

A Study of 2 Peter 1

I. Outline.

1. Greeting (2 Peter 1.1-2).
2. All things pertaining to life and godliness (3).
3. Great and precious promises (4).
4. Christian graces (5-11).
5. Putting in remembrance (12-15).
6. Peter remembering the Transfiguration (16-18).
7. Inspiration (19-21).

II. Summary.

Peter's second letter begins with a MOST encouraging note in verse 3 which helps us to know that we have all that we need through the knowledge of Christ. He seems unable to add enough adjectives to the word PROMISES, which ought to cause us to think about the many blessings of living a faithful Christian life. He points to some special qualities which will be ours as we diligently add to our faith the qualities which our Lord would have us to develop. We cannot be fruitless if we about in these graces. If we are lacking then we need to think more seriously about what we have received in Christ. Peter's desire is to REMIND us of things that are very important so that we might be established in the present truth (v. 12). He remembers the time of the Transfiguration when he and two other apostles heard the voice of the Lord (Matthew 17.5). He praises the Holy Scriptures as coming from holy men of God moved by the Holy Spirit.

III. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.

If you are not familiar with the 15 Bible Periods, please click here:

<https://maplehillchurchofchrist.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/15bibleperiods.pdf><http://bit.ly/Rvd8gW>

IV. Words/Phrases to Study

- 2 Peter 1.1-11... Here is a link to the Walking in Truth Radio script I used. This content is from Roy H. Lanier, Sr., in *Teacher's Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1956, p. 316ff. Roy Lanier did a great job with the material. <http://wp.me/a2VTGe-Ha>
- 2 Peter 1 INTRO: "The keynote of this whole epistle is knowledge (2 Pet. 1:2, 3, 5, 6, 8; 2 Pet. 2:20,21; and 2 Pet. 3:18); but it is a very special kind of knowledge which is meant. The Greek word is [epignosis], that is, precise and correct knowledge. It is the real or genuine knowledge, founded upon the word of God, not the knowledge that is falsely so-called" [James Burton Coffman's Commentaries].
- 2 Peter 1.1... **A SERVANT AND AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST**—"Here Peter claims the highest authority that anyone could claim in the early church—that of being an Apostle. At the same time, like the Apostle Paul, he identifies himself as a slave. He is simultaneously the highest and the lowest of Christian society. The word Peter uses here, *doulos*, is the same word that Paul uses in Romans; it refers to a purchased slave. There is a close connection in the Scriptures between the word *doulos* and the word *kyrios*. A *kyrios* was the lord or master; one could not be a *kyrios* unless he owned slaves. Carrying the metaphor even further, the Apostle Paul wrote, 'You were bought at a price' (1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23) [Sproul, R. C. (2011-03-08). *1-2 Peter* (St. Andrew's Expository Commentary) (p. 204). Crossway. Kindle Edition].
- 2 Peter 1:3 **ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS**—"These words are to be closely construed with verse 2. On our part there is no occasion for alarm that we will not be properly supplied seeing that all things pertaining to life and godliness have been granted us. 'Life' refers to the spiritual vigor which the souls possesses; 'godliness' to the conduct necessary to preserve and maintain it.

This verse is a clear affirmation of the sufficiency of God’s revelation to man, as well as an unmistakable assurance that every need of every kind will be supplied” [Guy N. Woods, Commentary on Second Peter, p. 148].

