

The Teachings of 2 Peter

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The Teachings of 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!

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 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
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2 Peter 1

2 Peter 1:1: "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:"

- This epistle was written by Peter.
- Peter called himself Simon.
- Peter was a servant of Jesus.
- Peter was an apostle of Jesus.
- Jesus is called the Messiah (Christ).
- Peter first introduces himself as a servant of Christ. He doesn't list his apostleship first.
- This letter is written to all Christians.
- The reason we're saved is because of the righteousness of Jesus, not because of our own righteousness.
- Our salvation comes from God, not from ourselves.
- Jesus is our Savior.
- The reason we have faith is because of the righteousness of Jesus.
- Our faith comes from God.
- The faith that God has given to us is precious.

2 Peter 1:2: "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,"

- Peter prayed that grace would be given to the recipients

of his letter.

- Peter prayed that peace would be given to the recipients of his letter. He wanted Christians to be full of peace.
- Grace comes from the knowledge of God.
- Peace comes from the knowledge of God.
- Jesus is our Lord.

2 Peter 1:3: "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"

- Jesus has divine power.
- Jesus is divine.
- Jesus has given us everything that pertains to life.
- Jesus has given us everything that pertains to godliness.
- We have everything that we need to live a godly life.
- Jesus has called us to glory.
- Jesus has called us to virtue.
- Christians must pursue virtue.
- Christians must pursue godliness.
- The passage doesn't say that Jesus promised us wealth, health, or a life free from persecution and suffering.
- Even when Peter was facing imminent martyrdom he was still focused on virtue and godliness.
- Peter didn't believe that since Christians were saved, they had the right to live as they please. Instead he said that Jesus has commanded us to pursue godliness and virtue.

2 Peter 1:4: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

- Jesus has given us promises that are exceedingly great.
- Jesus has given us promises that are exceedingly precious.
- The promise of Jesus is that we may partake of the divine nature.
- The divine nature is linked to virtue and godliness. It's not a license to sin.
- The great and precious promise of God is that we might escape sin and live a godly life. It's freedom *from* sin to do what's right. It's *not* freedom to sin as much as we please, or that since we're saved we can sin because God will forgive us.
- Godliness and virtue are great and precious things. They're far better than a life of sin and depravity.
- This world is filled with corruption.
- The corruption in this world is driven by lust (desires).
- The desires of this world lead to sin. The promise of God is an escape from that corruption.
- We need to escape the corruption of this world and its desires.
- The divine nature isn't one of lust and corruption.

2 Peter 1:5: "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your

faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;"

- Christians are commanded to be diligent.
- Christians are commanded to have faith.
- Christians are commanded to pursue virtue.
- Christians are commanded to pursue knowledge.
- Christians don't have the option of being ignorant. God commands us to diligently pursue knowledge.
- Christians don't have the option of living in sin. God commands us to diligently pursue virtue.
- Once we have faith, we must pursue virtue.
- Once we have virtue, we must pursue knowledge.

2 Peter 1:6: "And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;"

- Christians are commanded to have self control.
- Christians are commanded to be patient.
- Christians are commanded to be godly.
- Once we have knowledge, we must learn self-control.
- Once we have self-control, we must learn patience.
- Once we have patience, we must pursue godliness.
- Patience is an important virtue that Christians must diligently pursue.

2 Peter 1:7: "And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

- Christians are commanded to be kind.
- Christians are commanded to have charity.
- Once we have godliness, we must learn to be kind to one another.
- Once we have kindness, we must learn to be charitable to one another.
- 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 things.
- The Bible teaches that Christians need to pursue godliness and other character qualities. It does *not* say that we will be judged by the size of our ministries or by how many people responded to our preaching.
- God seeks inward character, and commands Christians to pursue and develop it.

2 Peter 1:8: "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- Faith, virtue, knowledge, self control, patience, godliness, kindness, and charity should abound in the life of each Christian.
- If these character qualities abound in our life then we will bear the sort of fruit that God is looking for.
- Peter repeatedly speaks of the knowledge of the Lord Jesus.
- If we want to bear fruit then we must pursue these character qualities, for they are the key to being fruitful.

- It's important for Christians to bear fruit.

2 Peter 1:9: "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

- Those who lack these character qualities are blind.
- Those who lack these character qualities have forgotten that they've been purged from their old sins.
- There are some Christians who are saved and yet lack these qualities.
- The gospel purges us from our old sins. It does *not* give us a license to live in in sin.
- There are some Christians who've forgotten that they've been purged from their old sins, and who are sadly pursuing a life of sin and depravity.
- Christians must make the choice to diligently pursue these character qualities and bear fruit. There are some Christians who don't make that choice.
- Some Christians pursue these character qualities while others don't.

2 Peter 1:10: "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"

- Although some Christians don't pursue these character qualities, Peter doesn't want others to follow their bad example. He commands everyone to diligently pursue these qualities.

