

GREAT & PRECIOUS PROMISES

A Study in Second Peter

Introduction

This second letter of the Apostle Peter seems to be written to the same group of Christians as his first letter was. In 2 Peter 3:1 Peter states that he is now writing them this second epistle. It is believed that this second letter was written from Rome, not too long after his first letter was written, sometime between 64 and 66 A.D.

We might ask what would prompt Peter to write a second letter so soon after the first. As we read through the letter, it seems there may have been two important reasons. One reason is that the Lord had shown Peter that he was soon to be “out of this [temporal] tent” (2 Peter 1:14). Peter was crucified somewhere around 64 and 65 A.D. and knowing he would soon no longer be with them, this letter is a last goodbye, but also a strong reminder to them of what is most important for them to cling to.

The second reason for Peter’s final letter seems to be his concern for the church, knowing that false teachers were on the rise (2 Peter 2:1). Peter wanted to encourage the church to stand firm against these false teachers, and he instructs them throughout this letter on how to do that. He continually points them to God’s Word as the primary means of spiritual growth and maturity, urging them to grow in their knowledge of God. Growing in their knowledge is a very important theme in this letter and Peter uses the word “knowledge” in one form or another, at least 15 times within this short epistle.

The two warnings Peter gives to his readers in this letter are the warnings against the false teachers, who lead others into sin by indulging in the desires of the flesh, and his warning against mockers, who dismiss the truth of Christ’s return.

This letter is packed with so much spiritual truth to the readers he sent this letter to, and so much to say to all those who would later read his words after his death. The practical warnings and application of Peter’s words are just as relevant and important to us today. The church around the globe is being attacked by heresies, false teachers and mockers, like never before. These false teachers and mockers are of the greatest danger to the immature Christian who isn’t well grounded on the Word of God. He begins his letter calling us to diligence (2 Peter 1:5), adding to our faith those things accompanying maturity. He ends his letter again calling us to be diligent, aware and steadfast (2 Peter 3:14-17). His final words an

instruction to GROW in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The **great and precious promises** that we have been given (2 Peter 1:4) are not only of great comfort in every circumstance we find ourselves in, but they contain the promised power to sanctify, to take us from glory to glory and strength to strength, to partake of Christ's divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world through the lust of our flesh nature, so contrary to God. He has already won the victory and He has called us to be partakers of His victory. He has already **promised** (2 Peter 1:3) that He has already given us all things (including these great and precious promises) that pertain to life and godliness. How do we grab hold of, embrace and apply these precious promises and these things that He has given to us? It is "through our knowledge of Him." (2 Peter 1:3) As we study this second letter of Peter sent to those of "like precious faith," (2 Peter 1:1) may it draw us closer to Christ and deeper in our knowledge of His Word.

Please have the first lesson completed when you come to the first study. We strongly encourage you to complete your lesson each week. Don't try to do it all in one sitting but spread it out throughout the week. That will give you more time to glean all that the Lord has for you and to come prepared to share your thoughts in our discussion time.

If for some reason you were not able to complete your study, **we want you to come anyway.** I know that you will receive much from the overview and discussion each week and you can always go back to complete the lesson later.

Take a few moments before you begin your time of study in God's Word to ask Him to quiet your mind from all other distractions and open your heart to the things He wants to show you. Take notes as you read, jotting down those things the Lord impresses on your heart. Keeping a study journal is a good way to do this and I encourage you to use one, or you can use the blank sheet at the back of each lesson for that purpose, as well as for taking notes from the overview.

We are so excited that you are joining us in this study, and we look forward to all the Lord wants to speak to our hearts.

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