

## BEWARE AND BE GROWING

Peter was a *pastor* - and the word "*pastor*" means "*shepherd*". Peter had a shepherd's heart for God's flock. Remember when he was re-commissioned by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus told him, "Feed My lambs... Tend My sheep... Feed My sheep...". In other words, *be a shepherd*... and to that calling Peter remained true the rest of his life. That's what he's doing in his two letters...

As shepherds do - he *feeds and warns* the flock. 1 Peter deals primarily with persecution - 2 Peter with false teachers. Guys, attacks come from both *outside and inside* the church. Peter doesn't want us to deny the Lord as he did. He wants us to build a strong faith, and be a faithful witness even in the midst of danger.

### GOD AND SAVIOR

Notice in 1:1, Jesus is referred to as "God and Savior".

Several years ago I had a Muslim lady approach me after a morning service, and remark, "I really enjoyed what you had to say about God, but I got confused when you mentioned Jesus. You talked about Him as if He were God." She was exactly right in her perception. Jesus is God, He is God incarnate, or "*in the flesh*". The deity of Christ is what sets Him apart from other religious leaders.

Jesus was not simply a rabbi, or prophet. It's not even enough to call Him "*the greatest man who ever lived*". He was more than that! Jesus is "*God and Savior*".

### Devotion Box - Spiritual Accessories

And 1:5 tells us, "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue..." All God's precious blessings are received by faith, but faith needs to be fed and fortified in order to grow strong. That's why we need to add to our faith those qualities that'll help it focus, and keep it pure, and enable it to grow.

Peter says, "add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord"

When you grow tomato plants you use wire mesh to guide the growth. These seven spiritual accessories guide and stabilize the growth of our faith. Virtue, knowledge, self-control, and the like, keep our faith pure and on target.

### PRECIOUS PROMISES

1:4 says of Jesus, "by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises..." Have you noticed that the word "*precious*" is a favorite word of Peter's when it comes to referring to the things of God. Peter speaks of our "*precious faith*", "*precious promises*", "*the precious blood of Jesus*", "*the precious cornerstone*." The blessings of God were Peter's treasure.

### PARTAKERS OF A NEW NATURE

And he says that through these precious promises we become "partakers of the divine nature". When you come to Jesus God implants in you His nature. His Spirit writes His Law on your heart. His desires are downloaded into your nature. God installs Righteousness 7.7 and Love XP on your spiritual hard drive!

This enables us to "escape the corruption that is in the world through lust." The evils and wickedness and violence of society are a direct result of lust. The craving for what we don't have fuels our greed, and drives us to nibble at sin. We escape the clutches of lustful living when we're filled with God's joy and peace.

### A PASTOR'S JOB

1:12 defines a pastor's job...

Peter says, "For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things..." A pastor's job is to remind you of the truth.

Living in a fallen world eternal truths can seem to grow fuzzy. When we come to church we need the pastor to twist the lens of Scripture and bring spiritual realities back into focus.

And Peter says in verse 9, "For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins." I heard a great definition for the word *"nostalgia"*, "It's recalling the pleasures of sitting in front of the fire – without remembering you had to cut the wood." We can get so used to God's blessings that we forget what life was like without them. There are two truths I always keep in mind: *"Who I am in Christ"*, and *"Who I am without Him"*. The best motivation to build a strong faith is the recognition that a weakened faith might lead to your fall. You need to avoid that at all costs.

## LITTLE TENT DWELLERS

In verse 13 Peter refers to his physical body as a tent in contrast to a house.

A tent is a temporal dwelling. These old bodies are *"pop-ups"*. They're tents you can pop up for a time, but in the end you fold them up and put them away.

One vacation we went to the late Thomas Jefferson's plantation, Monticello. And we learned about the slaves and the life they lived on the plantation. At one point in the tour, the guide made the statement, "The men worked in the fields until they were 40 years old, and after that they could no longer do anything." My kids started laughing. They knew their dad had already hit 40, and thus, according to the guide he's now completely worthless - a *pop-up* ready to be *folded-up!*

We're all *"here today and gone tomorrow"*... and so, while Peter inhabits his tent, he feels it's his duty to remind the Church of spiritual truth. He says in verse 13, "I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up... knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me."

Roselyn Aranson has written a piece entitled, *"Oh, Mr. Tentmaker"*. Listen to a portion, "It was nice living in this tent when it was strong and secure and the

sun was shining and the air was warm. But, Mr. Tentmaker, it's scary now. My tent is acting like it's not going to hold together. The poles seem weak and shift with the wind, a couple of the stakes have wiggled loose from the sand, and worst of all, the canvas has a rip. It no longer protects me from beating rain or stinging flies. It's scary in here, Mr. Tentmaker, why did you give me such a flimsy tent?"

