

Footprints



CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



STUDY IN THE BOOK OF
2 PETER

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Footprints into Africa

2 PETER
STUDY 1

PETER'S TRANSFORMATION - PRECIOUS FAITH

(Chapter 1:1-2)

INTRODUCTION

The main theme of 2nd Peter is encouragement. It is a book for encouraging Christians. In this letter Peter is writing to Christians who were scattered over the large part of the known world, they were facing terrible persecutions, many Christians were killed and so Peter writes this letter to comfort, to encourage, and to strengthen them. The year is 62 AD.

1. THE WRITER

A. Simon.

Matthew Henry: “**This was the name given to him when he was circumcised.**” In other words the name Simon reminds us of Peter before his conversion. He came from town of Bethsaida, he was the brother of Andrew and had a very successful fishing business. Before his conversion he was very compulsive, extreme, with all the potential of becoming a great leader.

B. Peter.

This part of his name reminded the readers of what Peter became after his conversion (Jn 1:42). **M. Green** “**The double name is meant to draw the readers attention from the Jewish fisherman to the Christian apostle, from the old life to the new, from Simon the name given to him at his entry into the old covenant to Peter his distinctly Christian name.**”

2. HIS CREDENTIALS.

A. A servant of Jesus Christ.

No longer was Peter the lord of his own life, he was now a servant under the Lordship of Christ. The term servant teaches us humility and submission.

B. An apostle of Jesus Christ.

Peter combines personal humility with the authority of an apostle, this was the highest position in the early church. They had to have seen the Lord, have received a commission from Christ and have been given the signs of an apostle. The task of an apostle was to teach and preach.

3. THE READERS

In describing the readers Peter explains the gospel, he shows us how a sinner can be one with a Holy God.

- A. It is to those who through the resurrection of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ
When a sinner is converted and turns to Christ, they receive from God the imputed righteousness of Christ, this enables them to be declared righteous.

- C. They have received a faith as precious as ours.
 - i) This faith is given by God - 'you have received it'
 - ii) This faith is precious
 - a) It leads to our Justification
Martin Lloyd Jones "Money. Learning, and all that the world can give can never give me peace of conscience, or peace of mind, but the gospel of Jesus Christ gives it to me at the very beginning."
 - b) Sanctification.
This means that slowly I am becoming like Jesus
 - c) It will lead to Glorification

4. PETER'S PRAYER FOR HIS READERS

- A. Grace
God's unmerited favour which is always sufficient for all our needs.

- B. Peace
Both of these came through the knowledge of God. This is no barren formula to Peter, because he makes both the experience of God's peace and the reception of God's grace dependent upon your knowledge of God and so Peter in this opening phrase clarifies the gospel.

2 PETER
STUDY 2

PRECIOUS PROMISES
(Chapter 1:3-4)

INTRODUCTION

In these two verses we have a magnificent statement of the nature and character of the Christian life **Martin Lloyd Jones** “**Surely we are confronted here with one of the most remarkable descriptions of the Christian life that is to be found even in the New Testament itself.**” In these verses we are told of two great truths.

1. Of what God has done for us (v.3-4)
2. Of what our responsibility is. (v.5-6)

Before Peter exhorts us to do anything ourselves he begins by reminding us of what God has done for us.

1. **HE CALLS**

Peter makes this divine call the ground for his appeal for holy living (**Eph 2:8**). The background is that we are sinners unable to turn to God by ourselves and therefore God calls us.

A. By His own glory

M. Green “**Jesus Christ calls us by His moral excellence and the total impact of His person.**” No doubt, Peter is thinking of the transfiguration here, but it is much more than that (**Jn.1:14**)

B. And goodness (**Jn.3:16**)

2. **HE ENABLES**

The one who calls is the one who enables. His divine power has given us everything we need.

A. For life

That means for the common things in life, business, personal life, family, but also for the crises in life.

B. For godliness

To get rid of those old habits, to get rid of my sin that holds me back, to become more like Jesus, to become more holy. His divine power not only starts us off in the Christian life it accompanies us, it works in us until we will arrive in a state of glorification. The question is how do I get this power? Through our knowledge of Him. The more you know God, the more you will experience His power

3. **HE GIVES**

In His grace God has given us precious promises, notice how they are called very great and precious, E.g.

- A. Forgiveness (Rom. 5:11)
- B. Illumination of the Holy Spirit
- C. The need for strength
- D. Death (1 Cor. 15:52)

4. **HIS PURPOSE**

- A. Negative
To escape the corruption in the world
- B. Positive.
We participate in the divine nature. This statement is staggering and amazing. A true Christian is someone who participates in the divine nature, we slowly are becoming like God.

Martin Lloyd Jones: “A Christian is one in whom are the traits and characteristics of God himself, he is like Christ, the life of godliness, the divine quality of life, the divine characteristics are being formed in him. I am to be then a new man, a creation, I am to reveal and to manifest these characteristics.”

2 PETER 1:3-4

“HIS DIVINE POWER HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS THROUGH OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HIM WHO CALLED US BY HIS OWN GLORY AND GOODNESS.(v.4) THROUGH THESE HE HAS GIVEN US HIS VERY GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES. SO THAT THROUGH THEM YOU MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE DIVINE NATURE AND ESCAPE THE CORRUPTION IN THE WORLD CAUSED BY EVIL DESIRES.”

