

## 2 Peter 1 – Continue to Grow

### Introduction

- The theme of this short letter seems to be summarized in the final two verses of chapter 3 – beware, but grow  
**2 Peter 3:17-18** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, **beware** lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But **grow** in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.
- Chapter one begins with the greeting from the apostle Peter writing to those who faith in Christ
- The outline for chapter one leads us through a progression of starting right, continuing well and finishing strong in the Christian life
- He concludes the chapter by reminding us of the importance of having the Word of God as our foundation

### I. Starting Right with a Foundational Faith

#### A. Faith in a Person

**2 Peter 1:1-2** Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

1. Like precious (equal) faith refers to the faith that we have in a risen Christ is no different than those who had faith who walked with Christ
2. The Savior (Jesus Christ) was the one who provided salvation
3. Only Jesus can supply righteousness, grace and peace

#### B. Faith in God's Power

**2 Peter 1:3** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

1. We cannot live for God dependent upon ourselves
2. We can live for God with the power that He give us

### C. Faith in God's Promises

**2 Peter 1:4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1. His promises are of great value and price because of their source
2. His promises are written in His Word and need to be our daily sustenance

## II. Continuing Well – Spiritual Growth by Adding to our Faith

### A. Adding

**2 Peter 1:5-7** And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

1. Virtue – excellence in fulfilling its purpose
  - a) We must not only believe, but also behave
  - b) Faith without works is dead

**James 2:17** Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
2. Knowledge – not necessarily deep truth but practical knowledge
  - a) We must not only have integrity, but we must be informed
  - b) Knowledge acquired by learning, effort, experience
  - c) Acquisition of spiritual truth

**Proverbs 9:10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.
3. Temperance – self-control including our actions, thoughts, desires
  - a) We must not only be taught, but we must be temperate
  - b) Put into practice what we have learned

**2 Corinthians 10:5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
4. Patience – endurance with the pressures and problems of life
  - a) We must not only be in possession, but also have patience
  - b) Patience – never give in – never give up – steadfast
  - c) Courage against all odds

**James 1:3-4** Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

**5. Godliness – right in his relationship with God**

- a) We must not only be patiently good, but patently godly
- b) Holy living

**Titus 2:12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

**6. Brotherly kindness – brotherly love**

- a) We must not only be holy, but we must be helpful
- b) Love for brothers and sisters – friendship

**Romans 12:10** Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

**7. Charity – sacrificial love**

- a) We must not only be liberal, but also lovable
- b) Love is known by its actions

**1 Corinthians 13:4** Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

**B. Abounding**

**2 Peter 1:8-9** For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

**1. Being fruitful – effective and practical production**

**2. Having a clear vision**

- a) Sin will blind us to our own sinful condition
- b) Sin will blind us to our own conversion

### **III. Finishing Strong – Remember these Things**

**A. Be sure – examine yourselves**

**2 Peter 1:10-11** Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

1. He is speaking here to those who are the brethren – the saved
  2. They are to examine their lives and their actions – are they producing fruit?
  3. Never fall does not refer to losing your salvation but stumbling in your walk with God
  4. It is possible that there is a hint here to varying levels of privilege and reward in Heaven
- B.** Be reminded – don't forget
- 2 Peter 1:12-15** Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.
1. Be reminded of the things that you already know
    - a) Repetition increases learning
    - b) Recollection of things learned but forgotten
    - c) Reminders of things which should be a priority
  2. Establish these truths in your life as permanent
    - a) Respond to things we have ignored
    - b) Take Responsibility to obey what you have learned
    - c) Be willing to Receive more

#### **IV. Established Book – the Importance of the Word of God**

##### **A.** The integrity of the Word of God

**2 Peter 1:16** For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

1. The Bible is not a book of fables
2. Peter was an eyewitness at the Mount of Transfiguration

**2 Peter 1:17-18** For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

**B. The illumination of the Word of God**

**2 Peter 1:19** 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:

1. The Bible is our sure source of information in a world filled with information
2. The Bible is our shining light in a dark world

**C. The inspiration of the Word of God**

**2 Peter 1:20-21** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1. The Bible is not a reader's personal opinion – this is what the Bible means to me
2. The Bible cannot be isolated from its context
3. The Bible did not originate from the minds of men and women
4. The Bible is God's very words given to us through the working of the Holy Spirit

**Conclusion**

- Have you started being a Christian? Do you have that foundational faith in Christ to be your Savior?
- Are you continuing well adding to that foundational faith?
- What do you need to be reminded of today so that you will finish strong? We all need repetition to help us learn and remember
- Do you realize that the only way that any of this can be successful is through the sure word – God's Word