Mr. Tentmaker replies, "Oh, little tent dweller, as the Creator and Provider of tents, I know all about you and your tent and I love you both. I made a tent for myself once. It too was vulnerable - and vicious attackers ripped it to pieces while I was still in it - but you'll be glad to know they couldn't hurt Me. In fact, the whole experience now prepares Me to live in your tent with you if you invite Me. You will learn, as we dwell together, that real security comes from My being in your tent with you. When the storms come, you can huddle in My arms and I'll hold you. Someday, little tent dweller, your tent will collapse (for I've only designed it for temporary use). When it does, you and I will leave together. (I promise not to leave before you do.) We'll move to our permanent home and be together, forever."

## PETER'S RECOLLECTIONS

In 1:15 Peter says, "Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease." This is why he's putting his reminders on paper. Most scholars believe that Mark's Gospel is actually the recollections of Peter. Mark was Peter's disciple, and probably his primary source of information.

## OF NO PRIVATE INTERPRETATION

Notice the important understanding Peter states about prophecy, in 1:20, "no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation..."

I often hear people say, "The Bible has a different meaning for everyone. You interpret the Bible your way, and I'll interpret the Bible my way." But not so! The Scriptures are of no private interpretation. The Bible means what God intended it to mean – and that interpretation applies to us all. The Bible is *"one size fits all!"*

## HOLY MEN MOVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

And one more word about prophecy. Verse 21, "for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

Here's the genius of the Bible. Human authors penned the message so human readers could understand. They used local idioms and the common vernacular.

*But* those authors wrote only as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. So that the end result is a book that *relates* to the *human mind* - but *reveals* the *mind of God*.

## PETER'S APOLOGETICS

Peter reminds his readers of the reliability of his message in verse 16. In contrast to, "cunningly devised fables", Peter was an eyewitness of Jesus' glory and majesty. What he wrote about he saw with his own eyes. On top of Mount Hermon Peter saw firsthand the glory of God radiating from the Son of God. It was an experience he never forgot. He writes about it in verse 17...

"For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. There was no mistake - 3 people, not just one, heard the voice. Peter says "we heard" -he, James, and John - all were on the mountain top - they all heard the audible voice of God identify

### ANGELS, SODOM, BALAAM

Peter explains the motive and method of these false teachers in 2:3, "By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words;" Men *longing for a following - energized by ego - greedy for gain* - twist the truth to attract a crowd. He says, "their destruction does not slumber."

And in the next several verses Peter gives three examples of how God has judged the wicked in the past... He brings up the angels in Noah's day, the sin of Sodom, and the greed of Balaam.

The angels in Noah's day lacked respect. They were rebellious and crossed over boundaries set by God. They were sentenced to the remotest part of hell.

The people of Sodom had the same problem. They forsook God's standards and practiced sexual perversion. God saved Lot, but He judged the city of Sodom.

And Balaam was brought down by greed. He disobeyed God for the promise of bigger bucks.

In all three cases the guilty parties were punished by God. Peter is proving that God does judge sin. You don't snub biblical commands, and not eventually feel the fury of God's wrath.

### Devotion Box - Hastening The Lord's Return

And verse 12, "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God..." We often think of *looking for Jesus* - living in a expectancy for the Lord's return, but how do we hasten His coming? Did you know you can speed up the rapture?

Romans 11:25 tells us that the events of the end times won't begin "Until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." The implication is that there's a set number that will be saved, and when that number is reached the Father will say to the Son, "Go get them." That means every person we lead to the Lord we're one person closer. The more we share our faith the more we can speed up Jesus' return.

Jesus as His beloved Son.

There are two great apologetical proofs for the claims of Christ... First, are *the eyewitness accounts*. Never forget, the Gospel writers all suffered for the truths they recorded. If they had gotten rich off the story they might've had a motive to lie, but it's hard to imagine men martyred to support a deception.

And the second great proof, for the claims of Jesus, are *the fulfilled prophecies* concerning Him. Over 300 prophecies were fulfilled - detailing where, when, how, and why Messiah would come. The Old Testament contains predictions that were amazingly fulfilled to the nth degree in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. This is Peter's point in verse 19, "We also have the prophetic word made more sure..."

