

# Insights From 2 Peter

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# Insights From 2 Peter

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# Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper  
4/29/2024

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## 2 Peter

- Peter introduced himself first as a servant of Christ. He didn't list his apostleship first (2 Peter 1:1).
- The reason we're saved is because of the righteousness of Jesus, not because of our own righteousness (2 Peter 1:1).
- Our salvation comes from God, not from ourselves (2 Peter 1:1).
- The reason we have faith is because of the righteousness of Jesus (2 Peter 1:1).
- Grace and peace comes from the knowledge of God (2 Peter 1:2).
- Jesus has given us everything that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
- God has already given us everything we need to live a godly life (2 Peter 1:3).
- Even when Peter was facing imminent martyrdom he was still focused on virtue and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
- Peter didn't believe that since Christians are saved we have the right to live as we please. Instead he taught that Jesus has commanded us to pursue godliness and virtue (2 Peter 1:3).
- The promise of Jesus is that we may partake of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).
- The great and precious promise of God is that we might escape sin and live a godly life! The promise God gave us is freedom from sin so that we might do what's right. His promise is *not* a freedom to sin as much as we please on

the grounds that He will forgive us (2 Peter 1:4).

- Godliness and virtue are great and precious things. They are far better than a life of sin and depravity (2 Peter 1:4).
- The corruption that's in this world is driven by lust (people's desires) (2 Peter 1:4).
- Christians aren't given the option of being ignorant. God commands us to diligently pursue knowledge (2 Peter 1:5).
- The path of a Christian is first faith, then virtue, then knowledge, then self control, then patience, then godliness, then brotherly kindness, then charity. Christians must diligently pursue all of these character qualities (2 Peter 1:7).
- If we want to bear fruit then we must pursue these character qualities, because they're the key to being fruitful (2 Peter 1:8).
- Those who lack these character qualities have forgotten that they've been purged of their old sins (2 Peter 1:9).
- The gospel purges us from our sins. It does *not* give us a license to live in in sin (2 Peter 1:9).
- Those who diligently pursue these character qualities and bear fruit are publicly demonstrating their salvation. However, those who fail to do this and instead live like the world aren't providing any reason to believe that they're saved. In fact, they may not be saved at all (2 Peter 1:10).
- The key to living a successful Christian life is pursuing and demonstrating these character qualities (2 Peter 1:10).

- The key to a Christian life that God considers to be successful is one that demonstrates these character qualities. It's *not* a life of health, or wealth, or fame, or even having a large and successful ministry (2 Peter 1:10).
- The kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ is an everlasting kingdom (2 Peter 1:11).
- Some people will be saved, but others will not (2 Peter 1:11). This means universal salvation is a false doctrine.
- Christians need to be regularly reminded of the importance of pursuing these character qualities, of making sure of our salvation, and of the doctrine of the everlasting kingdom of Jesus (2 Peter 1:12). Failing to do this is negligence.
- Christians needed regular reminders to pursue godliness (2 Peter 1:13).
- Peter knew he was about to be martyred (2 Peter 1:14). He wrote this letter shortly before his execution.
- Peter knew that Jesus had told him that he would be martyred (2 Peter 1:14).
- Peter referred to death as putting off something that he was wearing (2 Peter 1:14).
- Peter said that he and the apostles had personally seen the things they had taught to the churches. They weren't teaching fables they had heard from someone else (2 Peter 1:16).
- The apostles believed what they had seen to such a degree that they were willing to be martyred for it. This is because they had seen those things with their own eyes (2 Peter 1:16). The apostles had personally seen the

power and majesty of the Lord Jesus.

- Peter knew that Jesus was who He claimed to be because he heard the voice of God from Heaven testify to that truth. He personally saw Jesus glorified on the mount of transfiguration, and he heard God's testimony with his own ears (2 Peter 1:18).
- Peter said that not only did the church have his eyewitness account of the testimony of God Himself, but the church had something which was even more certain: the Word of God (2 Peter 1:19).
- We must trust the Word of God above our own experiences (2 Peter 1:19). Our experiences don't overrule the Word of God!
- The Scriptures are a source of light and truth, not a repository of myths and fables (2 Peter 1:19).
- The Scriptures are a light that shines in the darkness of this world. However, one day this world's darkness will be gone because the light of the world (the Lord Jesus) will come (2 Peter 1:19).
- We aren't at liberty to assign any interpretation that we desire to Biblical prophecies. Instead we must use the Scriptures to interpret them properly so that we arrive at the meaning which God intended (2 Peter 1:20).
- The prophecies which are found in the Scriptures didn't come because of the will of men (2 Peter 1:21). Although God used prophets to proclaim prophecies, the prophecies came from the Holy Spirit.
- The words of the prophets are the words of God, not the words of men (2 Peter 1:21).