- 2 Peter 1.4 **BY THESE YE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE**—“The divine nature is when we have the same characteristics of the Father and of Christ. The Bible provides us with the instruction we need to live as God wants us to live. The more we do that, we become like God. To whatever degree we are God-like in our lives, to that degree God dwells in us and we in God. Partaking of the divine nature does not mean that God infuses within us the power and wisdom of Himself. We don’t become incarnate God like Jesus was, but we partake of the divine nature when we imitate Christ and God. We are to let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom (Colossians 3.16; Ephesians 5.19). Being filled with the Spirit and letting the word of Christ dwell in us are the same (Hebrews 4.12)—the word is living and active. It is not a dead letter. The Spirit is in the word. It is through that means of the knowledge attained that we become partakers of the divine nature. We see God’s love in the actions of Christ. When we love as He did, we become partakers of the divine nature, we are cleansed from our sin. We become able to overcome temptation and sin. WE have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lusts” [T.J. Clarke, *Bible Institute of Missouri Notes*, Published by Bradley Cobb, an e-Sword Module].
- 2 Peter 1.5 **ADD TO YOUR FAITH VIRTUE AND TO VIRTUE KNOWLEDGE... ADD--**“Originally it meant to found and support a chorus, to lead a choir, to keep in tune, and then, to supply or provide. As here used, the graces which adorn the Christian’s character are to be chorused into a grand symphony, to the delight and pleasure of Him who fashioned and made us for His own good pleasure. It will be seen that there are eight of the graces, and that they thus form an octave of the soul-tones, the first being faith, the last love, an octave higher. When these are harmonized and played on by the divine Spirit, disharmony disappears and life’s discords vanish. How we should rejoice that we have been privileged to provide such an instrument in the hand of our God” [Guy N. Woods, Commentary on 2 Peter]. “Knowledge can come by the study of the Word of God. It can come by giving ear to gospel sermons that are preached, and it can come by full attention and active participation in classes that are taught. The Christian who would add to his virtue the grace of knowledge must have a strong desire to learn, a strong desire to acquire knowledge of the Word itself. Many do not read; they do not study. They seemingly give rapt attention to the preacher, but they never really hear what he says. If a new lesson is presented that requires mental activity, they tune the preacher out with a sigh of ‘this is very much over my head.’ When, or if, they do read, they rarely ever read the Bible, and when they do, it is often only a chore activity without an accompanying understanding and a will to learn in order to do” [Rex Turner, Sr., *Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1975, p. 185].
- 2 Peter 1:14 “The Revised Version (ASV, DRL) more correctly conveys the meaning of the original text. He did not say that he must soon put aside his tabernacle, but that the putting off, when it did come, would be sudden and swift” [Guy N. Woods, Commentary on Second Peter, p. 156].
- 2 Peter 1.12 and 13 **PUT YOU ALWAYS IN REMEMBRANCE ... TO STIR YOU UP BY PUTTING YOU IN REMEMBRANCE**—“Here is Peter, thinking of his audience. This reminds of Jesus’ words to Jesus of FEED MY SHEEP. Peter is doing that, feeding the flock of Christ. This is one of the keys to preaching. We are to remind the brethren 1 Timothy 4.6—bring them into remembrance, remind them, lay it out before them. That is what we will be doing our whole lives. We will be reminding them many times of things they already know” [T.J. Clarke, *Bible Institute of Missouri Notes*, Produced by Bradley Cobb, an e-Sword Module].
- 2 Peter 1.12 **ESTABLISHED IN THE PRESENT TRUTH**—“The people to whom Peter wrote were established in the gospel, the Law of Christ. They knew of what Peter wrote” [T.J. Clarke, *Bible Institute of Missouri Notes*, Produced by Bradley Cobb, an e-Sword Module]. “The truth can be known. The average member can understand God’s Word (Revelation 2:1-29). And yet, established Christians can fall away from the faith. ‘Surely this is a solemn warning that it is all too easy for those who have been Christians for some time to lapse into serious sin or doctrinal error.’ (Green p.

78) 2. These Christians had the truth. The truth is a complete and definite set of beliefs (Colossians 1:5; 1 Peter 1:22; Acts 2:42; John 8:32; Jude 1:3). ‘His fear is not that the second generation will codify and fossilize the truth, but rather that they will become so careless about it that they will forget it altogether.’ (Lucas/Green p. 67) 3. The only sure way to remain faithful to God, is to hold to what God has said. 4. It is obvious Peter believed that the truth the apostles had delivered was the truth for all time. He had not revealed a message just for that culture or that time” [Mark Dunagan Commentaries, an e-Sword Module].