## 2 Peter 2 – Beware of False Teachers

### Introduction

- Peter finished up chapter 1 reminding us of the integrity of the Word of God and how that God's Word is not a book of fables but is the inspired Word of God
- Satan is very clever in that he is the great imitator – we can very easily be deceived at times in believing something that appears to be true but is actually just an imitation
- This chapter deals with a warning about false teachers and their doctrine

### I. The Description of These False Teachers (1-3)

#### A. Their deceitful message

**2 Peter 2:1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

1. These false teachers spoke about a message that they claimed to have received from God
2. Their message arrives subtly, the deceit is laid next to the truth
3. These were not just slight errors in their teaching, but those who were deliberately distorting the truth of God – they are not true believers
4. False teachers/religions exist today who deny the Lord
  - a) Those who do not believe that Jesus was God
  - b) Those who deny the existence of Hell
  - c) Those who exalt others as God
  - d) Those who claim there are multiple ways to Heaven

#### B. Their great following

**2 Peter 2:2-3** And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

1. Many will follow their destructive (pernicious) ways because of their intriguing words
2. Their words were fictitious, molded (plastos)
3. They will use the same vocabulary, but not the same dictionary

4. Their motivation in their teaching was monetary profit

## II. The Destruction of These False Teachers (3-9)

*There is much similarity between these verses and those of Jude*

### A. Their downfall was assured

**2 Peter 2:3** And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

### B. Examples of false teachers who were destroyed

1. The angels who sinned and were cast out of Heaven

**2 Peter 2:4** For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

- a) Sin began in Heaven when Lucifer and 1/3 of the angels were cast out by God
- b) Some of these angels have already met their doom – they have been imprisoned in Hell awaiting the Lake of Fire
- c) Some of the fallen angels have their dwelling here on this earth and are engaged in spiritual battle but eventually they will be punished

**Matthew 25:41** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

2. The population before the Flood

**2 Peter 2:5** And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

- a) The world at this time was extremely wicked  
**Genesis 6:5** And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- b) Noah and his family were spared and the whole population was destroyed

3. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah

**2 Peter 2:6** And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

- a) Sodom and Gomorrah were filled with sin and wickedness  
**Genesis 13:13** But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.  
**Genesis 18:20** And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;
  - b) The city was characterized by homosexual behaviors  
**Genesis 19:5** And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.
  - c) These cities were destroyed because of their sin and also as an example to others
- C. Examples of true believers delivered
- 1. Noah  
**2 Peter 2:5** And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;
    - a) Noah was a preacher of righteousness
    - b) Noah and his family were saved alive
  - 2. Lot  
**2 Peter 2:7-8** And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)
    - a) Even though Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom, he was still a righteous man
    - b) He was vexed and harassed on a daily basis by wickedness
- D. God will judge those who reject Him  
**2 Peter 2:9** The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

### III. The Details of These False Teachers (10-17)

- A. Truth about their conduct  
**2 Peter 2:10** But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.
- 1. Their desires are selfish, fleshly and wicked
  - 2. They despise authority over them

- 3. They are bold to act and shameless in their actions
- B. Truth about their speech
 

**2 Peter 2:11-12** Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

  - 1. Their words were blasphemous, abusive and slanderous
  - 2. The spoke about things to which they had no understanding
- C. Truth about their actions
 

**2 Peter 2:13-14** And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

  - 1. They find pleasure in their sin
  - 2. Their reputation stains a good testimony
  - 3. They are always looking for someone to seduce
- D. Truth about their motivations
 

**2 Peter 2:15-16** Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

  - 1. Their motivation is money
  - 2. Balaam was willing to disobey for the possibility of financial profit
- E. Truth about their message
 

**2 Peter 2:17** These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

  - 1. Their message had no depth – it was not the living water
  - 2. Their message was puffy words with no content

#### IV. The Deception of These False Teachers (18-22)

- A. Their preaching
 

**2 Peter 2:18** For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

1. They boasted with their words
2. Their speeches were filled with worthless information
3. Their words appealed to the flesh – unbridled living

**B. Their promises**

**2 Peter 2:19** While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

1. They promise freedom to others – how can you set someone free if you yourself are enslaved?
2. They themselves are enslaved by their own sin

**C. Their end is worse than their beginning**

**2 Peter 2:20-22** For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

1. The false teacher had a knowledge about salvation but never committed himself to Christ
2. The false teacher will act according to his character just as an animal will act according to its character
3. It is possible to have an experience where you get cleaned up on the outside with nothing at all happening on the inside

## Conclusion

- Do we believe everything that we hear without checking to see if it is consistent with God's Word?
- Do you realize that everyone cannot be correct in their teaching of how to be sure that you have an eternal home in Heaven?
- Do warning sounds go off when you hear a teacher who is more concerned about him or herself and his financial need rather than pointing us to Christ?
- Have you listened to people who use great swelling words without saying anything of importance? – clouds without rain
- Peter's warning – grow in Christ but beware!

