salvation, for we are saved by grace through faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Do Them – Never Stumble / One of the 7474 Promises

Do the things we just studied and you will never stumble. This is a promise from God, one of those 7474 precious promises. God bless you today for being here to study His Word and grow in your knowledge of Him.

(2 Peter 1:11 NKJV) for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Do them – Be Fruitful / Eternal Reward

Do these things and you will be fruitful, your life will be the abundant life that Christ promised us. Christians who say their life is boring have totally missed it, there is no life more excited than a life that is set apart for the Lord. And, at the end of this exciting life, will be the eternal reward, and you will be glad that you did what you did.

Sentence Structure / You Add – God Adds / Mansion - Abide

Notice the sentence structure here in verses 10 and 11, if you add, then God will add. Interestingly Jesus says I will go prepare a place for you, but then He says while I am gone prepare a place for me and the Father to dwell in your heart:

(John 14:2 NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

(John 14:23 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

It is the same Greek word used for mansion in verse 2 as it is for home in verse 23.

So Simple – 3 Verses

God makes it so simple, 3 verses, 7 things. You want to make your call and election sure, do these 7 things.

(2 Peter 1:12 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 1:13 NKJV) Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

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

(2 Peter 1:15 NKJV) Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

This is Ministry - Remember

This is the ministry, putting people in remembrance of these things. Sometimes I struggle because I think I need to bring some new truth, some deeper truth that nobody has ever seen. But this is ministry Sunday School teacher, Bible Study Leader, Youth Group Worker, remind people of the things they already know, to remind them to do the things they know they are to do, and we will all live that Victorious

Christian Life. That is why verse-by-verse is so wonderful, it always brings us back to remembrance of the word, because we are reading it line upon line.

Outline of Know Your Salvation - (1:3-11)

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Prayer

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- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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- 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

Know Your Scripture - (1:12-21)

Passage: 2 Peter 1:12-21

Title: Know Your Scripture

Summary: A wonderful passage as Peter is getting ready to go home and be with the Lord, and in some of the last strokes of the pen quill, Peter writes to remind them (and us); Remind us of what? The basic things..... for in the basic things is power, just ask Peter who finishes his last days in pure power, and tells us it was the basic things that held his faith through the hardest times.

2 Peter 1:12–21 (NKJV) 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. 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.

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

Written to – Like Precious Faith

People with like precious faith. These people as we know from the first epistle were scattered from their homes because of the persecution that was upon them, everything they knew as familiar was gone, and they are living in areas foreign to them. But this book is timeless, as it is written to each of you who have that same precious faith that Peter and these people did:

(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:**

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.

Why he Writes - 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 suppose 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 Divine 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)

Outline of Know Your Scripture - (1:12-21)

- Remind Them of the Word, and Remind Them Often - (1:12)
- Men Die, but the Word Lives On - (1:13-15)
- Experiences Fade, but the Word Endures Forever - (1:16-19)
- The World Darkens, but the Word Shines Brightly – (1:19-21)

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 a more 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 / Form their God

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. Or the Cults like 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.

Remind Them of the Word, and Remind Them Often - (1:12)

(2 Peter 1:10 NKJV) Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

(2 Peter 1:11 NKJV) for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

(2 Peter 1:12 NKJV) 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.

This is Ministry – Putting People in Remembrance / The Struggle in Teaching

This is the ministry, putting people in remembrance of these things. Sometimes I struggle because I think I need to be creative, need to bring some new truth, some deeper truth that nobody has ever seen. But this is ministry Sunday School teacher, Bible Study Leader, Youth Group Worker, remind people of the things they already know, to remind them to do the things they know they are to do, and we will all live that Victorious Christian Life. That is why verse-by-verse is so wonderful, it always brings us back to remembrance of the word, because we are reading it line upon line.

Remind them 1001

Ministry is bringing people into remembrance of the things they already know, or have already heard. Parents if your child has heard it 1,000 times, then tell it to them 1,001. The key to learning is repetition.

Fallen Nature / Rugby / Songs - Scripture

In our fallen nature we forget the things we should remember, and remember the things we should forget. I use to play rugby in my college years before I was saved. Rugby is just legalized violence, bumper stickers use to say "give blood, play rugby". It was pretty much a sport for the guys who weren't good enough to play College football. If you know the sport, after the games the drinking began, and then it was customary to sing rugby songs, which were very rude and crude songs. I have to block them out of my mind, because I can remember every vulgar word to every crude song. They are like etched in my mind. Now ask me to quote Scripture, and I'm like aahhhhhhhhhhh. Ask me to remember the Bible Study I listened to last week and forget it. Our fallen nature remembers things we wish we would forget and forget things we wish we would remember.

But, I am happy to tell all, that over my years of feeding on the Word of God, how those old things get lesser and lesser, because the continual intake of the Word washes those things away.

Philippians 3:12–15 (NKJV) ¹² *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.* ¹³ *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,* ¹⁴ *I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* ¹⁵ *Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.* ² *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Remind Kids Over and Over

So my job as a parent, as a pastor, is to say the same thing over and over again until people, my child, is established in them.

Not Exciting Sermons – Peter doesn't Care / Are they Learning & Growing / After Every Study

Now that may not make for exciting sermons, or seem like a drain on our children, but Peter is saying I'm not concerned with what they say about my teaching, all I care about is that you are learning and growing in the Knowledge of Him. Therefore I won't be negligent to remind you, to keep reminding you. After every study I prepare, and after I teach it, I ask myself – if they do these things, apply these things to their life, will they do well. If I can answer yes, then I can take comfort in that I did the best I could do, and the Lord is pleased.

Last study I talked about waiting for some special moment, that would change me forever, but how the Lord works in us daily (more than the moment), and He who began a good work is faithful to complete (Philippians 1:6), however daily it is! Well it was years ago that I also looked (had thought) that is how ministry would go, that there would be some special moment, some special Sunday, and there would be something spectacular in a teaching, and great changes and mass evangelistic salvations would happen.... But I soon saw that ministry is more about the daily than it is some spectacular (even though we know the spectacular does happen – Pentecost, Ashbury, and revivals we read of).

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ *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;*

I am reminded of on the night He was betrayed, at supper, foot washing is done and Judas is on his way to betray, Jesus tells them He is leaving and they can't go with Him, their hearts are troubled we are told. I love it in that Phillip says to Jesus, show us the Father and that will be good enough, and Jesus said have I been with you so long that you have not known Me, that He who has seen Me has seen the Father. Phillip must have been waiting for something spectacular, fire from heaven, the earth to shake or something..... yet all the while the Father was sitting right there at the table with Him. How often I/we are longing for something of God, something spectacular, all the while there He is sitting right across the table from me/us. Waiting for the earth to shake, yet here at the table with us, speaking in the still small voice.

John 13:33 (NKJV) ³³ *Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you.*

John 14:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.* ² *In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

John 14:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ *Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."* ⁹ *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

1 Kings 19:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ *Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. ¹³ So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

How Well do you Know Basic Truths

It is not how much you know, but how well you know what you know. It is how well do you know the basics truths, and how deep do they sink into you.

Pertaining to Life & godliness

(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,

Men Die, but the Word Lives On - (1:13-15)

(2 Peter 1:13 NKJV) Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

Stir – To Activate

The word here for “stir” means to awake, wake up, to arouse out of sleep. I like it also means to “activate”. I love it in our military or special forces sense; as we have an event, emergency, a situation and we “activate” the National Guard from rest, we activate special forces and deploy them on a special mission. So the Lord desire to continually “activate” us, from a place of standing down, to standing up, to deploy, for a mission that is before us.

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

Death is Near / The Tent / Love Camping

Peter is an old man, death is near, and he reminds us that life is short by using the term “tent” which is a temporary dwelling place. I love to camp, my tent has a removable flap that when removed opens the roof of my tent up to just a screen. I love camping out, especially out west, and lay in my tent and look at the stars, they seem so close you can touch them. But after about a week, I’m ready to be home, in my house, with my shower, with my hot water, with my oven and refrigerator, with my bed. Living in a tent gets old, and we desire to get back in our permanent dwelling.

Peter – It’s Getting Old

Peter say’s it is getting old living in this tent, it’s starting to tear, fade, take on water; shortly I must put this tent off and move on and into my permanent abode. :

*(2 Corinthians 5:1 NKJV) For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, **we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.***

(Hebrews 11:8 NKJV) By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

(Hebrews 11:9 NKJV) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

*(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) **for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.***

The Lord Showed him

Verse 14 - just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me (Peter would be crucified):

(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."***

(2 Peter 1:15 NKJV) Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

Leaves the Word / Parents pass the Word On

Verse 15 - Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. Peter knows that he is going to die, so he leaves his children with the Word. He writes this epistle so that they may have the Word even after he dies.

Peter is looking death right in the eye, knowing his time has come, and he fully embraces it because of the life he lived. A life well spent, a life well invested, that when he leaves he knows that he has "left" something of great value and worth..... the word of God to his children, followers, disciples.

