

The Second Epistle of PETER

Chapter 1:1-14

“The Fruitful Life!”

> Introduction to Second Peter:

- **Written by:** SIMON means *God has heard*, PETER in Greek is *Petros – A piece of Rock*.
- **Date of writing:** A.D. 66
- **Theme:** “*The Last Days*”
- **Key verses:** **2 Peter 1:19-21** - *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; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 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 3:18** – *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

> Chapter Topics:

Chapter 1:1-14 - “THE FRUITFUL LIFE!”

Chapter 1:15-21 - “A Light that Shines in a Dark Place”

Chapter 2 - “Warning: False Teachers Amongst You”

Chapter 3:1-9 - “Where is the Promise of His Coming?”

Chapter 3:10-18 - “The Day of the Lord”

> Key contrasts between:

| <u>First Peter</u> | <u>&</u> | <u>Second Peter</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| - <i>External Opposition</i> | | <u><i>Internal Opposition</i></u> |
| - <i>Hostility</i> | | <u><i>Heresy</i></u> |
| - <i>Antagonism</i> | | <u><i>Apostasy</i></u> |
| - <i>Endurance</i> | | <u><i>Steadfastness</i></u> |
| - <i>Waiting</i> | | <u><i>Warning</i></u> |
| - <i>Suffering</i> | | <u><i>Error</i></u> |
| - <i>Submission</i> | | <u><i>Knowledge</i></u> |
| - <i>Comfort</i> | | <u><i>Caution</i></u> |
| - <i>Hope in the Lord’s Return</i> | | <u><i>Confidence in the Lord’s Return</i></u> |

“The Fruitful Life!”

Chapter 1:1-14

> Peter’s Eight Principles for the Fruitful LIFE:

- **Principle #1** - (v1) **FAITH!** - *Our “precious faith by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ” – Our faith is in Jesus Christ; He is our GOD* (cf. Is. 43:3,11; 45:15,21; 60:16; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9; Titus 2:13; Heb. 1:8) **and SAVIOR**, in the Old Testament we read, *“There is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior”* (Isaiah 45:21). In the New Testament the word for savior describes both God the Father (1 Timothy 1:1; Jude 25) and Jesus Christ the Son (Acts 5:31; Philippians 3:20). The apostles rejoiced that in Christ, God had become the “Savior of all men” (1 Timothy 4:10). He was the Savior of Gentiles as well as Jews. As Christians, we are exhorted to *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18). (From Nelson’s Bible Dictionary.) Warren Wiersbe writes, “A savior is

"one who brings salvation," and the word *salvation* was familiar to the people of that day. In their vocabulary, it meant "deliverance from trouble," particularly "deliverance from the enemy." It also carried the idea of "health and safety." A physician was looked on as a savior because he helped deliver the body from pain and limitations. A victorious general was a savior because he delivered the people from defeat. Even a wise official was a savior because he kept the nation in order and delivered it from confusion and decay. It requires little insight to see how the title "Saviour" applies to our Lord Jesus Christ. He is, indeed, the Great Physician who heals the heart from the sickness of sin. He is the victorious Conqueror who has defeated our enemies - sin, death, Satan, and hell - and is leading us in triumph."

- **Principle #2 - (v2) GRACE & PEACE! - Our "grace and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord"** – Grace and peace can become mere words or clichés amongst Christians, as so many believers live life without fully grasping grace, thus they feel guilt ridden and lack joy; whereas, others have no peace of mind, heart and soul and wonder why! The answer is found in the KNOWLEDGE of GOD and of JESUS OUR LORD! KNOWLEDGE is discovered through EDUCATION in the WORD OF GOD, THE BIBLE, thus education produces multiplication in grace and peace. To know God is to receive his grace, to know Jesus is to receive his peace. Paul's insight according to **Romans 5:1-5** - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

- **Principle #3 - (v3) POWER! - "His divine power"** - For testimony, truth, learning, remembrance, conviction, witness, service, gifts, fruitfulness, goodness, praise, and even martyrdom (John 14, 15, 16; Acts 1:8; Ro. 12; Eph. 4&5; 1Cor. 12; Gal. 5; Acts 7).

- **Principle #4 - (v4a) PROMISES! - "precious promises"** - The Greek word for *precious* is "*timios*" which means: *costly – of such extreme value that the price cannot be estimated – priceless – very highly esteemed or cherished*. Here are seven things the Bible says are precious: (1) **Faith** -- 2 Peter 1:1; (2) **The blood of Christ and Christ Himself** -- 1 Peter 1:18-20; 2:5-7; (3) **The death of a saint** -- Psalms 116:15; (4) **God's Law** -- Psalms 119:72; (5) **Unity** -- Psalms 133:1-2; (6) **Wisdom** -- Proverbs 3:13-18; (7) **All of God's Word** – Psalms 19:7-14 (In God's Word are over 3000 promises!)

- **Principle #5 - (v4b) PARTAKERS! - "partakers of the divine nature"** (Flesh vs. Spirit – Galatians 5:16-26; example: Luke 15:11-24 (the prodigal son).

- **Principle #6 - (v5-7) CHARACTER! - Practical virtues – Our challenge is: Are we **ADDING** to your **CHRISTIAN CHARACTER**:**

> **FAITH** – Rom 10:17 - *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
(Antonym – Unbelief!)

> **VIRTUE** – Moral excellence or goodness. (Antonym – Iniquity.)

> **KNOWLEDGE** – The truth or facts of life that a person acquires either through experience or thought. The greatest truth that a person can possess with the mind or learn through experience is truth about God (Ps 46:10; John 8:31-32). (Antonym – Ignorance, inexperience, unfamiliarity.)

> **SELF-CONTROL** – Control of one's actions or emotions by the will; especially his sensual appetites. (Antonym – Self-indulgence.)

> **PERSEVERANCE** – The steadfast effort to follow God's commands and to do His work. The New Testament makes it clear that faith alone can save. But it makes it equally clear that perseverance in doing good works is the greatest indication that an individual's faith is genuine

(James 2:14-26). Christians learn to persevere primarily because God is intimately related to them (Rom 8:25-27) and especially because we have the assurance of a final reward in heaven (1 John 5:13). (Antonym – Idleness, neglect, fickleness.)

> **GODLINESS** – The whole of practical piety (1 Tim 4:8; 2 Peter 1:6). "It supposes knowledge, veneration, affection, dependence, submission, gratitude, and obedience." (Antonym – Ungodliness, godlessness, wickedness.)

> **BROTHERLY KINDNESS** – Believers are exhorted to "be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love" (Rom 12:10), to "let brotherly love continue" (Heb 13:1), to "love the brotherhood" (1 Peter 2:17), and to "love as brothers" (1 Peter 3:8). Brotherly love is to be the badge, or hallmark, of a Christian (John 13:35). (Antonym – Self-seeking, harshness, inhumanity.)

> **LOVE** - Love is declared to be the chief test of Christian discipleship (John 13:35; Matt 5:44; 1 John 3:14). Also, love is the highest motive or ground of moral actions. Without this all other motives fall short of furnishing the true stimulus of Christian living. (Antonym – Hate, detest, abhor.)

- **Principle #7** - (v8-11) **HOPE!** – *“An entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (John 14:1-3 - *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*)

- **Principle #8** - (v12-14) **TRUTH!** – **Remind each other of our present truth and that one day we will put off our TENT!** (2 Corinthians 5:1-8)

- **This week's MEMORY VERSE:** John 13:34-35 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

LET'S GO FOR GOD!