

The Growth of the Christian (II Peter 1:1-11)

"In this second letter, Peter describes (ch. 2) some twisted versions of Christian truth being taught. Recalling his experience of Christ's glory at the transfiguration (1:17–18), Peter explains the "more fully confirmed" truth of the gospel as an antidote to heresy. The gospel is like "a lamp shining in a dark place" (1:19). In chapter 3 Peter focuses on those who scoff at the idea of Christ's triumphant return and the final judgment. Just as God once destroyed the world with water, he will one day bring his fire to it. In light of this, we should live in "holiness and godliness" as we await his return and the salvation he has promised to all believers. Peter probably wrote this letter about a.d. 67–68, shortly before his death." ESV Bible

STUDY QUESTIONS:**II Peter 1:12-15**

These verses make it obvious that Peter's primary concern was not to refute false teachers, but to ground his readers in the truth of God's Word. He cared deeply for his readers and wanted to remind them of the dependability of scripture -especially in the presence of false teachers (ch 2).

- ✓ **Work as a group to identify key or repeated words. What is Peter's personal motivation for writing this letter?**
- ✓ **Knowledge can motivate us to action. What did Peter want his readers to know and do?**
- ✓ **What insights does your group have on Peter's death? How does this factor into Peter's final letter?**
- ✓ **Peter wants his readers to be prepared for "(at) any time." What does this look like in the believer's life?**

Quote: "Remember what you know, and be what you are." -William Barclay

Word Study: to "stir up" means to awaken from a sleep and keep alert and diligent. Peter wanted to "shake them out of their spiritual drowsiness and alert them to the surrounding danger." ⁱ

Parallel Passage: Jesus prediction of Peter's final days (John 13:36; 21:18-19).

II Peter 1:16-21

These verses stress the trustworthy nature of their (apostolic) ministry and message. This is in contrast to the false teachings that were surfacing. "Peter is not charging his readers with neglecting the Word, but he is concerned, apparently, at the neglect and misuse of it encouraged by the false teachers."ⁱⁱ

- ✓ Read Matthew 7:15-20. What parallel is there between “good fruit” and the “qualities” Peter mentioned in 1:5-7?
- ✓ What do these verses tell us about the certainty of prophetic revelation?
- ✓ What do these verses tell us about the origin of prophetic scripture?
- ✓ What is the appropriate attitude a believer should have toward scripture?

Quote: "It is not the believers responsibility to point out the darkness in the world, rather it is to shine the light (be the light) in the darkness" -Greg Lyons

Verse 19: Prophecy here is to serve as a “night-light” to the morning sun. The morning star, usually the planet Venus, reflects the light of the sun still below the horizon and so signals the coming day. "Peter is looking forward to the return of Christ's glory bringing the anticipated eschatological day -his reference here is to the first signs of that coming day."ⁱⁱⁱ

APPLICATION QUESTION:

- ✓ How important is Peter’s reminder for the church today?
- ✓ Why is it important for the believer to hold firmly and to study scripture?
- ✓ How can you personally do a better job in dealing with God’s Word?

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