- Peter refers to fellow Christians as brothers.
- Peter didn't believe it was wrong or offensive to simply say "brothers" instead of using "brothers and sisters", or a gender-neutral term.
- Pursuing these character qualities is a way to make sure of our salvation. This isn't because our works save us, but because our works reveal our true nature.
- Those who diligently pursue these character qualities and bear fruit are publicly demonstrating their salvation. Those who fail to do this and live like the world aren't providing any reason to believe that they're saved, and in fact may be lost.
- We aren't saved by our works, but our works do demonstrate who we really are and what we really believe. By pursuing these character qualities we're publicly proclaiming our faith in Christ and making a clear demonstration of our salvation.
- Peter speaks of the fact that God has chosen us (the doctrine of election and predestination).
- Peter says that God has called us.
- If Christians diligently pursue these character qualities and demonstrate them in their life then they'll never fall.
- The key to living a successful Christian life is pursuing and demonstrating these character qualities.
- The key to a Christian life that God considers to be successful is one that demonstrates these character qualities. It's *not* having a life of health, or wealth, or fame, or having a large ministry.
- If you want to be sure of your salvation then pursue and demonstrate these character qualities. Your works don't

save you, but they *are* evidence that you've been saved.

- If your life doesn't demonstrate these qualities then there's no evidence that you've been saved, and no reason to believe that your salvation is genuine.
- It's important to make sure that you're saved.

2 Peter 1:11: "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).
- Jesus is our Savior.
- Jesus is our Lord.
- The Lord Jesus has a kingdom.
- The kingdom of the Lord Jesus is an everlasting kingdom.
- If we're genuinely saved then Jesus will allow us to enter into His everlasting kingdom and partake in it.
- The only way to enter into the everlasting kingdom of Jesus is through salvation.
- There are some people who won't enter into the kingdom of Jesus.
- Some people will be saved, but others will not.

2 Peter 1:12: "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth."

- Peter considered it to be negligence if Christians weren't regularly reminded of the importance of pursuing these

eight character qualities, and reminded to make sure of their salvation, and reminded of the doctrine of the everlasting kingdom of Jesus.

- We must remember to pursue these character qualities.
- We must remember the doctrine of the kingdom of Jesus.
- Peter expects us to know the things he's been talking about. He expects Christians to be full of knowledge, and not be ignorant of the truth.
- Peter expects Christians to be firmly established in the truth.

2 Peter 1:13: "Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;"

- As long as Peter was alive he wanted to keep reminding Christians of these things.
- Peter referred to his body as a tabernacle.
- Peter believed that Christians needed regular reminders to pursue godliness.
- It's important for Christians to remember the truth.

2 Peter 1:14: "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me."

- Peter knew that he was about to be martyred.
- Peter wrote this letter shortly before his execution.
- Peter knew that his remaining time was short.
- Peter knew Jesus had told him that one day he would be martyred.

- Peter referred to death as putting off something that he was wearing.

2 Peter 1:15: "Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance."

- Peter wanted Christians to be reminded of these things after he had died.
- Peter was concerned about what would happen to the church after he was dead. He didn't want Christians to forget these things.
- Peter wasn't just concerned about what would happen during his lifetime. He was also concerned about what would happen after he died, and he wanted to have an impact that lasted beyond his death.

2 Peter 1:16: "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty."

- Peter said that the things he and the other apostles had taught weren't just clever fables.
- Peter said that he and the apostles were eyewitnesses. They had seen for themselves the things they had taught to the churches, and weren't just teaching fables they had heard from someone else.
- The teachings of the apostles are firsthand accounts.
- The apostles believed in 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.

- The apostles had seen the power of the Lord Jesus.
- The apostles had seen the majesty of the Lord Jesus.
- The apostles knew what they were talking about because they had seen it personally.
- The apostles taught to the churches the power and the coming of the Lord Jesus.
- Jesus has power.
- Jesus has majesty.
- Jesus is coming.
- Peter addresses the fact that many people were claiming that the story of Jesus was just a fable by saying that he was an eyewitness to it. He knew it was true because he had seen it.

2 Peter 1:17: "For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- Jesus received honor from God the Father.
- Jesus received glory from God the Father.
- Peter saw the honor and glory of Jesus.
- Peter heard the voice of God testify that Jesus was God's Son and that God was pleased with Him.
- Jesus is the beloved Son of God.
- Peter knew that the claims which Jesus made were true because he saw Jesus glorified and heard God the Father

testify of Him.

- Peter knew the truth because he had both seen and heard it, and had even heard God's own testimony of it.
- Peter calls God the Father both excellent and glorious.

2 Peter 1:18: "And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount."

- The voice of God the Father, which spoke to Jesus on the mount of transfiguration, came from Heaven.
- Peter and the other disciples who were with him on the mount of transfiguration heard the voice of God.
- Peter recounted the events that he saw on the mount of transfiguration as proof that the message of the gospel was true.
- Peter was with Jesus at the mount of transfiguration.
- Peter refers to the mount of transfiguration as a holy mountain.
- 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 and heard God's testimony with his own ears.