- Some false teachers act in secret. They aren't open and honest about the evil things they're doing (2 Peter 2:1).
- False teachers are extremely dangerous because their teachings can send a person to Hell (2 Peter 2:1).
- The Lord Jesus Christ purchased us with His own blood. We belong to Him (2 Peter 2:1).
- False teachers will surely be destroyed. The destruction which will one day come upon them will be swift (2 Peter 2:1).
- It's a terrible heresy to deny the Lord Jesus. That heresy leads to everlasting damnation (2 Peter 2:1).
- Peter did *not* say that we should avoid judging false teachers or avoid thinking badly of them. Instead he warned that they're extremely dangerous, and their lies lead people to eternal damnation (2 Peter 2:1).
- False teachers cause people to say evil things about the gospel and the truths of God's Word (2 Peter 2:2).
- There are angels who sinned (2 Peter 2:4).
- God holds angels accountable for their sins. He doesn't give them a free pass to do evil (2 Peter 2:4).
- When certain angels committed a certain sin, God cast them down to hell and put them in chains of darkness (2 Peter 2:4). This means some fallen angels aren't allowed to roam this world because they're already in prison, waiting for the time of judgment.
- The holy angels who are with God in Heaven are perfect and have never sinned (2 Peter 2:4).
- The judgment of fallen angels is in the future (2 Peter

2:4).

- God once destroyed the entire world because of sin (2 Peter 2:5).
- When God destroyed the world that existed before the Flood, He only saved 8 people (2 Peter 2:5).
- Noah preached righteousness to the world that existed before the Flood, but that world didn't repent (2 Peter 2:5).
- God made an example of Sodom and Gomorrah to show what happens to ungodly cities (2 Peter 2:6).
- God holds cities accountable for their actions and punishes them for their sins (2 Peter 2:6).
- God destroyed the ancient world because of its sin, and He turned Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes because of their wickedness. The Lord will surely punish false teachers as well because He always punishes sin (2 Peter 2:6).
- The wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah vexed Lot (2 Peter 2:7). Likewise, the wickedness of evildoers should vex Christians. We must never become comfortable with evil.
- The conversation of wicked people is filthy (2 Peter 2:7).
- God had to rescue Lot from the judgment of Sodom. Lot didn't save himself (2 Peter 2:7).
- God sends His judgment upon the wicked as punishment for their evil deeds, but He rescues the righteous (2 Peter 2:7).
- It's possible for souls to be vexed by evil (2 Peter 2:8).

- It's much better to not live among the wicked (2 Peter 2:8).
- God knows how to deliver the godly from temptation (2 Peter 2:9).
- We must not seek temptation! Instead we should seek to be delivered from it (2 Peter 2:9). Temptation is something we should avoid, not something we should seek out.
- The day of judgment for the wicked has not yet come. It's still in the future (2 Peter 2:9).
- The holy angels of God have more power and might than human beings (2 Peter 2:11).
- The holy angels of God don't make accusations against demons or condemn them (2 Peter 2:11).
- Peter pointed out that false teachers and other wicked people make railing accusations against demons, and yet even the mighty angels of God don't do that (2 Peter 2:11).
- The apostles used God's power to cast demons out of people who were possessed, and they warned about the dangers of demons. However, they didn't make accusations against demons. It's not our place to accuse demons or pronounce a sentence upon them. Even God's holy angels don't do that (2 Peter 2:10-11).
- Peter didn't say that it's the job of the church to kill heretics and false teachers. Instead he taught that their judgment is in the future, and God is the one who will punish them in His day of judgment (2 Peter 2:12).
- False teachers speak evil of things that they don't

understand (2 Peter 2:12).