His influence, outlived his life..... and that is a mark of a well-spent life, and may that be so for all of us today.

The Word, the Word, the Word; parents make sure you pass this word unto your children so that when you die, they will have the Word. My son is a great 16 year old, but left to himself he will chase after the trinkets and glitter of the world, I must everyday bring him into this Word. When he says I know this already, I say I'll know you know it, when I see it worked out and applied to your everyday life.

Teach them to Fish / IBS – Chuck Tapes

A Note: It has been said give a person a fish and you have feed them for a day, teach them how to fish and you have feed them for a lifetime. I can't encourage you enough to make sure that you learn the Inductive Bible Study Method. It is taking the Word and using O-I-A. Observation, Interpretation, and Application.

- Observation, this is what the Word says,
- Interpretation, this is what the Word means in the context of the surrounding verses and the theme of the book, and
- Application, this is what it means to mean. The Pharisees had the Observation and Interpretation down, but they never let move into their heart for application in their lives. Take the time, make the investment in the IBS Method, and go through the whole Bible systematically with Pastor Chuck or another Pastor that has taught through the whole bible, and that will be equivalent to 2 years of Bible College.

Life & godliness

(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,

Experiences Fade, but the Word Endures Forever - (1:16-19)

(2 Peter 1:16 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 1:17 NKJV) 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."

(2 Peter 1:18 NKJV) And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

Fables / The Plot of 13 / James – Thomas – Peter – Wife - John

Verse 16 - For we did not follow cunningly devised fables: We have an eyewitness account of Jesus Christ right here with Peter. Peter is saying this is not some manmade fable. Now it is true that Peter was a fisherman, and they have been known to stretch the truth a bit. Peter is saying this isn't some story 13 of us got together and made up, and then Judas bailed on the plan so we had to kill him. It wasn't ok we are going to make a name for ourselves, we are going to start a new religion. Jesus (actually his name was Fred but they didn't think that name would be convincing enough) you will be the Messiah, and I'll be the first Pope. It is so absurd, it might just work; in fact, I can see this lie so well received that they will divide time over it, people 2000 years from now will take old market centers and turn them into meeting halls to read the writings of our lie – it is so far-fetched, it might just work.

Stick to a Lie

How could 12 people stick to a lie? A lie that would bring death, at some point someone would crack. When they sawing James in half, whichever end they started with you think he might say stop it was all a lie. When the point of the spear was about a half inch deep you think Thomas might have said, confession time. How many nails would Peter have taken before he said, stop it's all a lie (mind you Peter watched his wife die first – and his only remark according to church writings was – woman

remember thou the Lord). How about the apostle John, how many inches would he allowed himself to be lowered into that boiling oil before he recanted the story. These men were so convinced that Jesus was the Messiah that he was willing to die for there belief.

Even Satan Says

Even Satan said that a man will give all that he has to stay alive:

(Job 2:1 NKJV) Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

(Job 2:2 NKJV) And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

(Job 2:3 NKJV) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

(Job 2:4 NKJV) So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life."

Life Transformed Radically

It has to be asked and must be examined, how can a cunningly devised fable transform lives so radically. How can a fable break someone of an addiction to cocaine, how can a fable heal a marriage, how can a fable turn a Hell's Angel into an Usher.

Peter says I Saw It / Matt 17

Fables and fads, new waves and the latest rages, but Peter said we were eyewitnesses, we saw it with our very eyes. Peter is referring to Matthew 17 here, the Mount of Transfiguration:

(Matthew 17:1 NKJV) Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;

(Matthew 17:2 NKJV) and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

(Matthew 17:3 NKJV) And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

(Matthew 17:4 NKJV) Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

(Matthew 17:5 NKJV) While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

Moses – Law / Elijah – Prophets / Jesus Could have Entered Heaven – Based on Works

Moses in the Scripture represents the Law, and Elijah represents the prophets.

They come to meet Jesus there on the mount; I believe that at that point Jesus could have entered into heaven based on His works. He was perfect, He was spotless, He was sinless, He had kept the Law to it's perfection. At that very point He could have entered heaven and been received by God based on His works. He chose not to because then we would have been left adrift, because we could not do the same.

Had He – no Savior / We need a Transfiguration Moment

Had He walked into heaven, then we would have been left behind without a Savior. We would have needed to wait for our "transfiguration" moment, that would never have come because we fall short of the Law. God's standard is perfection, anything less requires will be consumed by His fire.

(Hebrews 12:29 NKJV) For our God is a consuming fire.

Peter saw Perfection / Heard the Voice of God / yet Something Better

Peter saw Perfection with his very eyes, he was an eyewitness and an ear-witness when he heard God speak this is my beloved Son whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him. Wow, Peter was there he saw and heard it, yet he says we have something more sure than what we saw and heard, **we have the Word**; more specifically the Old Testament Scriptures with its prophecies.

(2 Peter 1:19 NKJV) 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;

Only This Book is Bold Enough / 300 prophecies of Jesus / 25% of Book

Only this book has the boldness to prophesy. 300 prophecies of Jesus Christ fulfilled, and I am not talking about the several hundred other prophecies as they relate to Israel, empires, the Church, and other areas. Twenty-five percent of this book speaks of prophecies. And to date, not one has yet to fail.

Jesus said the Old Testament scriptures spoke volumes of Him and His Coming:

[Hebrews 10:7 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁷ *Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'*

The volume of the Book, painted a picture of the heart of God. If you wanted to know what God's heart was toward those that were sick, just look at God touching the lepers; if you wanted to know God's heart towards death and dying, just look at God weeping over Lazarus' death; if you wanted to know God's heart for forgiveness of sin, just hear His cry on the cross.... It is done.

All the prophecies, all the works of God, are/were like a master artist painting a portrait, that with every stroke the image of the person becomes clearer and clearer, and when that portrait is done there is no doubt about who the person is. That is the portrait painted of God who became man and dwelt among us, there is no doubt, Jesus is God who was prophesied to come.

What Peter Saw

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law, and Elijah represents the Prophets, and Peter is rebuked for wanting to make three tabernacles (monuments) because he is putting all three of them on the same level..... for Jesus is the summation of both the Law and the Prophets.

All pointed to Jesus, and Peter is saying I saw his miracles (around 36 we read of in the Gospels), I saw Him on the Mount of Transfiguration, I saw Him on the Mount of Golgotha, I saw Him on the Mount of Olives..... I saw all that, but that is still not why I believe, he says he believes because the Word of God confirms it to be so. Peter says we have something greater than experiences; we have the sure Word of God confirmed.

[2 Peter 1:19 \(KJV 1900\)](#) ¹⁹ *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

Top 8

His Birth & Lineage

- 1.) The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2a / Matthew 2:1-2
- 2.) The Messiah would be a descendant of David. Isaiah 9:7 / Matthew 1:1

His Environment & the World Setting

- 3.) The Messiah would be announced to his people 483 years, to the exact day, after the decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. Daniel 9:25 / John 12:12-13
- 4.) The Messiah would be killed before the destruction of the temple. Daniel 9:26c / Matthew 27:50-51
- 5.) The Jew's authority to administer capital punishment would be gone when the Messiah arrived. Genesis 49:10c / John 18:31

His Death

- 6.) The Messiah would be sacrificed on the same mountain where God tested Abraham. Genesis 22:14 / Luke 23:33
- 7.) The Messiah's back would be whipped. Isaiah 53:5c Matthew 27:26
- 8.) The Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced. Psalm 22:16c Matthew 27:38

All facts that can be backed up by historical writings

The Law of Compound Probability / The Quarter – 10 to 17th / Blindfold

The following probabilities (The Law of Compound Probability) are taken from Peter Stoner in Science Speaks (Moody Press, 1963) to show that coincidence is ruled out by the science of probability. Stoner says that by using the modern science of probability in reference to eight prophecies, 'we find that the

chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th." That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that "we take 10 to the 17th silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep.

"Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man."

The Evidence is In / Can't be Neutral

In court cases evidence is gathered and presented, and the verdict will be decided based on the strength or weakness of the case. The evidence is in, and no one hearing this can stay neutral. Just as a juror sits on the juror and decides the fate of the one on trial, so too must each person who has been shown this evidence, except in this case it is not Jesus who is on trial, but each individual person. Again, the gospel of Jesus Christ is not to make Him acceptable to you, for He is and will remain God no matter what any man decides. The gospel of Jesus Christ is to make you acceptable to Him, for it is your sin that separates you from the Holy God. It must be noted, not to make a decision, is a decision, no. The question is posed:

(Matthew 16:13 NKJV) When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

(Matthew 16:14 NKJV) So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

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

(Matthew 22:41 NKJV) While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,

(Matthew 22:42 NKJV) saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David."

