

II PETER

Synopsis: * The book is named after the author, “Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ” (1:1). The letter warns of false teachers and exhorts Christians to remain faithful to God. A key passage is in 3:18, “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Author: Peter

Chapters: 3

Background:*^ In II Peter 3:1 the apostle says, “Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder).” The letter was likely written shortly after the first, around A.D. 64-67. The first letter deals with attacks on the church from without (persecution), while the second deals with attacks from within (false teaching).

In II Peter 1:14, 15, Peter indicates that his death is imminent and that he is writing to remind the brethren of these matters even after he is gone. Consider these six “precious” things Peter exhorts Christians to remember: trial of faith (I Pet. 1:7), blood (I Pet. 1:19), stone (I Pet. 2:4), Christ (I Pet. 2:7), faith (II Pet. 1:1), promises (II Pet. 1:4).

Five Great Lessons*

1. The Bible is inspired and complete. (1:3, 20-21)
2. Beware of false teachers. (2:1)
3. Our Lord is coming again. (3:10)
4. Do not tamper with God’s Word. (3:15-16)
5. It takes more than faith to save us. (3:11)

Outline*

- I. Introduction (1:1-4).
- II. Develop and maintain the “Christian graces” (1:5-11).
- III. Peter’s words are from God (1:12-21).
- IV. Warnings that false teachers abound (2:1-22).
- V. The certainty of Jesus’ return (3:1-18).

*Butterworth, Ken. *God Hath Spoken: An Open-Bible Study Series – New Testament Workbook*, 2006.

^Roper, David. *Through the Bible: A Systematic Study of the Old and New Testament Scriptures*, 1999.

Lessons ^

One challenge fits all Christians—new converts, those mature in the faith, and all in between. The challenge is to grow (II Pet. 1:5-7; 3:18). Where we are at a particular moment is not nearly important as where we are going.

Sometimes folks complain of being “bored” with the basics of the gospel. We need to be reminded of these matters with great regularity (II Pet. 1:12-15; 3:1). If we are not careful, we will raise a generation that has not learned the grand old truths because we prefer to hear “something new” (Acts 17:21).

Selected

- 1:10 We should be diligent to make our call and election sure.
- 1:21 Prophecy never came by the will of man, but by the Holy Spirit.
- 2:20 What makes the latter worse than the beginning? Entangled again in pollutions of world
- 3:8 One day is as a thousand years.
- 3:9 The Lord is not willing that any should perish.
- 3:11ff. How should we live? Holy conduct, godliness, without spot, blameless, steadfast...

**Butterworth, Ken. God Hath Spoken: An Open-Bible Study Series – New Testament Workbook, 2006.*

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