2 Peter 1:19: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

- Peter said that not only did the church have his eyewitness account of the testimony of God Himself, but

the church also had something that was even more certain (the Word of God).

- Peter said that the Word of God is to be trusted above and beyond our own experiences (the things we've seen and heard).
- The Word of God trumps experience. Experience doesn't trump the Word of God.
- Peter said that the church could know that the gospel wasn't merely a clever fable for two reasons: because the church had the first-hand account of the apostles (who were eyewitnesses), and because the church had the Word of God. Those two things were sufficient evidence.
- Peter said to take heed to the eyewitness testimony of the apostles.
- Peter said to take heed to the testimony of the Word of God.
- The Scriptures are a light that shines in the darkness.
- The Scriptures are a source of light and truth, not a repository of myths and fables.
- The Scriptures are given to us to shine in the darkness of this world. However, one day the darkness will be gone because the light of the world (the Lord Jesus) will come.
- Peter compares this world to a dark night, and tells us that a bright day is coming.
- Jesus will bring light into this world when He returns.
- The Scriptures serve as our light and guide until the Lord returns.
- Jesus is called the day star (which is very similar to the bright and morning star).

- Peter speaks of Jesus rising in our hearts.
- This world is a dark place.

2 Peter 1:20: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

- No prophecy in the Bible can be assigned a private interpretation.
- We aren't at liberty to decide on our own what the prophecies in the Bible mean. Instead we must use the Scriptures to interpret them, so that we arrive at the meaning God intended.
- There's a specific interpretation for each Bible prophecy. They're not arbitrary and they must not be interpreted in many different ways to mean many different things.
- Before studying prophecy, you must learn to approach prophecy in the right manner.
- Peter expected people to study Bible prophecy.

2 Peter 1:21: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

- The prophecies which are found in the Scriptures didn't come because of the will of men.
- Although God used prophets to proclaim prophecies, the prophecies came from the Holy Spirit.
- The prophets of old were holy.
- The words that the prophets spoke came from the Holy Spirit. They didn't come from the prophets themselves.

- The words of the prophets are the words of God, not the words of men.

2 Peter 2

2 Peter 2:1: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

- In ancient times there were false prophets.
- Some people who called themselves prophets were *not* holy men. Instead they were false prophets and liars.
- Peter warned that just as there were once false prophets, so the day would come when false teachers would creep into the church.
- Some teachers aren't holy men. Instead they're heretics and liars.
- Peter warned the church to be on its guard against false teachers.
- False teachers act in secret. They're not open and honest about the evil things they're doing.
- False teachers bring in terrible heresies.
- The heresies that false teachers secretly bring into the church lead to everlasting damnation.
- False teachers are extremely dangerous. Their teachings can send a person's soul to Hell.
- False teachers deny the Lord Jesus.

- The Lord Jesus purchased us with His blood. We belong to Him.
- False teachers are bringing destruction upon themselves.
- The destruction that will one day come upon false teachers will be swift.
- False teachers will surely be destroyed.
- It's a terrible heresy to deny the Lord Jesus. That heresy leads to everlasting damnation.
- Peter didn't say that we should be understanding with false teachers, or that we shouldn't judge them, or that we should work with them. Instead he warned that they're extremely dangerous, and their lies lead to eternal damnation.

2 Peter 2:2: "And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

- Peter warned that many people would believe false teachers and follow them.
- False teachers are successful in deceiving many people.
- False teachers are harmful.
- Because of false teachers, people will say evil things about the gospel and the truths of God's Word.
- Peter called the gospel the way of truth.

2 Peter 2:3: "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

- False teachers are full of covetousness.
- False teachers make merchandise of the church.
- False teachers use feigned words (lies) to deceive the church.
- False teachers use lies and deception to cause terrible harm.
- False teachers are very dangerous.
- False teachers damage the church.
- Peter was honest and straightforward about what false teachers are like, and about the damage they do. He warned the church against them and made it clear that false teachers are going to Hell.
- False teachers will surely be judged by God.
- False teachers will receive everlasting damnation.
- It's a terrible thing to be a false teacher.
- One day false teachers will face judgment. They won't go unpunished forever.
- Judgment was pronounced upon false teachers long ago. They've already been sentenced.

2 Peter 2:4: "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;"

- There are angels who sinned.
- God holds angels accountable for their sins. He doesn't give them a free pass to do evil.
- When some angels committed a certain sin, God cast

them down to hell and put them in chains of darkness. This seems to refer to a certain group of angels that committed a specific sin (the ones who mated with human women to create the nephilim).

- The holy angels that are with God in Heaven are perfect and have never sinned.
- There are some fallen angels who aren't allowed to roam the world. Instead they're in hell in chains of darkness.
- It's possible to bind a fallen angel with chains of darkness.
- God is holding the angels who committed a certain sin in chains of darkness, waiting for the time of judgment.
- Even angels are judged when they sin.
- The judgment of fallen angels is in the future.