(Matthew 27:22 NKJV) Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

The decision is today:

(2 Corinthians 6:1 NKJV) We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

(2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV) For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Don't Wait for Sign / It wouldn't Matter / Children Israel / Red Sea – Manna – Rock – Shoe - Pillar

If you are waiting for God to give you a sign it wouldn't matter, for if you won't believe this Word, you won't believe your eyes. I don't agree with that, I think that is a stretch you may say. Well what generation saw more signs of God than any other? The Children of Israel who left Egypt under Moses. They saw the Red Sea part, the saw manna from heaven, they saw a rock follow them throughout the desert and flow water, their shoes didn't wear out for 40 years, they had a cloud above them by day to protect them from the blazing sun, and a pillar of fire by night for warmth, yet we are told they could not enter the land because of their unbelief:

(Hebrews 3:16 NKJV) For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?

(Hebrews 3:17 NKJV) Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?

(Hebrews 3:18 NKJV) And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?

(Hebrews 3:19 NKJV) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Experiences Fade – Word Endures / Boring Bible Study / Don't Look for Entertainment

Experiences will fade, but this Word will endure forever. It is easy to think in our mind, its only Bible Study, sometimes it is rather boring. Don't replace excitement with the Word. Don't look for entertainment in your Christian walk, look for the Word.

(Hebrews 4:12 NKJV) 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.

(Hebrews 4:13 NKJV) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Experiences Fade / Remember Holy Laughter / People Devoured

Experiences fade that is why there is such a danger in highly emotional churches. Does anybody remember the Toronto Blessing, the Holy Laughter Movement? I say remember because that is past tense, it lasted about 18 months and faded away. Unfortunately many a people were devoured in the process; I personally saw Christians walk away from solid Bible teaching churches for the emotion, and they haven't been back since, that was over 5 years ago.

Experiences Don't Produce Faith – Craving for More Experiences

Experiences do not produce faith, they produce the craving to see and need more experiences.

Life & godliness

(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,

The World Darkens, but the Word Shines Brightly – (1:19-21)

(2 Peter 1:19 NKJV) 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;
(2 Peter 1:20 NKJV) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,
(2 Peter 1:21 NKJV) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Dark – Murky / Clearer the Word / Murky Situations – More Precious

The word dark means obscure, murky. Christian the murkier the world gets around us, the clearer the Word gets, the more clearer we see God's Word and His ways. The darker or murkier your situation gets, the clearer the Word – maybe in your marriage, with your children, on the job, your health things are getting darker, more confusing, then know this if you allow it, the Word will shine brighter and brighter and be more clear to you, and more precious. Again it is not the Bible, it is the God of the Bible, and as you look at His Word you will enter into a dialog with the One who created you for fellowship and it will be sweet. And that Word will guide you through the dark and hard times:

(Psalms 119:103 NKJV) How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

(Psalms 119:104 NKJV) Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.

(Psalms 119:105 NKJV) Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

No Private Interpretation / Mormons – JW's

The word is not of private interpretation, take the Mormons and the Jehovah Witnesses to this passage, and then invite to church here. Joseph Smith's special revelation from the angel Moron, or the JW's that Jesus returned to earth in 1914, lies for there are no private interpretations.

New – Old Saying / Whole Counsel – Cultist & False Teachers

The old saying goes, If it is new, then it is not true, if it is true, than it is not new. This also means that the whole counsel of God must be considered. Cultist and False Teachers do this also, they take one verse and then they build a doctrine off of it. They build prosperity doctrines, healing doctrine, Holy Laughter, and the like. That is why it is important that we know the whole counsel of God. All 31,102 verses in this Bible must agree.

Breathed by God

The OT Scriptures were inspired (God breathed) by God. The writer was God, the pens name was Jeremiah, Isaiah.

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Give Thanks

Thank the Lord for the Scriptures, how blessed we are to have this book.

Life & godliness

(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 Know Your Scripture - (1:12-21)

- Remind Them of the Word, and Remind Them Often - (1:12)
- Men Die, but the Word Lives On - (1:13-15)
- Experiences Fade, but the Word Endures Forever - (1:16-19)
- The World Darkens, but the Word Shines Brightly – (1:19-21)

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

Chapter 2

Passage: 2 Peter 2:1-22

Title: Know Your Adversaries

Summary: Peter is writing his last letter; he knows death is near. This letter is only three chapters, yet Peter spends 33% of it warning about false teachers. If false teachers were a minor thing, Peter would have only needed to write a sentence or two, but considering a whole chapter, and Jesus telling us in last days many false teachers will arise.... this is a much-needed study for the days we live.

2 Peter 2 (NKJV) 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. 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. 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 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. ¹⁷ These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. 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. 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."

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

Written to – Like Precious Faith

People with like precious faith. These people as we know from the first epistle were scattered from their homes because of the persecution that was upon them, everything they knew as familiar was gone, and they are living in areas foreign to them. But this book is timeless, as it is written to each of you who have that same precious faith that Peter and these people did:

(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:**

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.

Why he Writes - 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 suppose 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 Divine 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)

Outline of Know Your Adversaries - (2:1-22)

- Dangers of False Teachers – (2: 1-3)
- Destruction of False Teachers – (2: 4-9)
- Description of False Teachers – (2:10-22)

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 a more 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 / Form their God

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. Or the Cults like 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.

Dangers of False Teachers – (2: 1-3)

Studies like these are always hard because whoever teaches them can come across with the attitude of we are the only church, or look how holy we are compared to them. There are many great ministries going on all around the country and world, and many great denominations as God builds a body of Christ, offering a flavor and type for all. But there are some that are not right on, in line with the teachings of Christ, and that is what is being addressed here.

(2 Peter 1:19 NKJV) 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;

(2 Peter 1:20 NKJV) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

(2 Peter 1:21 NKJV) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

(2 Peter 2:1 NKJV) 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.

Simultaneously / Unusual Growth / Matt 13

Now notice that simultaneously while men inspired of God are bringing the Word, so too are there these false teachers. That is the way it will be then, now, and until the Lord returns. Jesus spoke about this, he said there will be unusual church growth, huge church growth, and right in the midst of the church will be uncleanness:

(Matthew 13:31 NKJV) Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field,

(Matthew 13:32 NKJV) "which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Mustard Seed / Birds

You see a mustard seed grows a bush not a tree, so that is unusual. And the birds of the air in Biblical typology are unclean animals. So Jesus was saying hey the church is going to grow, explode, it will look great, but it isn't. Many people inside the church will be inside physically, but not spiritually.

Peter Feeds & Warns / Acts 20

Peter is doing what is commanded by Paul in Acts. A Shepherd doesn't just feed the Flock of God, He protects them to, he warns them of the dangers that seek to devour them:

(Acts 20:28 NKJV) "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

(2 Peter 2:2 NKJV) And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

(2 Peter 2:3 NKJV) 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.

Covetousness / Cross – Cloth – Wallet – Letters – God Broke – Dollar\$ - Bread

Verse 3 - By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words: Verse 3 tells us what motivates these men and woman, covetousness. They seek not to feed the flock, but fleece the flock. They make merchandise out of the people of God. You have seen them on television, maybe received something in the mail from them. Like pieces of the original cross, or a piece of Jesus' burial cloth, my favorite is the miracle wallet – yes if you send them 20 dollars they will send you the wallet and guarantee that every time you open the wallet their will be a 20 dollar bill in it (I always wonder why they need my 20 dollars when they can just open up their miracle wallet and get a 20 out of there). I love getting the letters in the mail from them, they say dear Anne, for the envelope is addressed to Anne Arundel, and then the letter goes on to say how I have been on their heart, is everything ok, Anne write me back and let me know, and while you are at it, could ya put a love offering with it so we can keep the ministry going and I can continue the ministry. You hear them say send us money or will go off the air, basically God is broke and you have to bail Him out. That isn't a very powerful god if you have to bail him out – especially after they just taught on His mighty healing power. I remember one guy taking us on a behind the scene tour and he showed the viewers all the frayed cable and how at any moment they could lose their signal. Hey there is nothing wrong with a church or ministry sharing the needs with its members and prayer partners, but be weary of the false teacher making merchandise. Also let me say not everyone on television is a huckster, for there are many great ministries on the air bring glory to God. I can remember 2 rip-off ministries personally, one of them in the Ukraine promised kids on the street one American dollar if they came to Sunday School, and then when they did come they took a picture, put it in their newsletter, sent it to the States and said our Sunday school is exploding, these kids are hungering for the Word, send money so we can get a bigger building. In Russia they pulled a truck up loaded with free bread, so all the peoples hands (hundreds of people) were raising their hand to get the bread, so they took a picture, sent it to the States and said we came to hand out Bible and look at all the people, send money. These men got their money and lived like royalty there in third world countries, all having servants and cooks waiting on them.