- 2 Peter 1:16 **CUNNINGLY DEvised FABLES**—“*sesophismenois*. Only here and 2 Timothy 3:15, in which latter passage it has a good sense, to make thee wise. Here, in a bad sense, artfully framed by human cleverness sophia. Compare feigned words, ch. 2:3.” [Vincent Words Studies].
- 2 Peter 1:18 **WHEN WE WERE WITH HIM IN THE HOLY MOUNT**—“The event was not one dreamed up as a myth would be, but Peter, James and John were on the mount and heard the voice. The mount was holy because God was manifested there (Exodus 3:1-6; Exodus 19:10-13; Joshua 5:13-15). The transfiguration gave the apostles more confidence in the Old Testament prophets. Peter's readers were advised to pay close attention to those prophets. Their prophecies were like a lamp shining in a sin-darkened world. That light would aid them until the dawn of understanding began to really illuminate their hearts. Jesus is pictured as the ‘day star,’ which is Venus, because full acceptance of him truly heralds the morning of the Christians' day of understanding (2 Peter 1:18-19)” [Gary C. Hampton, *Developing Patient Determination*, an e-Sword Module].
- 2 Peter 1:19 **AND WE HAVE THE WORD OF PROPHECY MADE MORE SURE** (ASV). Hugo McCord translates this verse: “Besides, we have the message of the prophets more fully confirmed.” Tim Nichols writes: “What the Old Testament prophets had foretold as the future, however, Peter and the other apostles were now revealing as history. The certain and sure prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the coming of Christ are now materialized facts of history. In the days of the Old Testament prophets, the coming of Christ was inevitable. In Peter’s day it was history.” [in, *Studies in 1, 2 Peter and Jude*, edited by Dub McClish, page 494].
- 2 Peter 1:20 **IS OF ANY PRIVATE INTERPRETATION**—“The meaning is, No prophecy comes or springs into existence by means of private interpretation” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on Second Peter*, p. 161].

V. Lessons & Applications.

- **2 Peter 1.2.. THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**—“Just some knowledge of God isn’t enough (Romans 10:2). 2. Rather, it is correct, real, true and a full knowledge that brings salvation and its blessings. 3. The multiplication of peace and grace is dependent upon having the correct knowledge. Hence, the danger of false doctrine, which would cut one off from grace and peace (2 John 1:9; Galatians 1:6-9). 4. Spiritual growth is dependent upon increasing in knowledge, knowing Jesus and His will even better. ‘The better we know Jesus, the greater the wonder of grace, and the more real our experience of the peace which passeth understanding.’ (Barclay pp. 347-348) 5. A full and correct knowledge of God and His truth is not only possible, rather, it is expected of everyone (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Timothy 3:7). 6. ‘This is (grace and peace) no barren formula to Peter...for he makes both the experience of God’s peace and the reception of His grace (or help) to be dependent upon the deep knowledge of God (see John 17:3).’ (Green p. 61) 7. It is also essential that one understand that grace and peace cannot be enjoyed, without a relationship with Jesus Christ. Real grace and peace are not found in non-Christian religious systems.” [Mark Dunagan Commentaries, an e-Sword Module]
- **2 Peter 1.3...ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS.** This verse has to be one of the most encouraging verses in Scripture along with 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 10:13. I like the way the *Analytical-Literal Translation* renders this verse: “**as [fig., seeing that] His divine power has given to us all the [things] pertaining to life and godliness through the full [or, true] knowledge of the One having called us by glory and moral excellence.**” Of course, THE FULL OR TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF THE

ONE HAVING CALLED US is found in the Holy Scriptures! We must recognize that, having God's Word, we have all that we need to live a faithful Christian life here upon this earth! If it is our desire to live eternally, that necessary Guidebook, is available!

- **2 Peter 1.4 ...THAT BY THESE YOU MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE...** This phrase raises the question: "In what sense do Christians become partakers of the divine nature?" Tim Nichols gives the following excellent answer: "God's Word, when it is gladly received into the heart, is wholly sufficient and **alone**, sufficient to produce all the effects upon the heart of man that God wishes to produce. The Scriptures, the power of God, illuminate and enlighten us (Psalms 19:8; 119:105; 130; Proverbs 6:23; 2 Peter 1:19), sanctify us (John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26), purify us (Psalms 119:9; 1 Peter 1:22), give us confident hope (Romans 15:14; 1 John 5:13), give us compelling reasons to believe (John 20:31), admonish and warn us of God's judgment (1 Corinthians 10:11), melt our stubborn hearts (Romans 2:4), and they teach us everything, down to the last jot and tittle, that God wishes for us to know and that we need to know in order to live godly lives in this world (Deuteronomy 29:29; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3). ... His Word provides us with both the **motives** and the **means** to become godly people. In order to obtain His promises we must **obey** His expressed will (Hebrews 5:9). When one will surrender his or her own will to the will of God, turn from the "corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4), and turn toward God with an unfeigned, obedient faith, one will become a partaker "of the divine nature" (1:4). This "partaking" is profound, elevated, and deeply spiritual. It is not, however, mysterious or unexplainable. One does not **feel** his way to this condition through some intuitive maze. One hears, believes, and acts upon fixed and unchanging Truths that can be communicated to others (2 Timothy 2:2)." [in, *Studies in 1, 2 Peter and Jude*, edited by Dub McClish, pages 490-91].
- **2 Peter 1.4 ...HAVING ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION THAT IS IN THE WORLD THROUGH LUST.** Cf., 1 John 2:15-17. These corrupt things which Christians have escaped are not lasting, but will be done away. What a blessing that our Lord has provided a way for us to escape eternal destruction!
- **2 Peter 1.10 GIVE DILIGENCE TO MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE: FOR IF YE DO THESE THINGS, YE SHALL NEVER FALL.** It requires great effort, but IF (which is a BIG word here), we do so, we can be sure of our eternal salvation. The doctrine of once-saved-always-saved is FALSE. However, we CAN be assured of our salvation; there is no reason to lack assurance!
- **2 Peter 1.21 HOLY MEN OF GOD SPAKE AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST.** Divine inspiration. These words are God-breathed. They are the very words God intended for us to have.