2 Peter 2:5: "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;"

- God didn't spare the pre-Flood world when it sinned.
- God destroyed the pre-Flood world for its wickedness.
- When God destroyed the pre-Flood world, it was filled with ungodly people.
- God destroyed the entire world because of sin.
- When God destroyed the pre-Flood world, He only saved 8 people out of it.
- One of the people that God saved from the pre-Flood world was Noah.
- Noah was a preacher of righteousness.

- Noah preached righteousness to the pre-Flood world, but that world didn't listen to him or repent.
- God sent the flood that destroyed the ancient world.
- It's possible for sin to become so great that God decides to destroy the entire world.

2 Peter 2:6: "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;"

- God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha because of their sin.
- God turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes.
- God made an example of Sodom and Gomorrha, to show what happens to ungodly cities.
- God holds cities accountable for their actions and punishes them for their sin.
- It's possible for sin to become so great that God destroys entire cities because of it.
- Cities that choose ungodliness will face God's wrath.
- God hasn't changed. He punished cities in the ancient world and He still does that today.
- God is to be feared. People should learn from His past judgments and fear Him and walk in His ways, lest they face the same judgments.
- God destroyed the ancient world because of its sin, and turned Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes because of their evil. God will surely punish false teachers as well, for He doesn't tolerate sin and He always punishes it.

2 Peter 2:7: "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:"

- When God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrha, He first rescued Lot so that Lot wasn't killed in the judgment.
- Lot was a just person.
- The cities of Sodom and Gomorrha were filled with wicked people.
- The wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrha vexed Lot.
- The conversation of wicked people is filthy.
- The filthy conversation of wicked people should vex Christians. We shouldn't be comfortable with it or tolerant of it.
- God had to rescue Lot from the judgment. Lot didn't save himself.
- Lot was surrounded by wickedness.
- God sends His judgment upon the wicked as punishment for their evil deeds, but He rescues the righteous from His judgment.
- God doesn't pour out His judgment upon His saints.

2 Peter 2:8: "(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)"

- Lot was a righteous man.
- Lot lived among very wicked people.
- Lot saw and heard the wickedness of the evil people who

he lived among.

- Lot had a righteous soul.
- The things that Lot saw and heard vexed his soul.
- Evil deeds and evil words vex the soul of the righteous.
- It's possible for souls to be vexed by evil.
- The things that the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrha were doing were violations of God's law.
- Evil deeds and words should be vexing to the righteous. Christians shouldn't approve of them or be tolerant of them.
- It's a terrible thing when a righteous person lives among the wicked. When that happens, the acts of the wicked vex the righteous.
- It's much better to not live among the wicked.

2 Peter 2:9: "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:"

- God knows how to deliver the godly from temptation.
- Our deliverance from temptation comes from God.
- We should look to God for deliverance from temptation.
- We should seek to be delivered from temptation.
- We shouldn't seek temptation. Instead we should seek to be *delivered* from temptation.
- Temptation is something we should avoid, not something we should seek.
- There's a coming day of judgment for the wicked.

- The day of judgment for the wicked hasn't come yet. It's still in the future.
- The wicked are reserved for a coming day of judgment, which will surely come.
- God refers to the wicked as unjust.
- In the day of judgment, God will punish the wicked.
- The wicked will surely be punished.
- God delivers His saints, but He's destined the wicked to be punished in His judgment.
- God is against the wicked and doesn't tolerate their evil deeds. Instead He's reserved them for His day of judgment.

2 Peter 2:10: "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities."

- The wicked walk after the flesh.
- It's a terrible thing to walk after the flesh.
- The wicked seek after their own unclean lusts.
- It's a terrible thing to give in to unclean lusts.
- The wicked despise government (authority).
- It's a terrible thing to despise authority.
- The wicked are presumptuous and self-willed.
- It's a terrible thing to be presumptuous and self-willed. God calls His saints to be meek and humble, and to serve others.

- The wicked speak evil of dignities (which is a reference to speaking evil of demons).
- Christians shouldn't condemn demons. The apostles used the power of God to cast demons out of people, and they warned the church about how dangerous demons were, but they didn't condemn demons. It's not our place to pronounce a sentence upon them.

2 Peter 2:11: "Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord."

- The holy angels of God don't make accusations against demons or condemn them.
- The holy angels of God have more power and might than human beings.
- The holy angels of God are very powerful.
- Peter pointed out that false teachers and other wicked people make railing accusations against demons, and yet the mighty angels of God don't do that.

2 Peter 2:12: "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;"

- Peter compares false teachers to brute beasts that are hunted down and killed.
- False teachers were created to be captured and destroyed.
- Peter does *not* say that it's the job of the church to hunt

down and kill heretics and false teachers. Instead he says that their judgment is in the future, and *God* is the one who will punish them in His day of judgment.

- False teachers speak evil of things that they don't understand.
- False teachers don't understand the things they're condemning.
- False teachers are corrupt.
- False teachers will perish.
- Peter never hints that false teachers can be saved, or can turn from their wicked ways. Instead he says they'll surely perish for what they've done.
- It's wrong to condemn things that we don't understand.
- Christians shouldn't be corrupt.