Kingdom – Power - Glory

They don't just covet money, they also covet the power and the fame. So we see man striving for the Kingdom, the power, and the glory. Only place for that to be found is in Christ:

(Matthew 6:13 NKJV) And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

How Avoid Dangers of them / Theme

How do we avoid the dangers of these false teachers, these charismatic people who can lead away believers, the theme of this book:

(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,

Destruction of False Teachers – (2: 4-9)

You know many, many of these men and woman, false teachers, are so charismatic, appear so godly, almost angelic, look at verse 4, Peter says even the angels will be destroyed. The end of them will be destruction. They will take the same path as the angels that rebelled, the unrepentant in the days of Noah, and the perverse of Sodom:

(2 Peter 2:4 NKJV) 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;

God Serious – Nowhere to Hide / Wheels turn Slow – Grind Thoroughly / History

God is serious about these false teachers leading His children astray, He makes it clear that there is nowhere you can hide from me that I will not find you, and my wrath will be in totality. Know this, the wheels of God's judgement turns slowly, but grind thoroughly. Peter's point is that they will be dealt with, they should not mistake His patience as if He will not judge.

Peter makes it clear to them, for us, look at history, fallen angels, days of Noah, and day of Sodom, judgement will come, false teacher you will not escape history.

3 Cases of False Teachers / Satan – Noah - Sodom

Here we see three serious cases of false teachers, Satan in the heavens telling the angels to rebel with him, I can only imagine what the father of lies promised them. Imagine all the false teachers in Sodom, hey it's ok, it is just the way you are made, you can't help it. You can come to church here, we are an open minded church. How about in the Day of Noah, hey he is just some crazy nut, there is no such thing as rain, nor rapture. Eat drink and be merry (Luke 17:26-27).

(2 Peter 2:5 NKJV) 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;

Note – 1 in 2 Billion

Hey just a note here, it was estimated that there were 6 billion people on the planet at that time based on that they lived such long lives, yet only 8 people got saved. Noah and wife, Noah's sons and 3 wives. Can I point that out to you singles, God will find you a saved mate, even if the odds are 1 in 2 billion.

Noah Preacher

Noah, we are told was aa preacher of righteousness. So he preached while he worked, and his work was his witness as well.

Days of Noah

Jesus tells us, that as it was in the days of Noah so will it be when the Son of Man returns:

Matthew 24:36–39 (NKJV)³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

When we study the days of Noah in Genesis we see there was population explosion happening, there was strange demonic activity going on and there was perverse unbridled sexual activity among the people (sons of god mating with woman), and the earth was filled with violence.

Genesis 6:1 (NKJV)¹ Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

Genesis 6:4 (NKJV)⁴ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Other Preachers

From the context, it appears to me that there were “other preachers”, preachers of unrighteousness, who were telling people, that their lifestyle was fine, that Noah was legalistic and judgmental, to which there preaching brought destruction upon the people.

Preachers today who skip the hot topic issues because they don't want to offend people, risk empty seats and dwindling bank accounts, are no less false teachers than in the days of Noah; because they are preparing people for destruction in the next life to come, and they are leading people into right-living before God today, which leaves and lends many lives to ruin, and anything close to the abundant lie God promises.

John 10:10 (NKJV)¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Paul says he preached the whole counsel of God..... not just the parts that made people feels good.

Acts 20:25–31 (NKJV)²⁵ “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

(2 Peter 2:6 NKJV) 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;

Other Preachers

In context, in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, there would be those who would counter what was righteous before God. They would hear the story of the flood, and dismiss it as a fairytale.

Today they can say what they want, as many will say they do not believe in God, or the Bible. But then there are those who do say they believe in the God of the Bible, profess Jesus as Lord and Savior, and because of their desire to follow after the lusts of their heart, they rewrite the Bible, teach it, and get other who will gladly buy into it so they too can “ease” their conscience of their lifestyle.

My case -in-point, the “rainbow”. The rainbow is God's promise to never flood the world again over sin and unrighteousness, and the homosexual community today has made it their flag of promise that God will not judge them for their unrighteousness.

Genesis 9:13–17 (NKJV)¹³ I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴ It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵ and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Christian – Don't Grow Numb

Christian, Do not grow, numb to all the wickedness and immorality that is around you. It is so easy for us to grow, numb to it, and then not be moved by it or insulate ourself and not be moved into what we clearly see being spoken of here. The spiritual realm is engaged and engaged in this matter.

As Jesus would say, they just kept marrying and given to marriage what's next to eat? They took the attitude that this will go on forever, that God will not bring a judgment of our wickedness. Even when a preacher of righteousness preached in God's long suffering of what appears to be 120 years of preaching, people would not repent. They would mock and they would laugh, and they just kept living like

nothing was ever going to change in the realm of God doing something about it. And so we see the day around us so much the same. Everyone thinks this will just go on forever and it will never be dealt with, but it shall be. And God's making it clear that the day will come, but he's making it clear to us. Don't grow numb in the middle of it.

*Matthew 24:36–39 (NKJV)*³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Extreme Pleasure

The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah predominant was homosexuality. And it says because they had an abundance of ease, as we're told in Ezekiel. But what's happened with their abundance of ease was, what's the next pleasure that I can have?

*Ezekiel 16:49–50 (NKJV)*⁴⁹ Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.⁵⁰ And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.

And when a person looks for extreme pleasure, then they have to amp up to the next level some extreme pleasure, as in they're not satisfied with the simple God-given beautiful way that God has designed man and his relationship, male and female, in the bounds of marriage. So what's happening in Sodom and Gomorrah was the normalization of homosexuality. Why do we call it perversion? I know it connotes such a wickedness in its realm. It sounds like, an aggression and a hateful speech. But perversion simply means twisted. And what it means here is twisting God's perfect design. And then after it's twisted to normalize it and even go as far as now, God is the one who is not right. And out of order, he's twisted. See how it reverses itself?

Numbing / 4-Walled Discussions

And Christian, you can't become numb about this. And you can't come inward to your inner circle and only speak of it within the walls of the church. It has to be prayed, it has to be honest. Conversations, always talking about having honest conversations. But the minute you show up with the honest word to God, people get real angry about it and say it's not an honest conversation. Once again, it's twisted into their favor, not what the word of God is. But here's why. Christians need to be praying about it. Christians need to be engaged in it because as a society, every society or homosexuality has been embraced, promoted and exalted that society has crumbled. There's not a civilization that has lasted under that promotion. And so United States of America, Europe, they're on the fast track to be the society that will be judged. It will self implode itself because history will always repeat itself.

Love will Tell Truth

Love will tell you the truth. Today's mantra and promotion is love. But they will say, love wins. They leave out the truth and the truth of will speak the truth. And here is the truth. These people promoters, whether they're so-called religious leaders or government leaders or organizational leaders for the homosexual community, your workplace that promotes it, they're not your friends. They're not your champions. Anyone. And anything that keeps you from God and separates you from Christ is not your friend. I will go as far to say they are your enemy because they are bringing harm upon your life, even your eternal life.

And – We Have to Live Above It

Christians, we are not just anybody in this world. We're chosen by him. We're owned by him. We cannot live in any immorality, whether it's homosexual immorality or heterosexual sex before marriage. We've been bought with a price. New paragraph. Christian, this word is true. We can never be defeated from the outside, ever. No man government program or demon realm can defeat us. We can only be defeated from the inside when we cross into a place that the Holy God must judge us for our sin and rebellion.

(2 Peter 2:7 NKJV) and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

(2 Peter 2:8 NKJV) (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds);

(2 Peter 2:9 NKJV) then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

Story of Lot / Looks – Lives – Sits / Great for Cattle – Terrible for Kids / Economically – Spiritually

But back to our story, and you know the story of Sodom, Lot saw the lush green plains of Sodom and pitched his tent facing the city. Next thing we find him in living in the city, and sitting at the gate as a leader in that wretched city. Sodom was a great place for cattle, a terrible place for kids. A great place economically but a terrible place for a family. A great place materially, but terrible place spiritually. There is a message in that if you ever consider moving.

Rest of Story / Rape – Sons – Wife – Daughter / Pitched his Tent / God says he is Righteous

You know the rest of the story, the angels come into town, they want to rape them, the angels blind the perverse men's eyes, say get out of town Lot and family, but the son-in-laws won't go, the wife looks back, and the daughters do the unthinkable. It all started when he pitched his tent facing the city. Now Lot looks like a marginal Christian at best, but look here, God calls him righteous.

Genesis 19:1–11 (NKJV) ¹ Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. ² And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." ³ But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. ⁴ Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. ⁵ And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally." ⁶ So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, ⁷ and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! ⁸ See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof." ⁹ And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. ¹⁰ But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. ¹¹ And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

Context / Foolish Mistakes – Still Mine – Inheritance / Lot Struggled

Christian, here is what God is saying in the context here, Lot made foolish mistakes, and made foolish decisions which put his family in a bad situation and they ultimately paid for it, but.....Lot is still mine. Foolish mistakes and all, Lot is still my son, my child, has part in the inheritance of the Kingdom. I will not cast him out for bad decisions and foolish mistakes. We see here what we see nowhere else in Scripture, there was a struggle in Lot's heart. That is a picture of all of us:

(Romans 7:15 NKJV) For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

Talking Destruction – Shows Grace / Know your heart Christian & False Teacher Looks Good

Even when God is talking destruction, he still shows His mercy and grace. God says I know what's in your heart, I know you want to do right, but so often you blow it. I am not going to judge and condemn you, I am going to save you, just like Lot. But false teacher, I know what is in your heart, you can say all the right things, look so godly and angelic on the outside, but I know your heart, and my wrath will come upon you.

