

***Second Peter: Courageous Living in Chaotic Days  
Following the Apostolic Faith  
2 Peter 1:16-21***

*We are now into Peter's second section...*

*Regarding the Word...*

*I've titled today's message, "Following the Apostolic Faith"*

*I've done that because I believe that is exactly what Peter is focused on here in this last testament of his...*

*He knows he is about to die...*

*The Church is reaching the end of an era...*

*It is reaching the end of the era of the Apostles living and leading the Church...*

*He also knows that teachers are rising up who are questioning the validity of those first disciples of Jesus...*

*The Church has by now separated from any notion of being a sect of Judaism...*

*Judaism with its strict adherence to the Law has been overcome by the fulfillment of the Law through the Lord Jesus Christ*

*What then are the foundations of the Christian Faith anchored upon?*

***As that first generation of the Church was coming to a close the leaders began, with urgent sincerity, pointing the Church in the generations that would follow to the foundational teachings of Jesus Christ THROUGH THE FIRST APOSTLES***

***Ephesians 2:19–21 (ESV) — So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.***

***Jude 3 (ESV) — Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.***

***1. The INESCAPABLE ARGUMENT of Apostolic Faith***

***2 Peter 1:16–18 (ESV) — For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.***

***Peter here mentions, "...the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ..."***

**2 Peter 1:16 (ESV) — For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**

**At first sound, Peter here seems to be referencing the coming of Jesus to earth as a baby... His Incarnation...**

**While it is true that His coming carries with it...**

- **His Incarnation**
- **His Crucifixion**
- **His Resurrection**
- **His Ascension**
- **His Intercession**

**Peter's focus here is NOT to that side of Jesus coming...**

**In reality, Peter is referring to the second coming of Jesus and the Judgment to follow...**

**In Peter's first letter he referred to the second coming of Jesus...**

**1 Peter 1:5 (ESV) — who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

**1 Peter 1:13 (ESV) — Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

**1 Peter 4:13 (ESV) — But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.**

**2 Peter 3:4 (ESV) — They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."**

**This is one of the arguments that was being hurled against the Apostles...**

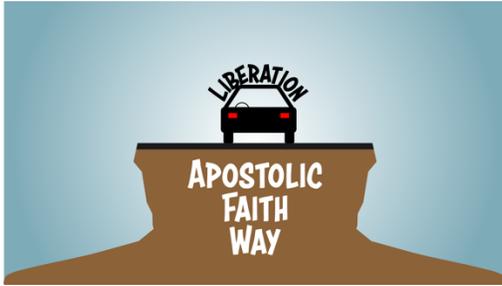
**2 Peter 3:10 (ESV) — But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.**

**Then next Peter again focuses on the second coming...**

**2 Peter 3:11–12 (ESV) — Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!**

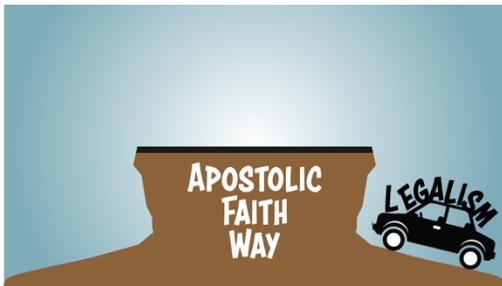
**This is very important for us to understand the weight of magnitude the Apostolic Faith places on the RETURN OF JESUS**

**→ Pic 1 – Liberation**



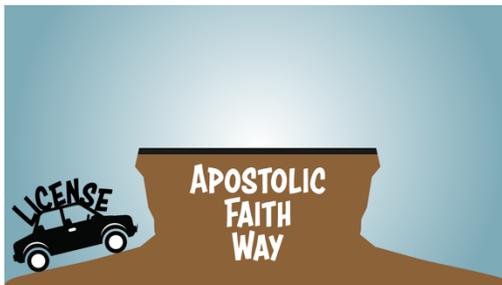
But the problem is that there are **DITCHES** on either side of the Apostolic Faith Way...

→ **Pic 2 – Legalism**



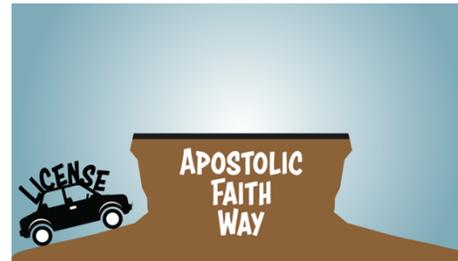
➤ **LEGALISM – ABSENCE of Grace**

→ **Pic 3 – License**



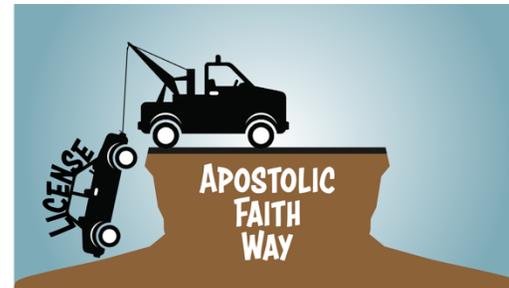
➤ **LICENSE – ABUSE of Grace**

→ **Pic 3 – License**



This second ditch... The ditch of License, is the ditch Peter is focused on dealing with primarily...

→ **Pic 4 – Wrecker**



## 2. The **IMMORAL AVOIDANCE** of Apostolic Faith

2 Peter 1:16 (ESV) — For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

**2 Peter 2:1–3 (ESV) — But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.**

*Let's look a little closer at what is avoided...*

**2 Peter 2:1–3 (ESV) — But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.**

**2 Peter 2:17–22 (ESV) — These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it**

**to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”**

*So, because of this Peter begins his letter...*

**2 Peter 1:3–5a (ESV) — His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue ...**

**Jude 3–4 (ESV) — Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

### **3. The IGNORANT ACCUSATION against Apostolic Faith**

**2 Peter 1:16 (ESV) — For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming**

*of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

*2 Peter 3:1–3 (ESV) — This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.*

*2 Peter 3:4–7 (ESV) — They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.*

#### **4. The INSPIRED AUTHORITY of Apostolic Faith**

*2 Peter 1:19–21 (ESV) — And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever*

*produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

#### ➤ **ILLUMINATION of God’s Word**

*2 Peter 1:19 (ESV) — And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts*

*John 1:5 (ESV) — The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

#### ➤ **REVELATION of God’s Word**

*2 Peter 1:20 (ESV) — knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.*

*The prophecies did not originate with the prophets themselves...*

*The prophets were not giving INTERPRETATION, but REVELATION...*

*So, what is the difference between these?*

→ ***Interpretation means, “unloosing” something***

*This is left to the person’s own “unloosing” approach*

→ ***Revelation means, “unveiling” something***

➤ ***INSPIRATION of God's Word***

***2 Peter 1:21 (ESV) — For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.***

***2 Timothy 3:16a (ESV) — All Scripture is breathed out by God ...***

**Second Peter: Courageous Living in Chaotic Days  
Following the Apostolic Faith  
2 Peter 1:16-21**

The Gospel we must always \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and give our utmost \_\_\_\_\_ to is the Gospel given through those first \_\_\_\_\_.

**1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Apostolic Faith**

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ of Grace

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ of Grace

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Apostolic Faith**

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ against Apostolic Faith**

**4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Apostolic Faith**

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word