VI. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ The prophets of old spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
02. _____ Peter thought of himself as being in a tabernacle.
03. _____ There is a verse in this reading wherein the word IF is very significant.
04. _____ Peter wrote his second epistle to Christians.
05. _____ The event in the life of Christ Peter referred to in verses 17-18 is recorded in Matthew 3:16-17.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ That which Peter did NOT follow when preaching the gospel of Christ was: (a) his own testimony; (b) fables; (c) the mystery.
07. _____ In order to partake of the divine nature, Peter indicates we must first escape: (a) corruption of this world; (b) that which comes through lust; (c) a & b; (d) none of these.

08. ____ We do well that we take heed of this: (a) warnings of teachers; (b) the more sure word of prophecy; (c) our faith.
09. ____ How long did Peter feel he heeded to put others in remembrance: (a) while they were with him; (b) while he was in this tabernacle; (c) never.
10. ____ Having the Christian graces means we will not be: (a) saved; (b) complete; (c) barren.

Fill in the Blanks

11. Peter talked about _____ and _____ promises.
12. Doing the things Peter lists means an entrance will be ministered unto us _____.
13. We do well to take heed to the _____ word of prophecy.
14. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but _____ men of God spake as they were _____ by the Holy Ghost.
15. According as his divine power hath given unto us _____ things that pertain unto _____ and _____, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to 1 Peter 5 Questions... **01**—False (4); **02**—True (12); **03**—True (2); **04**—True (6); **05**—True (10); **06**—c (14); **07**—b (6); **08**—c (3); **09**—a (5); **10**—c (11); **11**—crown, glory, not (4); **12**—careth (7); **13**—Babylon (13); **14**—adversary (8); **15**—witness (1).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle. The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. -DRL

L S A V I O U R B H P T Y L N
 K U L I R W L B O V O I C E F
 F R W R G L O R Y C W H E N D
 W E A T I P R O P H E C Y D K
 B W Y U V J D K R R R E M H B
 G H S E E P D I E I C K N O W
 J E S U S A I N C S T N M R O
 O R T C D T L D I T A O M M H
 N E G A I I I N O H B W A W Y
 S F F L V E G E U I E L K C D
 G O D L I N E S S N R E E K M
 I R A E N C N S I G N D F H B
 V E G D E E C F B S A G A C H
 E J T E M P E R A N C E I A O
 N K C B R O T H E R L Y T M L
 R E M E M B R A N C E E H E Y

ALWAYS	BROTHERLY	CALLED	CAME	CHRIST
DILIGENCE	DIVINE	FAITH	GIVE	GIVEN
GLORY	GODLINESS	HOLY	JESUS	KINDNESS
KNOW	KNOWLEDGE	LORD	MAKE	PATIENCE
POWER	PRECIOUS	PROPHECY	REMEMBRANCE	SAVIOUR
SURE	TABERNACLE	TEMPERANCE	THINGS	VIRTUE
VOICE	WHEN	WHEREFORE		

IX. EXTRA CREDIT FOR “SUPER” Bible Students...

*Will you please consider answering these **three SIMPLE questions** based on the Bible text of this chapter? I will try to make use of your answers. Bring them with you next week. Tear out this last sheet from the Study Guide and be prepared to put it in a basket. I think it will be a great help to all of those in the class if you will do so. Thank you in advance for your marvelous cooperation!*

W O R D: What word would you like to know more about in this chapter?

W O N D E R: I wonder what this phrase, verse, or series of verses means...

W I S H: I wish myself—or others whom I know or even don’t know—would understand this fact, principle, or concept from this chapter...