Have you Blown It / Rest / Comfort / 2 Cor 5:21

Christian have you blown it lately, take rest and be comforted, God loves you, you are still His, you are still righteous before Him, right standing, because;

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

Example / Can't Judge

Let Lot be an example to us that we cannot judge another man's heart, examine him fruit yes, judge his heart, no. I would have lost the bet on Lot.

Prophecy Students / Tribulation Period / Rapture

Verse 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, - Important for you prophecy students, the righteous will not go through the Tribulation Period. Sodom was God's wrath against a God rejecting city, and we saw God

pull righteous Lot out of the city before His wrath came down. So too will God pull His Church out before His wrath comes down in the Last days against a Christ rejecting world.

Chapter 3 / 2nd Coming

This little nugget is important for chapter 3 when Peter is talking about Christ's soon return, and don't mock His second coming:

(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) 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.

Like a Thief / Looking for AntiChrist – Rather than Jesus Christ

It could happen at any moment, like a thief in the night, never announced. If a person thinks that Christians are going to go into the Tribulation, then they will be looking for the Tribulation, they will be looking for the Anti-Christ, instead of looking for Jesus Christ.

Take Eyes Off – Easy Led Astray / Focus on Word – Became Flesh / Theme

Take your eyes off of Jesus Christ, and you will be easily lead astray by false teachers. Understanding prophecy is important for every believer, that is why we study it here. Keep your eyes on the Word.....for the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14):

(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,

Description of False Teachers – (2:10-22)

Let us take a look at the description given of these false teachers. We see the same description given of them in Jude too. God is serious about His word, and He is not going to waste precious space of the Word. He means business with these false teachers, and he wants His Church to be protected from them.

(2 Peter 2:10 NKJV) 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,

(2 Peter 2:11 NKJV) whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

(2 Peter 2:12 NKJV) 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,

Bold & Arrogant

They are bold and arrogant. They are so sure of themselves because they are so in love with themselves. They put everyone down, in order to raise themselves up. They slam dignitaries and other godly leaders, they don't care. Even the angels it says don't do that yet these brash false teachers do.

(2 Peter 2:13 NKJV) and will receive 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,

(2 Peter 2:14 NKJV) 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.

Easy Believism / Most in World / Counter TV / Entices the Flesh

I see here the worse type of false teacher, the easy believism. These types of false teachers exist more than any other in the world as far as I can see. Give me one of those guys on television or in the mail and it doesn't take much to point out their financial covetousness. So many of them have their jets and million dollar homes (by the way Jesus was poor, the apostles were poor – a servant is a servant, or he is not). But easy believism, now that is tough because they entice the fleshly nature of a believer. I'm not going to enter into whether they are saved or not, especially after looking at Lot.

They Live in Sin Themselves / Sit Amongst You / Live in Sin Still Heaven Bound

But these false teachers are living in sin themselves and they are leading other to follow. These false teachers do not have to have pulpit ministers, they are people who sit amongst the congregation, or are in the workplace, on the ball team, and they say you can do that sin, you are still saved, let me quote some Scriptures to you that support it. We can live in these sins of adultery, fornication, drunkardness, lie, cheat, or steal, whatever it takes to get ahead. It is easy for them to have followers because they entice the flesh.

Verse 3 – Deceptive Words / Plastic

Back in Verse 3 it says they use deceptive words:

(2 Peter 2:3 NKJV) 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.

The word for deceptive is where we get our plastic: plastos, plas-tos'; from G4111; moulded, i.e. (by impl.) artificial or (fig.) fictitious (false):--feigned. So these guys take words/Scripture that is close and then they mold and make it fit what they want it to.

(2 Peter 2:15 NKJV) They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

(2 Peter 2:16 NKJV) but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

Balaam / For a Price / Entice - Hook

Balaam was a prophet of God, you read about him in (Numbers 22-23). Balaam was a prophet of God, but for a price he gave counsel to the enemies of God on how to take down the Children of Israel. He told the enemies to send over your young woman and entice the men of Israel, and then after you hook them with sex, introduce them to your false gods. Balaam knew that when they started following after false gods, then God would turn His back on them. So the plan of attack was mixing the fleshly appetite, with what appears to be spiritual things. Still works today.

Greed

The way of Balaam was greed, and for a price he would sell out being a prophet of God.

Powerful – Nothing on the Outside Can Take Us Down

But before moving on I note something pure powerful, and that was that Balaam told the King of Moab that it was impossible to defeat the children of Israel from the outside, but if he could get them to sin inwardly, then God's righteousness would have to deal with them, to which God did. For us, that is power in that no outside force can defeat us (world, devil, and the likes), the only thing that can defeat us is ourselves and our choices we make for (or against) personal holiness, which is totally within our control.

(2 Peter 2:17 NKJV) These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

Form of godliness / Same Doctrine / Everybody Saved / Hard to Counter

Empty wells, and empty clouds. These false teachers are hard to counter for the Christian today. There are many churches who have the form of godliness, they say the right things, but there is no substance to their ministry. They are within denominational structures, they are large, they agree in tenets of the Christian faith, but they don't teach it. Everybody is saved, or as long as you go to this church. That is pure heresy. Again give me a cult any day and I can prove their error through the Bible, give me a church that Statement of Faith reads the same as mine, but they say everybody is saved, or as long as you don't murder somebody you are a good person, it is heresy, it is blaspheme.

2 Timothy 3:1-9 (NKJV)¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹ but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

Defense Against You / Legalistic / Don't Waver / Just Read God will Judge – Wrath Noah & Sodom

What is their defense against you, Legalist. You are a legalistic, you are a Bible Thumper, you are a Jesus Freak. Christian, we all hate that legalist label, we cringe, we say no we aren't, we even question are self – am I, is this too much, am I shoving this down peoples throat. Christian don't waiver, it is not true, you know the Word and you know the wages of sin for all who follow these false teachers. We just read that God is a God of wrath, we just read that not everyone goes to heaven, we just read that God will bring destruction upon those that lead others astray.

They Misrepresent God

I know many a ministers personally who will be the hospital of funeral homes and be comforting the family and saying it is ok they are in heaven right now, even though they never had any signs of life spiritually, God receives all. That is not truth, it misrepresents God and Jesus' work on the cross.

(2 Peter 2:18 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 2:19 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 2:20 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 2:21 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 2:22 NKJV) 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."

Swelling Words / If Everybody Likes You / The Word will Offend

Verse 18 – swelling words – flattering words, nobody gets upset. Ministers, witnesses of Jesus Christ, now I am not saying be in peoples face, but let me say this, everybody likes you, it most likely you are not preaching the word. Read Oswald Chambers Devotional for December 19th, the Focus of Our Message. The word will offend people, Jesus said it would:

(Matthew 10:34 NKJV) "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

(Matthew 10:35 NKJV) "For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';

(Matthew 10:36 NKJV) "and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'

Promise Liberty – But Bondage / Only 1 Place for Freedom

These people promise liberty but bring people into bondage and captivity, because there is only one place for freedom:

(John 8:32 NKJV) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

(John 8:36 NKJV) "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

Give them the Truth / Theme

Give them the truth, and you give them everything they need for life and godliness:

(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,

Application / Be Bereans

Application for us, how do we examine a teachers fruit, how do we know if they are right on, be good Bereans:

(Acts 17:11 NKJV) These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Whole Counsel / They take 1 Verse

Their words have to be in accordance with all 31,102 verses of this Bible. Remember last week we studied that the cults and the false teachers take a verse or two and build their whole doctrine from it. It has to be all 31,102 or nothing.

NT Test / Jesus – Acts - Epistles

And here is how we test them through the Scriptures, is what they are saying or trying to lead people to:

- Did Jesus say or do it?
- Did the Early church in the Book of Acts continue with it?
- Do the Epistles teach it and back it up?

Will Have a Wonderful Christian Life

You will have a wonderful Christian walk if you stick to this principle, people will be drawn to you because they will see that your walk is real and genuine.

Read Into – Take Out Of / IBS - OIA

False teachers read into the passage, we are to take out of it. Again, the Inductive Bible Study Method, Observation – what does it say, Interpretation – what does it mean within the context and theme of the epistle, and Application – what does it mean to me, how am I to apply this word to my life.

God Draws through Word / Nothing to Add or Change

God has been drawing people to Himself through this Word, He needs nothing new added to it or changed to draw people.

Be careful / May End Up Losing

Be careful if you think this message doesn't apply to you, for Satan comes so subtly, he whispers in your ear, hey I got something more exciting, more godly, the spirit is rally moving here, and you can find yourself drifting away without even realizing it. I am not saying you will lose your salvation, but you may end up losing.....

