

Second Epistle of Peter

1:1 I am Simon Peter, a true servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, writing to those who have obtained a faith as honorable and valuable as that which we, your brethren have obtained, and that because of the equity of our Father, and his son, our Savior Jesus Christ:

1:2 May you obtain peace and divine favor in abundance as your knowledge of God and Christ grows deeper and deeper.

1:3 Through the knowledge of him who has called us to grow in knowledge and virtue, his divine power gives to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,

1:4 We shall receive from him the highest covenants and promises; and when we fulfill these covenants and promises we shall become partakers of the divine nature, and shall be delivered from the corruption that is in the physical world because of desire and attachment to physical things.

1:5 It is precisely for this reason, that you must continue all diligence and eagerness, to add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience holiness;

1:7 And to holiness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity, or the pure love of Christ.

1:8 For, if these qualities are yours, and are ever increasing, then a deeper knowledge of Christ has not made you unprofitable or idle servants.

1:9 But he who lacks these qualities is either blind, or near-sighted, and has forgotten why he has been delivered from his former sins.

1:10 Set this goal foremost before you, my dear friends, to give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you shall never fall back into your old ways of the flesh:

1:11 Indeed, you shall obtain a redemption from the fall, and will be readmitted into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1:12 Therefore I will not fail to keep reminding you to always remember these things and do them. Even though you claim to know them, and teach them as truth, if you do not abide by these things, then you will not obtain power to overcome the world and to become clean from the blood and sins of this generation.

1:13 I think it important to fulfill my calling, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance of these things,

1:14 Because I know that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me.

1:15 But, until that time comes, I will teach you these things and make them clear in your minds, so that after I am gone, you may still be able to have these things always in remembrance, and know that I have testified of these things to you.

1:16 For we, his servants the apostles, have not followed cleverly-written stories, when we testified to you about the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. We actually saw his glory and witnessed his majesty with our own eyes.

1:17 We were present on the mount in order to witness that he received from God the Father honor and glory, when the Father spoke to him in a loud voice out of heaven, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

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

1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy and come unto you in the same spirit as the ancient prophets, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. You would do well to listen to our words, as you would look unto a light shining into a dark place, until the day dawns for you, and the day star arises in your own hearts. In other words, to light your way along the path of light, you may borrow light from us and our words, until you have the light of the Holy Spirit burning within you and are able to find your own way. When this happens, your consciousness transforms from a belief in Christ and a knowledge about Christ, to an intimate knowledge of Christ. You will then have the gift of discernment to see the Kingdom of God, and have the ability to enter therein.

1:20 But, in following the apostles and prophets, the first thing you should know about prophets and prophecies is this: no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

1:21 In the old times, not even one prophecy came because of an act of the will of man. Instead, holy men of God spoke as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. And when they received their words, these words were written to cause the same spirit of prophecy and revelation to well up within your own souls. And, by this key, you may discern the false prophets from the true prophets.

2:1 But even in those days there were false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you today. They will be men who subtly introduce false teachings which, if followed, will damn you [hold back your eternal growth]. These false teachers will even deny the true knowledge and power of Christ in you, while publicly

proclaiming his name. It will not be long before they bring upon themselves their own downfall.

2:2 Many unsuspecting followers will fall prey to their pernicious ways. These false teachers will gather their flocks around them, and they will make merchandise of the sheep for their own political and economic gains. And when those of the world see their poor examples, they will not be attracted to the truth, but shall scoff at it and deride it.

2:3 And because these false teachers love political power and the riches of this world more than they love the Shepherd and his sheep, they will seek, with feigned words, to attract followers unto themselves, and not make disciples of Christ, as we were commanded. But their judgment is coming, and their downfall is sure.

2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned against him, but imprisoned them, and delivered them in chains of darkness, until the judgment day;

2:5 If he did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and his seven companions, when he brought the flood in upon the world of its wickedness;

2:6 And if God reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha to ashes and overthrow them, as an example of those who live contrary to the laws of Zion;

2:7 And yet delivered just Lot, who was distressed at having to live amongst the wicked:

2:8 (For that righteous man dwelt among them, and seeing and hearing their unlawful deeds, his righteous soul was troubled daily.)