- Peter never hints that false teachers can be saved, or can turn from their wicked ways. Instead he says they will surely be damned, and will perish for what they've done (2 Peter 2:12).
- It's a terrible thing to take pleasure in doing evil (2 Peter 2:13).
- Christians must seek to be wholly righteous, without spot or blemish (2 Peter 2:13).
- False teachers seek to deceive the church while they're in its midst (2 Peter 2:13).
- False teachers are spots and blemishes on the church (2 Peter 2:13).
- The wicked can't cease from sin (2 Peter 2:14).
- People who are unstable may be led astray by false teachers (2 Peter 2:14).
- False teachers are cursed (2 Peter 2:14).
- Christians must fight against sin and overcome it. We must never give in to sin or let sin reign over us (2 Peter 2:).
- Christians must learn to be stable and rooted in the faith (2 Peter 2:14).
- False teachers are saturated with sin and controlled by it, even though that may not appear to be the case from outward appearances (2 Peter 2:14).
- The root of false teaching is covetousness (2 Peter 2:15).
- Christians must not desire the wages of unrighteousness.

We must love the truth more than we love money (2 Peter 2:15).

- God used a donkey to rebuke Balaam (2 Peter 2:16). This means the story of Balaam and the donkey isn't a fairy tale or a myth. Balaam's donkey really did speak to him (2 Peter 2:16).
- Balaam was a wicked man and yet he was still a prophet (2 Peter 2:16). This means it's possible for prophets to be wicked. Not all prophets are righteous.
- Peter compares false teachers to wells that have no water. They claim to have the water of life but in reality they're empty (2 Peter 2:17).
- Peter compares false teachers to clouds that are carried by storms. They can't remain rooted in one place but are carried to and fro by every wind of doctrine (2 Peter 2:17).
- False teachers reject the everlasting light of God's Word, and they also reject the light of the world (Jesus). Therefore they will be punished with everlasting darkness (2 Peter 2:17).
- False teachers try to deceive Christians and lure them back into lives of sin and depravity (2 Peter 2:18).
- Those who escape the corruption of this world but then become entangled in it again are worse off than they were originally. Their second corruption is worse than the first (2 Peter 2:20).
- In ancient times there were holy prophets who spoke the message of God. The church must pay close attention to what they said and remember their words (2 Peter 3:2). Peter was concerned that the church might forget or

neglect the subject of Bible prophecy, and he didn't want that to happen.

- The commandments of the apostles are binding on the church (2 Peter 3:2).
- The first thing to know regarding prophecy is that in the last days there will be scoffers who scoff at the entire subject of Bible prophecy (2 Peter 3:3). Those who scoff at prophecy are walking after their own lusts. In fact, their lusts are what drive them to scoff at prophecy.
- Those who scoff at the idea of Christ's return are doing something wicked. They're living in sin and are corrupt, controlled by their lusts (2 Peter 3:4).
- Those who scoff at the reality of the great worldwide Flood of Genesis are corrupt and controlled by their lusts (2 Peter 3:5).
- The great Flood which is recorded in Genesis actually happened. It wasn't a small local flood and it really did destroy the entire world (2 Peter 3:5).
- Those who scoff at Biblical prophecy (especially end-times prophecy) are willingly ignorant. Their ignorance isn't innocent; it's a choice (2 Peter 3:5).
- Those who reject the doctrine that God created this universe, and everything in it, are corrupt and controlled by their lusts (2 Peter 3:5).
- God created the planets, the stars, and the galaxies. He created them by His spoken word, just as is written in Genesis (2 Peter 3:5). This universe didn't create itself! Instead God created it. This universe also didn't evolve; instead God spoke it into existence.