Outline of Know Your Adversaries - (2:1-22)

- Dangers of False Teachers – (2: 1-3)
- Destruction of False Teachers – (2: 4-9)
- Description of False Teachers – (2:10-22)

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

Chapter 3

Passage: 2 Peter 3:1-18

Title: Know Your Prophecy

Summary: In Chapter 2 Peter didn't mince words, he knew once he was off the scene that false teachers would creep in and try to lead the people astray. He hammered on the false teachers, and now here in chapter 3 he turns the attention to those who are in error about the return of the Lord. You see if you are not living for the immediate return of Christ, you will be easily lead astray by these false teachers as they try to entice people with their twisting of the Word.

2 Peter 3 (NKJV) 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. 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. 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.

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

Written to – Like Precious Faith

People with like precious faith. These people as we know from the first epistle were scattered from their homes because of the persecution that was upon them, everything they knew as familiar was gone, and they are living in areas foreign to them. But this book is timeless, an it is written to each of you who have that same precious faith that Peter and these people did:

(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:**

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.

Why he Writes - 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 suppose 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 Divine 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)

Outline of Know Your Scripture - (1:12-21)

- Remind Them of the Word, and Remind Them Often - (1:12)
- Men Die, but the Word Lives On - (1:13-15)
- Experiences Fade, but the Word Endures Forever - (1:16-19)
- The World Darkens, but the Word Shines Brightly – (1:19-21)

Outline of Know Your Adversaries - (2:1-22)

- Dangers of False Teachers – (2:1-3)
- Destruction of False Teachers – (2:4-9)
- Description of False Teachers – (2:10-22)

Outline of Know Your Prophecy - (3:1-18)

- The Lord and His Delay - (3:1-9)
- The Lord and His Day - (3:10-18)

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 a more 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 / Form their God

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. Or the Cults like 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.

Chp 2 False Teachers / Now Mockers of Return / Miss Return – Easily Lead Astray

In Chapter 2 Peter doesn't mince words, he knew once he was off the scene that the dogs would creep in and try to lead the people astray. He hammered on the false teachers, and now he turns the attention to those who are in error about the return of the Lord. You see if you are not living for the immediate return of Christ, you will be easily lead astray by these false teachers as they try to entice people with their twisting of the Word.

The Lord and His Delay - (3:1-9)

(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),

Peter Can't Just Preach Warmth – But Must Also Warn

So Peter, no doubt, like the rest of any true preacher, he doesn't want to come with the heavy things. But as a shepherd, a shepherd is to protect the flock of God as well as feed the flock of God. And we cannot sit and camp only on the sweet warming doctrines of the Lord of love and joy, best friend, life forevermore. There's a place that the Lord takes precious ink, precious time that the space is used to warn. And here Peter, he's warning about these false teachers who are full of themselves in immorality themselves. And yet they preach in a phoniness, they preach a watered-down gospel. And now here he comes to speak of the last days and the mocking that will come with that.

Passion Put into Remembrance / Repetition Key to Learning / Simple Truths - Established

Peter had a passion to put people in remembrance of the truth, a sign of a good Shepherd, a good teacher, a good friend. Again, the key to learning is repetition, and Peter is not trying to impress people with deeper doctrine, but impress upon them the simple truths. Remember his words in chapter 1, I know you know these things, but I will keep reminding to keep you or make sure you are established in them: *(2 Peter 1:12 NKJV) 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.*

Wise Words to You Teachers / Part of Fallen Nature

Wise words to all you Sunday School teachers, parents, Youth Workers, and Bible teachers - keep repeating yourself over and over again. Part of our fallen nature, we forget things we should remember, and remember things we should forget. Did I already tell you this?

(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,

Study the OT Also / We Do Bible Studies

Verse 2 - that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets: Speaking of the Old Testament; it is important to be a student of the Old Testament, to know the Old Testament. For many people this fellowship will not be their flavor, because they come, especially on a Sunday, to hear a sermon, to hear preaching, but that is not what we do here. We study the Bible, even on Sunday morning, for this is a teaching center, that is what the church is to be, because:

(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,

(2 Peter 3:3 NKJV) knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

(2 Peter 3:4 NKJV) 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."

Last Days – The Cumulation to the Final End Sum

And with this mocking,..... I love the word last days, I really do. Cause it tells me at some point it all sums up and gets done. That I don't have to sit here and go that this is never going end. That I know at some point God's going say enough and there's a summing and accumulating that then brings all of this to an end

And so here among them, wheats and tares, just as Jesus said there would be. And so he has to warn against the wheat and tares just like the birds in the tree (which is really a bush – mustard seed). Something abnormal is going on. Don't think that it's all wonderful. He warns that something can look so wonderful yet be so abnormal because a mustard seed was never supposed to be a tree and birds of the air didn't rest in bushes. So people who heard that would go, Hey, this doesn't sound right. What's he saying here?

Matthew 13:31–32 (NKJV) ³¹ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, ³² which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Matthew 13:24–30 (NKJV) ²⁴ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶ But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. ²⁷ So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "

There Own Lust

V3 - walking according to their own lusts, - Verse three is the reason they scoff because they're living in their own lost. It's not that they're deceived, it's not that they don't understand, it's because they're living in darkness and they choose the darkness.

Remember John 3:16, it's a beautiful passage, but verse 19 and 20 says, why people don't receive because they love darkness and don't want to come to the light. That's why we preach the light and let them decide. We don't have to try to unravel the mysteries of the universe. All the details of creation and evolution go into their history of their upbringing or their current situation. All those things are outliers. What's in the middle in the heart of the issue is are they willing to repent and turn from their sin and ask God to forgive them and ask for a savior and humble themselves before the sight of the Lord. New paragraph verse five, Peter, under inspiration, Holy Spirit makes it clear the very design and order of the universe proves there's a creator. And then if you wanna challenge that it's in disorder because of hurricanes and earthquakes. Well the answer is because it was formed in perfection and now it is in a fallen state of imperfection. And that's why we see what we see with all these natural disasters and the likes. But he's speaking saying the very God who had the ability to speak this into existence has the very same power to speak it out of existence. And someday he will. In the moment in a big bang it will be done wrapped up.

John 3:16–21 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

2000 Years Hearing That / Where is He / They Fulfill Prophecy

Verse 3 - knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts:

We all have been challenged by this, well where is your Christ, people have been saying that for 2000 years, every December 31st you have your update and say He is coming soon, well.....where is He. Guess what, that person saying that is fulfillment of prophecy, this prophecy.....in the last days scoffers will come. Thank you, thank you, your words get me excited, He is even nearer than I realized.

The Spider in Cornfield

Here might be food for thought....There was once a spider who lived in a cornfield. He was a big spider and he had spun a beautiful web between the corn stalks. He got fat eating all the bugs that would get caught in the web. He liked his home and planned to stay there for the rest of his life.

One day the spider caught a little bug in his web, and just as the spider was about to eat him, the bug said, "If you let me go I will tell you something important that will save your life." The spider paused for a moment and listened because he was amused. "You better get out of this cornfield," the little bug said, "The harvest is coming!" The spider smiled and said, "What is this harvest you are talking about? I think you are just telling me a story."

But the little bug said, "Oh no, it is true. The owner of this field is coming to harvest it soon. All the stalks will be knocked down and the corn will be gathered up. You will be killed by the giant machines if you stay here."

The spider said, "I don't believe in harvests and giant machines that knock down corn stalks. How can you prove this?" The little bug continued, "Just look at the corn. See how it is planted in rows? It proves this field was created by an intelligent designer." The spider laughed and mockingly said, "This field has

evolved and has nothing to do with a creator. Corn always grows that way." The bug went on to explain, "Oh no! This field belongs to the owner who planted it, and the harvest is coming soon."

The spider grinned and said to the little bug, "I don't believe you," and then the spider ate the bug for lunch.

A few days later, the spider was laughing about the story the little bug had told him. He thought to himself, A harvest! What a silly idea. I have lived here all of my life and nothing has ever disturbed me. I have been here since these stalks were just a foot off the ground, and I'll be here for the rest of my life, because nothing is ever going to change in this field.

Life is good, and I have it made." The next day was a beautiful sunny day in the cornfield. The sky above was clear and there was no wind at all. That afternoon as the spider was about to take a nap, he noticed some thick dusty clouds moving toward him. He could hear the roar of a great engine and he said to himself, "I wonder what that could be ... ?"

Peter Knows he Is Leaving – And He Knows Who is Coming!

Peter knows that he's leaving this world, but here's what else he knows He knows who's coming and Jesus is going come back for his bride. He's going set all this right. All these things will be put into its place before He comes back. He's going take us up. We're going be with him. What a beautiful picture and story full of warmth. And so Peter spends the time writing to make sure everyone knows what the Lord is saying. I'm coming back. This world's not going continue as it is, I'm coming back and there will be a day that I'll be here.

There are some 300 times, it speaks in the scriptures of the second coming of Christ, and speaks of us to be ready. And it speaks to us to comfort us to know that these things aren't out of control. He sees all things, and He can control anything if He so desires. And He gives us the calling to be steadfast as we wait. Because He's coming. He's coming to get us for the rapture and then shortly after that He's coming back with us at the end of that tribulation period. And He's going set up his kingdom here on earth for a thousand years.