### THE SADDEST PERSON ON EARTH

Verse 20 is a portrait of the saddest person on earth. He is the man or woman who has tasted the joys of Jesus... yet walked away. From now on he'll never enjoy sin knowing how it pales in comparison to the blessings in Christ. "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: (Proverbs 26:11) "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

It's like the prisoner who's freed - yet he's lazy, irresponsible, apathetic - so he returns to prison because it's easier - at least there he's got a bed and 3 meals. Jesus sets us free from sin, but some people are just too lazy to add to their faith... Apathy sets in and they refuse to continue in Christ. They're so entrenched in the ways of the world they don't want sustained change in their life. As a dog or a pig it's possible for a person to grow use to the slop. They'd rather eat *spam* than *steak* - rather drive a *Pinto* than a *Porsche*. It's insane!

### PETER AND PAUL

Notice Peter's mention of Paul's letters in 3:15-16. He says that Paul concurs with what he's said. But notice what else he says about Paul's writings, 3:16, "in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures."

If you've ever read Romans 9-11 or 1 Corinthians 11 you've also concluded Paul can be hard to understand. You're in good company - Peter thought so, too.

But notice—Peter also equates Paul's writings to Scripture. This is important. He says in verse 16, "as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." Peter had no doubt that Paul's writings needed to be included in the sacred canon of Scripture.

# Bible Scan - 2 Peter 1-3

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - [sandyadams@calvarychapel.org](mailto:sandyadams@calvarychapel.org)  
For back issues of Bible Scan study guides: [www.calvarychapelstonemountain.com/biblescan.htm](http://www.calvarychapelstonemountain.com/biblescan.htm)

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**"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." - 2 Peter 3:9**

**Bible Scan  
Memory Verse**

In chapter 3 Peter reminds his readers in verse 3, "scorners will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" There are skeptics today who make fun of Christians. They call us alarmists. They treat our warnings of the Lord's return like the boy who cried wolf...

Peter tells us in chapter 3 that the scoffer has forgotten 3 truths: *First, God has judged the world before. Second, if God has judged the world before, He can do it again. And third, don't be deceived by God's delay. With God time is relative.*

Peter notes the philosophy of the scoffers in verse 4, "For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." Here's the theory, that today, goes by the name, "uniformitarianism".

It was first purposed by Charles Lyell, an English geologist who lived in the 1800s. Lyell's doctrine is the foundation for Darwin's evolution, and the dominant view among modern scientists today... just as Peter predicted.

Simply put, uniformitarianism is the belief that the earth has been shaped throughout its history by the same natural processes that are at work today. A uniformitarian stands on the edge of the Grand Canyon, looks down at the slender blue thread called the Colorado River, five miles below, and claims that the tiny river cut out that giant canyon. Given enough time anything is possible. The uniformitarian will say that the Grand Canyon formed the same way the *gulleys* in your backyard form - by simple erosion. I'm not that *gulley-ble*.

Peter counters in verse 5, "For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water."

What most modern scientists omit from their thinking is that God flooded the earth with water. A catastrophic, global flood is a far better explanation for the earth's geology than natural processes occurring over millions of years...

Have you heard... "The Top Ten Statements Made By Noah On The Ark..."? 10) Strange, we haven't seen another boat for weeks. 9) If only I'd brought along more rhino litter. 8) I never want to sleep in a waterbed again. 7) Fish for supper - again? 6) Does anyone have more Dramamine? 5) What? You don't have film to photograph the rainbow? 4) Honey, please stop saying, "Into each life a little rain must fall." 3) How can I fish

## GOD IS NO SLACKER

with just two worms? 2) God, are you sure I don't need to keep the termites in a tin can? 1) Noah was seen years after exiting the Ark, slapping his neck and mumbling, "I should've killed those lousy mosquitoes while I had the chance!"

The earth's geological strata are full of testimony for a worldwide flood. There's evidence all the earth's mountain tops were at one time underwater. Sedimentary rock and marine fossils are always near the summit. Most volcanoes show evidence that they were formed underwater.

The mere existence of fossils flies in the face of uniformitarian assumptions. Think it through— fossils don't form over time. A bird falls to the ground and blows away, or scavengers pick it apart. A fossil forms when intense pressure follows immediate compaction. The type of conditions created by the flood.

The biblical flood isn't ignored by the evolutionist because it lacks scientific credence. Peter says it's "willfully" forgotten. Arrogant men can't admit to a flood or they'll validate God's judgment. Instead, they've chosen to deny evidence for God, and pretend to be their own authority.

Verse 7, "But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." If you admit God judged the earth, then you concede He can do it again. Sadly, some men would rather stick their head in the sand, and live in denial!

And here's another point to consider: with God, time is relative. 2000 years might seem like a long time to us, but to a timeless God, it's mere seconds. 2 Peter 3:8 tells us, "with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

Peter assures us in verse 9, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." God is no slacker. He's not in the habit of putting off His obligations. God waits because of His love for people.

But that day will come... God will judge this world. Verse 10 tells us, "the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."