- God has destroyed the entire world before. This means things don't always continue on as they always have (2 Peter 3:5).
- Peter warned that one day there would be false teachers in the church who reject the doctrine of a global Flood that destroyed the entire world. There would also be false teachers who reject the account in Genesis 1 of a literal six-day creation (2 Peter 3:5).
- Peter had nothing good to say about those who rejected either a global Flood or six-day creation. He didn't say that we should just agree to disagree with them. Instead he said that those who did such things were dangerous false teachers who were damaging the church (2 Peter 3:5).
- The heavens and the earth are being preserved by the word of God. The Lord won't allow them to be destroyed before His day of judgment (2 Peter 3:7).
- Previously God destroyed the entire world with water, but next time He will destroy it with fire (2 Peter 3:7).
- God will keep His promise to not destroy the world again with water (2 Peter 3:7).
- All of the wicked will be judged in the coming day of judgment. None of them will escape (2 Peter 3:7).
- The wicked have not yet been judged. Their day of judgment is still in the future (2 Peter 3:7).
- When Peter was facing imminent martyrdom, he wrote a letter to the church specifically to remind them of the importance of the return of Jesus and the doctrines of prophecy. That's what was on his mind when he faced

death, and that's what he wanted the church to remember (2 Peter 3:7).

- Peter warned the church that the return of Jesus and the day of judgment might not come until several thousand years after he wrote this letter (2 Peter 3:8). When Peter was at the end of his life he didn't have the expectation that the return of Jesus was near.
- God operates on an entirely different time scale than we do. For Him the passing of a thousand years is like the passing of a single day (2 Peter 3:8).
- Peter didn't want the church to be ignorant when it came to the subject of Bible prophecy and the return of Jesus (2 Peter 3:8).
- The reason Jesus was going to tarry wasn't because He didn't care about His promise, but because He was giving people a chance to repent and be saved (2 Peter 3:9).
- In order to be saved you must repent. There's no salvation apart from repentance (2 Peter 3:9).
- The day is coming when this entire world will be destroyed by fire. Nothing will survive this fire, and everything in the entire world will be burned up (2 Peter 3:10). In fact, very elements of this universe will be melted by the heat of God's consuming fire. This means the things in this world aren't eternal. One day all of them will be destroyed.
- When the universe is destroyed it will make a loud noise (2 Peter 3:10).
- This universe isn't eternal. It was created in the past, and in the future it will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10).

- Since the material things in this world are temporary, we should strive after holiness and godliness (2 Peter 3:11). It's foolish to strive after material things that will one day be destroyed and lost.
- Peter expected the church to know and understand the doctrine of the return of Christ, the doctrine of the end of the world, and the doctrine of the new heaven and earth (2 Peter 3:12-13). He also expected Christians to be looking forward to *and desiring* the return of Christ and the end of the world.
- After the Lord destroys this universe He will create a new one (2 Peter 3:13). The new universe which God will create will be characterized by righteousness. This means the book of Revelation isn't the only book that talks about the final judgment and the eternal state. Peter mentions it as well.
- God requires Christians to be without spot. God doesn't want us to have any sin or error in our lives, no matter how small it may be (2 Peter 3:14). This means Christians aren't allowed to live lives of sin and depravity. We must be blameless and without spot.
- It's not enough for Christians to get the major things right. God requires us to work diligently get *everything* right (2 Peter 3:14).
- The doctrines of the end times and the world to come should motivate us to be without spot and blameless (2 Peter 3:14).
- The peace which God wants Christians to have isn't connected to our circumstances. Peter found peace when facing crucifixion (2 Peter 3:14).

- The doctrines of the end times teach Christians to reject materialism and seek after righteousness (2 Peter 3:14).
- Peter said that God had given wisdom to Paul (2 Peter 3:15).
- Peter taught that all of Paul's epistles were holy Scripture (2 Peter 3:16). This means Paul's epistles were recognized as Scripture from the very beginning, by the apostles themselves! They were given that status *immediately*, not centuries later by a church council.
- Peter said that some of the things that Paul wrote in his letters were hard to understand (2 Peter 3:16). This means the Bible itself testifies that some of Paul's writings are difficult to understand.
- People who are unlearned or unstable may abuse the parts of the Bible which are hard to understand, and that will lead to their destruction (2 Peter 3:16). This means it can be dangerous for people who are unlearned to work with the parts of the Bible which are hard to understand.
- There are some parts of the Bible that require great wisdom and learning in order to properly understand (2 Peter 3:16).
- It 's possible for Christians to be deceived and fall into error (2 Peter 3:17).
- It's not acceptable for Christians to remain ignorant (2 Peter 3:18). We must seek to increase our knowledge of God.
- It's possible to grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18).