He's coming and He wants us to remember today I'm coming in the last days. It's because men love sin and I won't mix it and let someone young here hear me say it's horrible. What? I'll tell you it is horrible, the consequences. But the moment can be so pleasurable. Moses would say sin is pleasurable for a season. But then comes the judgment and consequence of it. God gives us a warning cuz He loves us and He wants to protect us. But in these last days, people do it because they love it and they don't want to separate from it no matter what. They know it's true or no matter what is presented, they don't want to turn from it. And that's the context here. And let it be pointed that it's only carnal reasons that they reject that a flood happened. They have no scientific reasoning behind it. Because if anyone would do a casual study, the fossil records show that somewhere on this earth, some time on this earth, better said, was a global catastrophic event. And mockers, we can thank them cuz they simply confirm our faith by confirming that this word that was spoken is true. Because here they are, mocking the second coming, mocking the return of Christ.

(2 Peter 3:5 NKJV) 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,

(2 Peter 3:6 NKJV) by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.

God's Judgement is not Unprecedented.

verse six. It speaks the word that God judging is not something that is unprecedented. He's spoken at once as he spoke of Noah, he spoke it again as he spoke of Sodom and Gomorrah. Now he comes back to the flood again, meaning God has judged and God does judge, therefore God will judge and it will not go on continually forever. At some point last days have a period at the end of that word days and God's judgment comes

Like Day of Noah / Rain? / 120 Pounding & Preaching / Chp 2 False Teachers – Never Come

Peter likens this day to the day of Noah. Rain, never heard of it, you are a fanatic. Yet for 120 years Noah pounded on boards and preached to the people. As we saw in chapter 2, false teachers came along saying he was all wet, they counter his preaching. No doubt saying, where is this rain you speak about, so they kept living, as the day would never come.

(Matthew 24:38 NKJV) "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

(Matthew 24:39 NKJV) "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Willfully Ignorant / have to be Accountable

v.5 - For this they willfully forget - Verse 5 says they were willingly ignorant, they didn't want to know, or else then they would have to be accountable to what they knew, so too is it today.

Rain did Come / Imagine those 40 days – Relocate – Pound on Ark / God Shut them IN

The rain did come, the water canopy breaks and the deluge begins. 40 days; I wonder how many days it rained before the people realized, this is serious. I can imagine at first it was fun and new, refreshing and interesting. But after a few days, like rain usually is, this is getting old, stop already. I wonder how many days until they had to relocate due to the rain flooding the living room. How long until they were pounding in the ark, how long until fear set in, but at that point it was out of Noah's control to do anything for them, for God had shut them in:

(Genesis 7:16 NKJV) So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

Shut In – Shut Out / God's Grace Limited

God shut them in, which also meant the God shut them out. Yes the God of love did that. God's grace does have a limit, in the days of Noah it was 120 years, but today, all we know, is today:

(2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV) For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

(Matthew 24:42 NKJV) "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

(Matthew 24:43 NKJV) "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

(Matthew 24:44 NKJV) "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

(2 Peter 3:7 NKJV) 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.

Motivated by Lust

Ungodly men, verse 3 gave their motivation, they walked according to their own lust:

(2 Peter 3:3 NKJV) knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

Reserved

Reserved - means being stored up, but at some point will be released, poured out.

Fire – Never Flood Again

This judgment will be with fire, because the Lord promised never to flood the world again:

(Genesis 9:14 NKJV) "It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud;

(Genesis 9:15 NKJV) "and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Tremble for Lost / Darwin Sticker / Don't Want to Be Right / Remember – Sorrow for Them

I tremble for all that are lost, but I think about those people who take the fish symbol and put legs on it, write Darwin inside of it. What are you thinking, I wonder if they laugh and mock God when they do so. When I pass them I pray for them, if they knew what is coming. I do not want to be right, all the people who mocked me, laughed at me, I do not want to say I told you so, I want to say there you are, I am glad you are here. Christian when they mock you, attack you, remember these verses, and your heart will turn from resentment, to sorrow for them, and you will be able to love them even as they persecute you:

As Mock – Lord Waits

Verses 8-9 are beautiful verses, for as they mock, the Lord waits:

(2 Peter 3:8 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) 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.

Verse 9 - memory verse.

Time isn't Acceptance

A main point of a day and a thousand years is because people think time is God's acceptance, His winking. And they miss that.

Verse nine. It's not that I'm winking, it's that I'm gracious. I wish none should perish and I wish nobody here should perish tonight. That every one of you would come and have eternal life. But last days come with a summation, an accumulation to an end with a period or maybe better said an exclamation point. It's over.

And I pray that anyone tonight would see God's offer to come for eternal life, forgiveness of sin. But it comes through the cross. It comes through a heart of repentance. You must turn to make it to that cross.

Ezekiel – Takes No Pleasure in Death of Wicked / Gives Time to Repent

Ezekiel tells us that the Lord says, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He has no pleasure. He has no desire. His heart is to gather, not scatter, yet He gives free will that every man can choose. But He wishes none should perish and He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He's not the God of wrath and anger that everybody paints Him to be. He gives everybody free will. The word for repentance in the Greek, it literally means to change your mind. It means to change your direction. So for all clarity, it's not that you agree that you're a sinner. It's not that you agree that you need a savior. It's that you agree that what you're doing is wrong and it needs to change because he's holy and we need to change before Him, but only He has the power to change us, not we ourselves. So repentance looks like something. Repentance is not in word only. There will be a demonstration of a change because it's impossible to have God come into your life and not radically be changed.

(Ezekiel 33:11 NKJV) "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

Lord Waits / Only been 2 Days

So while they mock, the Lord waits. Jesus said, "I come quickly". People, scoffers say that was 2,000 years ago. Hey a day is like a thousand, and a thousand like a day, it's only been 2 days. God is outside of our time domain, and He is patient, for He wishes that none should perish, but that all should seek repentance.

6 & 1

There is a six and one example given throughout the Scriptures:

- 6 days of Creation – God rested on the 7th (Genesis 2:2).
- Work 6 days - Sabbath rest on the 7th (Exodus 20:9-11)
- Work the land for 6 years - rest the land on the 7th (Leviticus 25:3-4)
- Slavery for 6 years - released on the 7th (Deuteronomy 15)

4000 + 2000 / Struggling – Working – Tilling - Slavery / Approaching 1000 Millennial Rest

Interestingly from Adam to Jesus was about 4,000 years, and from Jesus to today about 2,000 years, so 6,000 years total of man on earth. 6,000 years of struggling, working, tilling the soil, in slavery to sin; we are approaching the 1,000-year period, the millennial kingdom, our rest.

God of Grace / Glad He is Longsuffering / Didn't Come in Jan 91 / How About You

He is such a God of grace and love. He is also a Holy God therefore His wrath must come to cleanse all unrighteousness, nothing impure can stand before His holiness without being consumed, and cleansing can only come through the washing of the blood of Jesus, who cleanses us from all unrighteousness - blessed be His name. I am so thankful He is longsuffering, that His longsuffering didn't end in January of 1991, for I got saved sometime in February 1991. How about you? Had he come before say 2020, would you be going through the tribulation period right now? I am thankful He is longsuffering; He is such a God of love.

Noah Shut In Based on Decision

Christian I also point this out concerning Noah, God shut Noah and family in based on their decision, and God shut them (the other people) out, based on their decision not to come in while the door was open. God did not put it on Noah to shut the door, and keep it shut, nor does He or will He put that on us, all He says for us is to tell them. I wonder what it must have been like for Noah to hear the pounding on the door. But in context we know they were not pounding to repent, but to escape, for God wishes that none should perish but that all should seek repentance. He says that He takes no pleasure in judgement: *(Ezekiel 33:11 NKJV) "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"*

The Lord and His Day - (3:10-18)

Now we go from the Delay, to the Day.

(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) 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.

It is All Going to Burn

Verse 10. It's all going to melt. The saying is true, it's all going to burn. And so we see this calling of what manner person we should be. Verse three, back in chapter one, he's given us all for life and godliness and therefore the word that's being spoken is for us. And our manner of living is not to be wrapped up in the things that will burn the way to be investing in the things that are everlasting.

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV) 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,

Colossians 1 / Atomic Glue – Is Jesus

(Colossians 1:17 NIV) He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians says Jesus holds it all together, but here we see one day He will just let it go. God is just going to let it go, and the world will dissolve. Scientists do not know what holds atomic matter together, but they agree if it is released the world will dissolve. They call the thing that holds matter together, atomic glue, we call Him - Jesus.

Here is Big Bang

Verse 10 is the Big Bang, so yes the evolutionists have that part right, they just have it backwards, it didn't come at the beginning, it will come at the end.