2 Peter 2:13: "And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;"

- God will hold the wicked accountable for their evil deeds, and will repay them for the unrighteous things they've done.
- Not everyone is righteous. Some people are wicked, and God will send them into everlasting damnation.
- Salvation isn't universal. Some people won't be saved and will perish.
- The wicked riot and do terrible evil during the day, and they take pleasure in doing so.

- It's a terrible thing to take pleasure in doing evil.
- Peter compares the wicked to spots and blemishes.
- Christians must not pursue unrighteousness, for God hates it and punishes it.
- Christians must seek to be wholly righteous, without spot or blemish.
- Peter warned about false teachers who were in the midst of the church, and who shared meals with them.
- False teachers seek to deceive the church while they're in its midst.
- False teachers are spots and blemishes on the church.
- God will surely punish false teachers. They won't escape.
- Peter expected the church to hold feasts.

2 Peter 2:14: "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:"

- The wicked have eyes that are full of adultery. They're full of lusts for sexual sin.
- The wicked can't cease from sin.
- False teachers trick unstable souls and deceive them.
- People who are unstable may be led astray by false teachers.
- The heart of false teachers is full of covetousness.
- Peter said that false teachers are cursed.
- Christians must not lust after sexual sin.

- Christians must fight against sin and overcome it. They can't give into it or let sin reign over them.
- Christians must learn to be stable and rooted in the faith.
- Christians must not covet.
- False teachers are saturated with sin and are controlled by it, even though that may not appear to be the case from outward appearances.

2 Peter 2:15: "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness,"

- False teachers have forsaken the gospel.
- Peter calls the gospel the "right way".
- False teachers have gone astray from righteousness and from the truth.
- Balaam was a real person who actually existed.
- Balaam was the son of Bosor.
- Balaam loved the wages of unrighteousness.
- Balaam didn't object to wickedness as long as it paid well. He loved riches more than righteousness.
- Balaam coveted the wages of unrighteousness. He lusted after the payment that the world offered for sin.
- False teachers covet the wages of sin, and are like Balaam.
- The root of false teaching is covetousness.
- Christians must not go astray from the truth, or from the gospel.

- Christians must not lust after the wages of unrighteousness. We must love the truth more than we love money.
- Christians must not be like Balaam.

2 Peter 2:16: "But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet."

- The story of Balaam and the donkey isn't a fairy tale or a myth. The donkey really did speak to Balaam.
- God used a donkey to rebuke Balaam.
- Balaam was a wicked man, and yet he was still a prophet.
- It's possible for prophets to be wicked. Not all prophets are righteous.
- Peter said that the wicked actions of Balaam were acts of madness and iniquity.

2 Peter 2:17: "These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever."

- Peter compares false teachers to wells that have no water. They claim to have the water of life, but in reality they're empty.
- 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.
- God will cast false teachers into everlasting darkness, and they will never escape.

- The punishment of false teachers is still in the future. Their time of judgment is coming.
- False teachers reject the everlasting light of God's Word, and the light of the world (Jesus). They will be punished with everlasting darkness.

2 Peter 2:18: "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error."

- False teachers use their words to deceive people.
- False teachers use vanity to deceive people.
- False teachers use the lusts of the flesh to deceive people.
- The open and sinful lives of false teachers deceives people.
- False teachers try to deceive Christians and lure them back into lives of sin and depravity.
- The wicked are living in error.
- Peter refers to Christians as those who have escaped lives of sin.
- Sin is something that we must escape from. Sin is evil and dangerous, not good and healthy.
- False teachers are deceptive, and are a danger to Christians.
- Christians must be on their guard against false teachers. Christians must not listen to false teachers, or go back to the life of sin they escaped from.

- Peter doesn't say that it's fine for Christians to live lives of sin on the grounds that God will forgive them and they'll still go to Heaven. Instead he teaches that it's a terrible thing for Christians to go back to sin.

2 Peter 2:19: "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

- False teachers make false promises and claim that they're offering liberty, but in reality they aren't.
- False teachers lie about the fruit of their teaching and the impact it will have on people's lives.
- False teachers are the servants of corruption.
- People who are corrupt are slaves to their corruption, and are overcome by it.

2 Peter 2:20: "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."

- We can escape the pollution of this world through the Lord Jesus.
- Jesus is our Lord.
- Jesus is our Savior.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).
- This world is polluted.
- We need to be delivered from the pollution of this world.

- We can't save ourselves from the pollution of this world. Only Jesus can do that.
- Jesus is the only way to escape the pollution of this world. There is no other path.
- Those who escape the corruption of this world but then become entangled in it again are worse off than they were originally. The second corruption is worse than the first.
- There are some people who escape the corruption of this world, but then go back to it. (These people were never truly saved at all, but were like the seeds in Christ's parable that quickly sprouted but then withered away.)
- A person may seem to be saved, but may turn out to be a false convert. The test of time will reveal the truth about their salvation.

