

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 30TH - 31ST, 2022 // BOOK OF 2 PETER

SERVITUDE (2 PETER 1:1-2)

"PETER, AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST"

A fisherman who followed John the Baptist until his brother Andrew told him about Jesus.

- His name was changed from Simon by Jesus because his character was like a rock.
- A natural leader and spokesman for the 12.
- Could be impulsive and selfish.
- Was crucified upside down by Nero in 68 A.D.

THE AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER

This letter was written around 65-67 A.D., shortly before Peter died, to mostly Gentile Christians in modern-day Turkey that was being heavily persecuted by Nero.

- Paul wanted to encourage them **to stand firm in their faith because there are many false teachers in the world.**

THE TEMPTATION TO LIVE IN OUR TRUTH VS. THE TRUTH

Professing Christians succumbing to false teaching that appeased the pleasures of the individual was a real concern for Peter.

- **We will all be tempted by the ease and allure of following self over a Savior, but true followers of Christ will grow in their knowledge and obedience to Jesus.**

SO, LIKE PETER, WE MUST BECOME SERVANTS

Servant here is more accurately translated to *slave*. **As Christians, we are to fully submit ourselves to our Master, knowing that He is good and faithful if we will humbly follow.**

- Peter says we've "received a faith equal" to his. That means we can experience the same transformation and power as Peter.

"THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD"

The "knowledge" that Peter is referring to in V2 is not academic or theoretical, but a **personal knowledge** (relationship) of Jesus.

- **When we have a daily walk with God, we begin to learn His heart, adopt His nature, grow in peace, and live in His grace.**

EVIDENCE (2 PETER 1:3-15)

THE CALL AND ABILITY TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE

V3 is important. Not only are Christians called to holy living and good works post salvation, but "[God's] divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness."

- **The ability to live "free of sins claims" (Romans 6) and produce "good works" (Matthew 5) is through a relationship with Jesus.**

"ESCAPING THE CORRUPTION THAT IS IN THE WORLD"

If we're humble, repentant, and consistent with Jesus, we have the "precious promises" of salvation, purification, discernment, and the ability to live in a way that honors God.

- **God doesn't save us and send us into the world "as sheep among wolves" without offering the means for success.**

BECAUSE A TREE IS KNOWN BY ITS FRUIT (MATTHEW 7)

The life of a true believer will be marked by our fruit. In other words, **there should be evidence of our salvation to the world.**

- Though we often make excuses, **the life of a Christian should look dramatically different than the non-Christian. If it doesn't, something is dramatically wrong.**

WHAT FRUIT SHOULD WE DISPLAY?

We're to "make every effort to supplement [our] faith with" **goodness** (morality), **knowledge** (truth), **self-control**, **endurance** (to stand firm), **godliness** (obedience and reverence), **affection** (kind), and **love** (deep, biblical).

- **We're called to work at our faith as a response to salvation by grace** (James 2:18).

THIS KEEPS US FROM BEING "USELESS"

According to Peter, if we don't "make every effort to supplement [our] faith," we will become "blind" to the "cleansing from...past sins" and be "unfruitful."

- **We are fools to think that God doesn't examine our fruit (John 15:1-8) and reward or punish us accordingly.**

WE ARE TO "CONFIRM [OUR] CALLING"

This simply means that if **we claim to be "elected" by God and saved, we are to demonstrate that in how we live.**

- If we live in a relationship with Jesus, we will make mistakes, but ultimately "will never stumble," and we will inherit "an eternal kingdom...richly provided for [us]."

"TO WAKE YOU UP WITH A REMINDER"

Peter was about to be martyred ("lay aside my tent"), but before his death, he wanted to remind the church of the truth they have access to that empowers them to step up.

- **We must wake up, live intentionally, and know that we're called to be a vessel capable of advancing the kingdom.**

LIGHT IN A DARK PLACE (2 PETER 1:16-21)

THE GOD OF THE WORD

The Bible is not "cleverly contrived myths," but an account of the power and plan of "our Lord Jesus Christ." **We can't separate God and His Word** (John 1), and we can't ignore the Bible because we'd have no absolute truth.

- **We do not worship the Bible, but we do worship the biblical Jesus.**

PETER WAS A WITNESS TO JESUS' MAJESTY

V17-18 summarizes what Peter, James, and John saw on the mountain as Jesus was transfigured (Luke 9). One of the reasons Jesus transformed and showed some of His fullness was to impact the 3 disciples with Him.

- This might have been what sustained Peter during his hardest struggles.

GETTING TO FALSE TEACHERS

Because of Peter's testimony and the "prophetic word strongly confirmed," Christians shouldn't be lured away or confused.

- **The author's testimonies, the historical accuracy, the practical application, the fulfilled prophecies, and the wisdom of the Bible are evidence of its truth and power.**

WE "WILL DO WELL TO PAY ATTENTION TO IT"

It's fascinating that Peter tells us to pay attention to the Bible because it is **"a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns."**

- **The further we move away from the anchor of the truth in God's Word, the darker things become!** We need the guidance of the Word until Christ returns!

THE MIND AND CHARACTER OF GOD ON PAPER

The Bible is too powerful to be from us. V20-21 simply tells us the scriptures didn't come from man; the authors were simply carriers, through the Spirit, of God's message to us.

- **The Word is the mind and character of God on paper, and it will change lives if we devote ourselves to it.**

RELATIVE TRUTH DOESN'T WORK

- **The false teaching that we can create our own personal truth is destroying us,** but many people, even professing Christians, have **fallen prey to the pursuit of self over the pursuit of God.**
- The pursuit of self isn't working, and virtually every study proves this.

IN ORDER TO SEE, WE MUST HOLD THE LIGHT

- First, we must have a desire to see absolute truth. This means **we must be willing to humble ourselves and accept God's truth regardless of our personal preferences or feelings.**
- If we genuinely look for the truth, we will find it, but walking in truth isn't always easy.

IN ORDER TO HOLD THE LIGHT, WE MUST SUBMIT

- When we discover Jesus, we must **submit** to Him. In this submission, we not only pray, but we read the Bible and learn how to live in a way that honors our Creator.
- **When we live according to God's desires, our lives change! We find true peace, joy, and fulfillment and we begin to heal.**

WE "WILL DO WELL TO PAY ATTENTION"

- Jesus not only offers salvation and His Spirit to counsel us, He also gives us **the remarkable clarity of the Bible** to guide us.
- The Word truly is a lamp that gives us the ability to see clearly until the inevitable time when Jesus returns and "the day dawns."
- **It is only by the truth contained in the Bible that we can be set free.** The correlation of our disregard of scripture and the chaos we find ourselves in cannot be ignored.
- **There's liberation, peace, and contentment in Jesus, and His Word instructs us on how to grow closer to Him.**