4 Days / Know them to Understand Context

Bible students, there are 4 "Days" that are important to understanding so we can be better students of the Bible, and be able to understand the context when we see them throughout the Scriptures. This is a very high level look, each of these days in themselves is a whole semester class in any Bible College;

1.) Day of Man – (Genesis 2:15 & 3:1-24) the day that God turned the world over to man, Adam in the garden. Adam in turn turned it over to Satan when he fell. That is why this world is in such a mess, this is the answer to why people suffer, because this world is not under a theocracy, where God is ruling and reigning. In order for that to happen, God has to cleanse the world, and that means the end of His longsuffering:

(Genesis 2:15 NKJV) Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

(Genesis 3:5 NKJV) "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

(Matthew 13:44 NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

(Matthew 4:8 NKJV) Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

(Matthew 4:9 NKJV) And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

2.) Day of Christ - (Phil 1:6 / 1 Cor 1:7-9 / 2 Thess 2:1-3) when you see this in the Scripture it is not Jesus bringing Judgment, but looking forward to receiving His church. This is looking forward to the rapture (1 Thess 4) the harpzo/rapture. We are snatched away for a 7-year Marriage feast in heaven with Him. The Day of Christ is not His Second Coming, for He will meet us in the air. The Second Coming is when He sets His feet upon the Mount of Olivet's. The moment the Rapture happens, the period of Grace is over:

(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;

*(1 Corinthians 1:7 NKJV) so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
(1 Corinthians 1:8 NKJV) who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

(2 Thessalonians 2:1 NKJV) Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

(2 Thessalonians 2:2 NKJV) not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

(2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV) Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

(1 Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

3.) Day of the Lord - (Joel 1-3) (Revelation 6-19) (Revelation 6:12-17). This is the period when God pours out His wrath on a Christ rejecting world. It begins sometime after the rapture, It starts with the 7 year Tribulation Period (Revelation 6-19). It will be a horrible time on the earth with plagues, famines, pestilence, just terrible. The Day of the Lord, goes through the tribulation period, sees the 2nd Coming of Christ at the Battle of Armageddon, then into the Millennial Kingdom, and then the dissolving of the heaven and earth:

*(Joel 1:15 NKJV) Alas for the day! **For the day of the LORD** is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.*

*(Malachi 4:5 NKJV) Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful **day of the LORD**.*

*(Acts 2:20 NKJV) The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome **day of the LORD**.*

*(1 Thessalonians 5:2 NKJV) For you yourselves know perfectly that the **day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night**.*

*(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) **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.*

*(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For **the great day of His wrath** has come, and who is able to stand?"*

Question – How Make Decision Then / Friends – How Can He – Career – Finances – Lose it All

The question has to be asked, if it is so hard to make a decision for Christ now, when people worry what their friends will think, or question how can a God of Love allow this, what about my career, my family, my finances; if a person struggles with those things now, how will they have the courage to stand up for them then, especially when you go bankrupt if you don't get the "mark", even beheaded if you do, or imprisoned. How will a person have the courage then? Today is the day;

(2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV) For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Unbeliever Caught off Guard

The Unbeliever will be caught off guard:

(1 Thessalonians 5:1 NKJV) But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

*(1 Thessalonians 5:2 NKJV) For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.
(1 Thessalonians 5:3 NKJV) For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.
(1 Thessalonians 5:4 NKJV) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*

4.) The Day of God - (2 Peter 3:12). The period of the eternal Kingdom of God, when the New heaven and the New Earth are created (Revelation 21). It is back to the Garden, it is back to a world that is as God intended, no more pain, no more sorrow:

(2 Peter 3:12 NKJV) 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?

(Revelation 21:4 NKJV) "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

(Revelation 21:5 NKJV) Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

There is an Overlap

There is an overlap in each of these, meaning the Day of Christ may happen at a specific moment, but it doesn't necessarily mean the Day of the Lord immediately begins. The debate goes on as to when the earth is dissolved (Day of the Lord or Day of God, but it is really a moot point, the earth and heavens are dissolved, and a new earth and heaven are created and into the perfect state man goes forever, and ever.

Thief in Night

The Day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night, so then does the rapture for it precedes this terrible time upon the earth. The day of the Rapture, nobody knows:

(2 Peter 3:11 NKJV) Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

We are in the Middle of the Story – Thus Peace Knowing the End

verse 11. The Lord gives us a place of peace by telling us our place that we're in the middle of the story. And we know that we are because he's telling us where the end of the story is. And knowing the end of the story brings us into the great peace. Cause I don't have to wonder, I don't have to worry. I know how it ends and therefore I can live in my peace and my place in this story and total power and peace because I know I won't be surprised in the end how it all plays out. And especially that I'm going see him face to face. That's the ultimate end peace of all of this.

Key to Life – Live Backwards

The key to life, live life backwards. Live life with eternity in mind, where will I be spending the next million of million years.

If Believe – Determine Way we Live

If we truly believe these verses, then it should determine the way we live. It will not be just an intellectual concept, but a life mission:

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Be Blunt / Not Just Profession – it is Life

Let me be blunt, if you are living in fornication today, drunkardness, sodomy, stealing money, beating you wife, living contrary to the Word of God, then you don't believe this. Back to 1 John 3. And, if you can live it with no remorse or conviction of sin, I would be very concerned if I was you. Salvation is not just a profession, it is a life.

(2 Peter 3:12 NKJV) 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?

(2 Peter 3:13 NKJV) Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Watching – Waiting - Working

We are to be watching, waiting and working while we are here.

Righteousness will be at Home

Don't you look forward to that day when righteousness is at home here on earth? When righteousness, integrity, purity are no longer viewed as strange, but it is normal. Where people love one another, care about each other, where love reigns supremely.

New Heaven – New Earth / We will be There – Let There be Light

I like this, a new heaven, and a new earth. Christian check this out, we will be there this time when He says, "Let there be Light", it will be Genesis 1 all over again, but this time we will be there.

(2 Peter 3:14 NKJV) Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

Only through Jesus can we be found without spot and blameless.

(2 Peter 3:15 NKJV) 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,

Nero Persecution / Remember these Words

V15 – longsuffering - The people that this epistle was written to were suffering, under persecution from Nero, being lit on fire, feed to the lions, and Peter says hang in there, He has His eye on you.

Beloved Brother Paul

Peter calls Paul the beloved brother. And let's not forget what Paul wrote in Galatians, that he rebuked Peter publicly for hypocrisy and Peter was fully in the wrong. And yet what we read here is that Peter's holding no root of bitterness. He is showing no resentfulness towards Paul, if anything, as he calls him the beloved brother. We're seeing that Peter was willing to be corrected even as great as he was as an apostle, yet he was willing to be corrected so that he might become more like Christ.

[Galatians 2:11–13 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

What Peter did was wrong. And we see another great lesson there in that we're all in this place of air and wrong and guilt, and yet it'll just be humble and lowly the Lord will use it to take us into even more greatness. Because here's Peter, however many years this is 15, 20 years later since that time that we read in Galatians here he is fulfilling his call teaching the word of God as Jesus would say, do you love me? Feed my sheep. And it's a shame because so many people don't finish their calling because of root of bitterness. Someone has offended them and they'd rather just go and become nothing. They'd rather just go and sulk or they'd rather nullify their ministry rather than doing what Peter does and just repent and go on to great things that the Lord has called.

(2 Peter 3:16 NKJV) 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.

Paul's Writing

If you've ever read Romans 9-11, or 2 Thessalonians 2, or 1 Corinthians 11 you too may've concluded Paul was difficult to understand. Don't worry, you're in good company, Peter

thought so too. Paul got complicated. But notice Peter equates Paul's writings to the rest of the Bible. He believed Paul's writings were inspired. He says, "as they do also (in) the rest of the Scriptures." This is important. Peter had no doubt Paul's letters should be included in the sacred canon of God's Word.

(2 Peter 3:17 NKJV) 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;

False Teachers – Chapter 2

Peter referring back to the false teachers:

- They covet you for personal gain.
- They do it to justify their personal life of sin.
- They lay the same doctrine besides yours, but twist it from there

Verse 17, one of two exhortations that Peter says, the end of his life, knowing he will soon see the Lord face to face and die, the martyr's death. And he says to the people, remain steadfast. Don't let the pressures of the persecution, don't let the false teachers keep you from remaining steadfast.

Watch Out for Them / Wont Lose Salvation – But Will Lose

Watch out for them, they are heading for destruction, you stick to the Word. Verse 17, you won't lose your salvation, but you will lose.

(2 Peter 3:18 NKJV) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

2nd Exhortation – Keep Growing

Verse 18, the second exhortation, keep growing in your walk, in your knowledge of the Lord. Don't let circumstances, don't let hard times, don't let pressures from the outside make you stop. You keep pushing. As our brother Paul would say, reaching for the high calling of Christ Jesus, regardless of what this world throws, may we be found faithful. May we be found, bringing Him glory. May we be found bringing Him honor. May we be found a people who are not like anything else or anyone else in this world. We are not like anyone. We are his chosen, redeemed, and purchased for his own special people

Ends with Theme

Peter ends with the theme of this book, Peter closes by repeating his theme. Here's how we can mature in Christ: Let's guard against error and grow in grace and knowledge.

*(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,*

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