2 Peter 2:21: "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."

- It's better to have never heard the gospel at all, than to hear it and follow it for a time and then turn away from it. (That being said, those who never hear the gospel are going to go to Hell, so the best option of all is to hear the gospel and obey it.)
- The gospel is the path of righteousness.
- There are some people who hear the gospel and follow it for a time, and then reject it. Those people are worse off than those who never heard it at all, because the second corruption is much worse than the first.
- The commandments of God are holy.

- God has given us His commandments. The only reason we have them is because He gave them to us.

2 Peter 2:22: "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

- Dogs vomit and then eat their own vomit.
- Pigs that are washed and cleansed from their filth go right back to the filth they were cleansed from.
- There are some people who turn away from corruption, only to go right back to it again.
- Corruption is a filthy thing that we *must* escape. It's not something we can tolerate or accept.
- We need to be cleansed from our corruption.
- Not everyone who claims to be saved is actually saved.

2 Peter 3

2 Peter 3:1: "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:"

- This is the second epistle that Peter had written.
- Peter refers to Christians as beloved. He has a great love for the church.
- In both of Peter's letters he reminded the church of important truths.
- Peter calls the minds of Christians "pure".

- Peter thought it was important to remind Christians of important truths.
- Peter refers to the church with great affection.

2 Peter 3:2: "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:"

- The church must be mindful of the words of the holy prophets.
- The church must be mindful of the commandment of the apostles.
- The apostles are the apostles of the Lord Jesus.
- In ancient times there were holy prophets that spoke the message of God. The church must pay close attention to what they said, and remember their words.
- Peter commanded the church to pay close attention to Bible prophecy, and to study it and remember it. He didn't say that prophecy was a "distraction" and should be ignored.
- Peter was concerned that the church might forget or neglect the subject of Bible prophecy, and he didn't want that to happen.
- The commandment of the apostles is binding on the church.
- The words of the ancient prophets still apply to us today.

2 Peter 3:3: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,"

- 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.
- Peter warned the church about those who scoff against Bible prophecy.
- Those who scoff against Bible prophecy are doing something wrong. They are in sin.
- Those who scoff at Bible prophecy are walking after their own lusts. Their lusts are what drive them to scoff at prophecy.
- Peter warned the church ahead of time that in the last days people would scoff at Bible prophecy, and the church needed to be on its guard and defend itself from such wicked people.

2 Peter 3:4: "And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

- Peter warned that in the last days, people would scoff at the idea that Jesus will one day return.
- Those who scoff at the idea of the return of Christ are doing something wrong. They're living in sin and are corrupt, controlled by their lusts.
- Scoffers know that Jesus has promised to return, and they openly mock it.
- Scoffers claim that since Jesus hasn't returned yet, He will never return at all.
- The scoffers that Peter is warning about are people *within* the church, not people outside of it. He's warning

that people within the church will reject the doctrine of the return of Christ.

- Scoffers claim that nothing will ever change, and life will continue as it always has.
- It's a sin to scoff at Christ's promise to return. Those who do so are corrupt.
- It's a sin to say that since Jesus hasn't returned, He will never return at all. Those who say such things are corrupt.
- It's wrong to think that since life has continued on for such a long time, things will never change.
- The death of Christians is compared to sleep.
- It's wrong for the church to neglect the doctrine of the Lord's return. The church must not listen to the scoffers.

2 Peter 3:5: "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:"

- Scoffers are willingly ignorant that in ancient times God destroyed the entire world in the great Flood. Scoffers choose to be ignorant of that fact and reject it, because they're corrupt and controlled by their lusts.
- Those who scoff at the reality of the great Flood of Genesis, and reject it, are corrupt and controlled by their lusts.
- The great Flood that is recorded in Genesis is real and actually happened. It wasn't just a small local flood, and it really did destroy the entire world.
- Scoffers are willingly ignorant. They *choose* to be

ignorant. Their ignorance isn't innocent.

- Scoffers choose to reject the truth so they can mock the idea that Jesus will return.
- Scoffers are willingly ignorant of the fact that God created this universe and spoke it into existence.
- Those who reject the existence of God are corrupt and controlled by their lusts.
- Those who reject the doctrine that God created this universe are corrupt and controlled by their lusts.
- God created the planets, the stars, and the galaxies. He created them by His spoken word, just as is written in Genesis.
- This universe didn't create itself. Instead God created it.
- This universe didn't evolve. Instead God spoke it into existence.
- Those who deny the literal six-day creation account that's found in Genesis 1 are corrupt and controlled by their lusts.
- God is the one who sent the Genesis Flood. He's the one who chose to destroy the world.
- Peter is pointing out that God has destroyed the entire world before. God has demonstrated that things don't always continue on as they have up to this point.
- Peter warned that there would be corrupt false teachers in the church who rejected the teaching of a global Flood which destroyed the entire world.
- Peter warned that there would be corrupt false teachers in the church who rejected the account in Genesis 1 of a literal six-day creation.