2:9 Then you may know with assurity that the Lord knows how to deliver a good man surrounded by temptation, and how to reserve the punishment of the unjust until the day of judgment comes.

2:10 But his judgment is especially reserved for those who are completely given over to serving their lower natures and seek to be a law unto themselves. These men are arrogant and presumptuous. They worship and seek after the things of the flesh and are not afraid to deny the existence of the soul, and to scoff at the glories of unseen world.

2:11 Yet even angels, who are greater than them in power and might, do not bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

2:12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured, used, and eventually destroyed, scoff at things outside their own experience; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

2:13 These shall receive the reward they have earned. These are they who delight in self-indulgence, deceiving you, even while posing as guests in your own homes.

2:14 Their eyes are full of adultery, and they cannot cease from lust. They entice unstable ones, and use their highly-developed practices on them in order to get what they want. They were born under a curse, and their children and those who follow them fall under the same curse.

2:15 These have forsaken the true path, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam, son of Bosor, who had no objection to wickedness as long as he was paid for it,

2:16 But he received a rebuke for his iniquity from a dumb donkey, speaking with the voice of a man, who held the prophet's insanity in check.

2:17 These are springs without water, clouds that are carried about by the wind, but contain no rain. For them the mist of darkness is reserved for ever, save they repent.

2:18 For when they speak great high-sounding platitudes, they attract through the lusts of the flesh, not through the voice of the Spirit, those who were just at the point of cutting loose from the attractions of the world.

2:19 While they promise their followers liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption, for the man is the slave of whatever masters him.

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

2:21 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.

2:22 But what has happened to them is just like the true proverb, the dog has returned to his own vomit; and the sow that was washed has returned to her wallowing in the mire.

3:1 My friends, this is the second epistle I have written to you, in which I remind you of things which you, in your minds uncontaminated by error, know already.

3:2 I want you to remember all the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, as well of the commandment of our Lord and Savior, given through his servants.

3:3 But keep this foremost in your minds, that in the last days mockers shall arise, walking not in the Spirit, but walking after their own lusts.

3:4 They shall demand, where is the evidence of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, nothing has changed; everything remains exactly as it was from the beginning of the creation.

3:5 They are deliberately shutting their eyes to a fact that they know very well, that there were, by God's command, heavens in the old days and an earth formed out of the water and surrounded by water.

3:6 It was by water that the world of those days was deluged and destroyed,

3:7 But the present heavens and earth are, also by God's command, being kept and maintained for the fire of the day of judgment and the destruction of wicked men.

3:8 But you should never lose sight of this fact, dear friends, that time is not the same with the Lord as it is with us - to him a day may be a thousand years, and a thousand years only a day.

3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some might suppose; but he is patient in dealing with you, not willing that any should perish, but that all should have opportunity to come to repentance.

3:10 But it is surely true the day of the Lord will come as sudden and unexpectedly as a thief in the night; In that day the heavens will disappear in a terrific tearing blast, the very elements will disintegrate in heat and the earth and all that is in it will be burnt up to nothing.

3:11 Since all these things shall come to pass, what manner of people ought you to be? Surely, people of good character and righteousness,

3:12 Living expectantly and looking forward to coming of the day of the Lord, when the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved and the elements shall melt with intense heat.

3:13 But our hopes are set not on these but on the new Heaven and the new earth which he has promised us, and in which nothing but good shall live.

3:14 Therefore, my friends, seeing that you look for such things, be diligent that you may be found of him, at that day, in peace, without spot, and blameless.

3:15 In the meantime, consider that the patience of our Lord is meant to be man's salvation; even as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you, according to the wisdom given to him;

3:16 As also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things; which in some cases are hard to understand, but which they who are unlearned and unstable distort, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own detriment.

3:17 Therefore, my friends, seeing that you have known these things, beware in case you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

3:18 But now, continue to grow in divine favor, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.