## 2 Peter 3

### Introduction

- Chapter 1 was a challenge to start right having faith in Christ as your foundation, continue well by adding to that faith and finish strong by remembering what you have been taught
- Chapter 2 was a warning about the deceitful teachings of false teachers and their eventual destruction
- Chapter 3 speaks about a specific matter in those who denied that Christ would return
- Four key challenges – Beloved . . . **be** . . .

**2 Peter 3:1-2** This second epistle, **beloved**, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye 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 Saviour:

**2 Peter 3:8** But, **beloved**, **be not ignorant** of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

**2 Peter 3:14** Wherefore, **beloved**, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent** that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

**2 Peter 3:17** Ye therefore, **beloved**, seeing ye know these things before, **beware** lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

### I. The Scoffers (1-13)

#### A. Peter's purpose in writing

**2 Peter 3:1-2** This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye 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 Saviour:

1. He wanted to stir up their minds or awaken their mind to the truth
2. He wanted them to be firmly established in that which they had been taught so that false teaching would be easily recognized

#### B. Peter's warning about scoffers

**2 Peter 3:3-4** Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 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 the creation.

1. To be a scoffer was one who would ridicule or laugh at what was being taught – to take lightly what should be taken seriously
  2. These scoffers denied the promise of Christ's return
- C. Peter's teaching about the second coming
1. Past judgment by water
 

**2 Peter 3:5-6** For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

    - a) At Creation the earth was divided from the water
    - b) During the Flood the water flooded the earth
    - c) For over 100 years Noah preached that judgment would come to the earth – at that time many ignored and denied his message
  2. Future judgment by fire
    - a) There will be a day when God will judge the earth again, this time by fire
 

**2 Peter 3:7** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

**Revelation 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
    - b) This day is fast approaching
 

**2 Peter 3:8-9** But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

(1) We are reminded that God does not look at time the same way that we do

**Psalms 90:4** For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

      - (a) We experience time in the present, remember the past and look forward to future
      - (b) God can experience 1,000 years as if it were a single day

- (2) God is remembering His promise
  - (a) Slack means to delay
  - (b) We tend to think after a period of time of waiting that someone has forgotten their word or changed their plans
  - (c) God has not delayed his plan, He has a purpose for time until the day of judgment
- (3) God is revealing His patience
  - (a) God's desire is that no one would perish
  - (b) God's desire is that all will come to repentance
  - (c) Repentance is a change of mind that results in an action of the will
  - (d) God's patience allows us second and third chances
- c) This day will be a horrible day
 

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. This day of the Lord is not referring to the rapture of the saints but rather to the judgment following the Millennium

  - (1) This day will come suddenly (without warning) and catastrophically as a thief in the night (not so much unexpectedly)
  - (2) This great destruction of the earth can be described as the atoms which make up our elements will be dissolved and released
  - (3) The great noise may be the sound that you hear just before something flammable is ignited
- d) The new heavens and a new earth
 

**2 Peter 3:11-13** Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

- (1) How can we forget God's words of coming judgment and why would we believe these scoffers who teach otherwise?
- (2) We don't look forward to God's judgment on the earth but we look forward to spending eternity with God in a sinless and perfect world

## II. The Saints (14-18)

### A. Behave

**2 Peter 3:14** Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

1. Look – be expectant of these things
2. Be diligent and ready for the return of Christ
3. Our behavior should be blameless

### B. Believe

**2 Peter 3:15-16** And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

1. God's longsuffering toward our sin is our salvation
2. Peter commends the teachings of Paul to these believers

### C. Beware

**2 Peter 3:17-18** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

1. Don't believe these scoffers and false teachers
2. Continue to grow in grace

#### a) God's saving grace

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

#### b) God's strengthening grace

**2 Timothy 2:1** Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

c) God's sufficient grace

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

d) God's grace to sing

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

e) God's submissive grace to demonstrate humility

**James 4:6** But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

f) God's grace for service

**1 Corinthians 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

3. To Him be Glory – when we have grown

## Conclusion

- Recognize that there are many who will deny the existence of Christ and will deny God's judgment
- Realize that we need salvation as we will stand before God someday – the day of judgment is coming
- Receive God's so great salvation – free to all who believe
- Rehearse God's grace