- Peter had nothing good to say about those who rejected a global Flood, or six-day creation. Instead he said those who did such things were dangerous and corrupt false teachers, who were damaging the church.

2 Peter 3:6: "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:"

- The great Flood that's recorded in Genesis literally happened. It really did flood the entire world, and killed everyone except for the eight people who were on the Ark. It wasn't a local flood, but was a global one that brought global destruction.
- God destroyed the ancient world with a global Flood.
- The ancient world perished in water.
- There was a world that existed before the Flood, and it was completely destroyed.
- God has already destroyed the entire world once, along with everyone who lived in it.

2 Peter 3:7: "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

- God is preserving the heavens (the universe) for the day of judgment.
- God is preserving this world for the day of judgment.
- A day of judgment is coming.
- The heavens and the earth are being preserved by the word of God. He's not going to allow them to be

destroyed before His day of judgment.

- Previously God destroyed the entire world with water, but next time He will destroy it with fire.
- God will keep His promise to not destroy the world again with water.
- God is going to destroy the entire universe, including this world.
- There's a coming day of judgment for the ungodly.
- All of the wicked will be judged in the coming day of judgment. None of them will escape.
- The wicked haven't been judged yet. Their day of judgment is still in the future.
- Those who scoff at the return of Jesus and the coming judgment are wrong.
- 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, and that's what he wanted the church to remember.

2 Peter 3:8: "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

- 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.
- Peter wanted the church to know that Jesus might not come back in their lifetimes. Jesus might tarry for a very long time.

- When Peter was at the end of his life, he didn't have the expectation that the return of Jesus was near.
- Peter wanted the church to know that even though Jesus might not return for a very long time, He was still going to return. The return of Jesus was certain, and the day of judgment upon the wicked was certain as well.
- The Lord sees time differently than we do. A thousand years is just a short period of time to Him.
- 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.
- 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 3:9: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

- The reason Jesus was going to tarry wasn't because He didn't care about His promise, but was because He was giving people a chance to repent and be saved.
- Once the day of judgment comes, no one can be saved. Jesus is tarrying to give people time to repent. (People can be saved after the rapture, and even during the tribulation, but on the day of judgment it's too late.)
- God doesn't want any of His elect to perish. He is tarrying so that all of them can repent and be saved
- In order to be saved you must repent. There's no salvation apart from repentance.

- God is very longsuffering. He has waited a very long time to return.
- The delay in the return of Christ is advantageous for us. If Jesus had returned and judged the world sooner then many people would have perished, for they wouldn't have had time to repent and be saved.
- Jesus isn't going to come prematurely. He will come when all those that He intends to save have been saved.

2 Peter 3:10: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

- Peter speaks of the Day of the Lord. In that day the entire universe (including this world) will be totally and utterly destroyed by fire.
- The day is coming when the entire universe will be destroyed by fire.
- The day is coming when this entire world will be destroyed by fire. Absolutely nothing will survive this fire. Everything in the entire world will be burned up.
- The day is coming when the very elements of this universe will be melted by the heat of God's consuming fire.
- The Day of the Lord will be unexpected. It will come without warning, like a thief in the night.
- When the universe is destroyed, it will make a loud noise.
- This universe isn't eternal. It was created at a point in the past, and at a point in the future it will be destroyed.

- The things in this world aren't eternal. One day they will all be destroyed.
- The destruction of the universe is called the Day of the Lord. It's something God will do as an act of judgment upon the wicked.
- The world is going to be destroyed by God, not by mankind.

2 Peter 3:11: "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,"

- The possessions that we have in this world are temporary. One day all of them will be destroyed.
- Since the material things in this world are temporary, we should strive after holiness and godliness.
- It's foolish to strive after material things that are going to be destroyed and lost.
- The doctrine of the return of Christ and the end of the world should motivate us to pursue holiness and godliness.
- God commands Christians to pursue holiness and godliness.
- Our focus shouldn't be on the material things of this world, which are going to be destroyed, but on the things of God.

2 Peter 3:12: "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

- In the day of God, the entire universe will be dissolved and the elements themselves will melt.
- In the day of God, the Lord will destroy this entire universe with intense fire.
- Peter expects the church to know and understand the doctrines of the end times and the return of Christ.
- Peter expects Christians to be looking forward to the return of Christ, and to desire the end of the world.
- Nothing in this world will last forever. One day this universe and everything that it contains will be destroyed by intense fire from God.
- It's the will of God to destroy this universe. It won't endure forever

2 Peter 3:13: "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

- After the Lord destroys this universe, He will create a new one.
- God is going to destroy this world and then create another one.
- God has promised us that one day He's going to create a new heavens and earth.
- After the day of judgment, in which God will destroy this universe with fire, He will create another universe.
- The new universe that God will create will be characterized by righteousness (unlike this universe).
- Peter expects the church to know and understand the

doctrines that relate to the eternal state (the things that happen after the final day of judgment).

- Peter expects the church to look forward to the new heavens and earth that God will create after the final day of judgment.
- After the final day of judgment, the church will dwell in the new heavens and earth that God will create.
- God has promised Christians that one day we will live in a much better world.
- God's plan is to destroy this world and replace it with a better one that's characterized by righteousness.
- The book of Revelation isn't the only place that talks about the final judgment and the eternal state. Peter mentions it as well.

2 Peter 3:14: "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

- Peter expects the church to understand the doctrines relating to the end times, the return of Christ, the final judgment, and the eternal state.
- Peter expects the church to be looking forward to the return of Christ, the final judgment of the wicked, the destruction of this universe, and the new heaven and earth. In fact, he expects them to be longing for it and hoping for it.
- Christians need to have their heart set on the things to come, not on the things of this world (which are going to be destroyed in the coming judgment).

- Christians must be diligent.
- God expects 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.
- Christians aren't allowed to live lives of sin and depravity. We must be blameless and without spot.
- God requires Christians to work hard in order to become blameless and without spot.
- God requires Christians to be blameless. We must walk in all of His ways and obey all of His commands.
- It's not enough for Christians to get the major things right. God requires us to get *everything* right.
- The doctrines of the end times and the world to come should motivate us to be without spot and blameless.
- Peter wants the doctrines of the end times to fill us with peace. He said this as he was facing imminent execution.
- The peace that God wants Christians to have isn't connected to our circumstances. Peter found peace when facing crucifixion.
- The doctrines of the end times teach Christians to reject materialism and seek after righteousness.

2 Peter 3:15: "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;"

- The reason we've been saved is because God was longsuffering, and delayed His coming to give us time to repent.

- Peter said that Paul had also written to the church about the doctrines of the end times and the return of Christ.
- Peter said that God had given wisdom to Paul.
- Peter said that Paul had written to the same people that this letter was addressed to.
- Peter mentions the apostle Paul.
- Peter calls Paul the beloved brother of the church.
- The apostles referred to one another with great affection. This wasn't seen as inappropriate.
- God is the one who gives us wisdom. It's a gift from Him, and doesn't come from ourselves.

2 Peter 3:16: "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

- Peter said that all of Paul's epistles were holy Scripture.
- The epistles of Paul were recognized as Scripture from the very beginning, by the apostles themselves. They were given that status *immediately*, not by a church council centuries later.
- Peter said that Paul wrote multiple epistles.
- Peter said that Paul wrote about the doctrines of the end-times in multiple epistles.
- Peter said that some of the things that Paul wrote about in his letters were hard to understand.
- The Bible itself testifies that some of Paul's writings are genuinely hard to understand.

- Some parts of the Bible are hard to understand.
- Peter warned that people who are unlearned will abuse the parts of the Bible that are hard to understand, and that will lead to their destruction.
- Peter warned that people who are unstable will abuse the parts of the Bible that are hard to understand, and that will lead to their destruction.
- It's dangerous for people who are unlearned to work with the parts of the Bible that are hard to understand.
- There are some parts of the Bible that require great wisdom and learning in order to properly understand.
- It's dangerous for someone who's unstable to work with the parts of the Bible that are hard to understand.
- People who abuse the text of the Scripture are actually leading themselves to destruction.
- There are some people who abuse the text of the Scripture.
- It's unwise to listen to Scripture be interpreted by people who are unlearned or unstable.

2 Peter 3:17: "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness."

- Peter expected the church to already know all the things that he talked about in his letter. He expected this to be basic knowledge.
- The church must be on its guard against false teachers, and not allow itself to be led astray by them.

- Christians must know the doctrines of the end times so that we're not led astray into error.
- The church must know what the Bible teaches so that it doesn't fall away from the truth.
- Christians must develop discernment so that we're not led astray by the wicked.
- Peter believed it was possible for Christians to be deceived and fall into error.
- Peter taught that it matters what Christians believe. We aren't free to believe whatever we want.
- Peter taught that doctrine matters, including the doctrines of the end times.
- Peter believed that it was wicked to be led astray from the doctrines of the Bible.
- Christians must not join with the wicked in their wickedness.
- Christians must remain steadfast in the faith, and not turn from it in any way.
- God hasn't given Christians permission to compromise with the wicked.

2 Peter 3:18: "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

- Christians must grow in grace.
- Christians must grow in the knowledge of God.
- It's not acceptable for Christians to remain ignorant.

- It's possible to grow in grace.
- It's possible to increase our knowledge of God.
- Growing in grace is a choice that we must make. This means there are some Christians who fail to grow in grace.
- Growing in knowledge is a choice that we must make. This means there are some Christians who fail to learn more about God.
- Jesus is our Lord.
- Jesus is our Savior.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).
- We must glorify Jesus now.
- We must glorify Jesus forever.
- Peter ascribed glory to Jesus both in this present age and for the rest of eternity.
- Peter ended his letter with "Amen" (let it be).