2 PETER
STUDY 3

ADDING TO YOUR FAITH

(Chapter 1:5-9)

INTRODUCTION.

Peter is giving us one of the most wonderful descriptions of the Christian life to be found anywhere in the Scriptures. He began by emphasizing what God has done for us (v.3-4) “for this reason”, “make every effort” - this word implies hard work, earnestness, and perseverance, “to add to your faith - **M. Green** “The Christian, must engage in this sort of co-operation with God in the production of a Christian life which is a credit to him.” Peter now gives us the seven characteristics that we have got to add:

1. GOODNESS.

In the original Greek the word goodness has two connotations:

A. Excellence

The standard for the Christian is excellence throughout every area of ones life.

B. Vigour of soul - moral energy

2. KNOWLEDGE.

Do not ever settle down waiting for amazing things to happen, we must be vigorous and strive after knowledge, not only theoretical knowledge, but practical knowledge.

A. Of the Bible

B. Of doctrine

B. Of Church History

3. SELF CONTROL.

This is the ability to rule self, body and soul. It extends over the whole of my life, my emotions, my passions, my desires and even over my imagination.

4. PERSEVERANCE.

The mature Christian never gives up by God's grace they persevere.

5. GODLINESS.

This will include a true reverence for God which will result in a piety of life. The old sinful ways must be replaced by new patterns from the Word of God. Godliness comes through self- examination, crucifixion, and then following Jesus.

6. BROTHERLY KINDNESS.

This is a distinguishing mark of true discipleship.

7. **LOVE.**

This is the crown of Christian advice, the queen of all graces (agape).

M. Green. “This agape might be defined as a deliberate desire for the higher good of the one loved which shows itself in sacrificial actions for the persons good.”

8. **RESULT.**

If the Christian is making every effort to produce those seven characteristics:

A. **They will keep you from being ineffective.**

Greek word - *argous* - this teaches an idle, barren yielding no return because of inactivity.

B. **And unproductive**

This means that you will never develop a godly character and you will never have the joy of leading the lost to the Lord, you will; be unproductive.

C. **If not then he has forgotten that he has been cleansed for his past sins**

This person isn't concerned about pressing on to holiness, about adding to their faith, they are nearsighted and blind.

CONCLUSION.

A sinner is saved purely by the grace of God, but once we are saved we are called to labour hard and to co-operate with God in the production of a Christian life that is to God's glory. **WE SET THE PACE.**

2 PETER
STUDY 4

ASSURANCE
(Chapter 1:10-11)

INTRODUCTION.

The greatest thing that we can desire next to the glory of God is our salvation , but the sweetest thing we can desire is our salvation. We need to know that we are saved in v.10-11, Peter deals with assurance.

1. GOD’S WORK IN ASSURANCE.

- A. Calling - God in His grace called us out of sin to be His children, the sovereign call of God was our salvation.

- B. Election - We are called by God because of our election (**2 Thes 2:13, Eph.1:4, Jn 6:37**). **J.C. Ryle.** “Those men and women whom God has been pleased to choose from all eternity. He calls in time by His Spirit. He convicts them of sin. He leads them to Christ. He works in them repentance and faith. He converts them, sanctifies them, keeps them by His grace and finally brings them safe to glory.”

2. OUR WORK FOR ASSURANCE

Again Peter is stressing our responsibility, we are to be eager to make our election sure, in other words, the more we do for Christ, the more assured we will become. **Martin Lloyd Jones.** “The more we do the work of the Lord and practice the Christian life, the more certain we are of the Lord.”

3. THE RESULTS.

- A. You will never fall. - We may stumble but never fall. A life of steady progress characterizes the Christian. His radiant life should be the silent proof of God’s election.

- B. Your will receive a rich welcome into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ - When we die and stand before the Lord, we will receive a rich welcome.

2 PETER
STUDY 5

THREE THINGS YOU MUST NEVER FORGET

(Chapter 1:12-15)

INTRODUCTION.

The first eleven verses of Chapter one must surely rate as some of the most magnificent in the Bible. They have reminded us of what God has done for us, and then they have stressed our responsibility so that we never become barren or ineffective in **v.12-15** Peter reminds us of three truths which we must never forget.

1. **WE HAVE AN IMPERFECT MEMORY (v.12-13)**

‘I will remind you of these things even though you know them.’ The task of the preacher is to continually remind his people of what they already know.

Martin Lloyd Jones. “It is this that the business of the church and of preaching is, not to present us with new and interesting ideas, it is rather to go on reminding us of certain fundamental and eternal truths.” We must keep on reminding our people. Even though you know them and are established. This is a solemn warning that it is easy for them who have been Christians for years to wander into serious sin or doctrinal error. The purpose is ‘so that their memory is refreshed.’

2. **WE HAVE AN IMPERMANENT LIFE (v.14)**

Your life is impermanent, ‘because I know that I will put it aside.’

Matthew Henry “The nearness of death makes the apostle diligent in the business of life.” He now realizes his life is coming to an end.

A. Body but the tabernacle of the soul

B. Must be put down.

Realizing those two things drove the apostle Peter to diligence, to urgency, to the right priorities and yet Peter does not speak of his death with fear or regret, He is going home.

3. **HE LEFT AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD (v.15)**

‘And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.’ Peter is concerned that after his death he would leave behind him an impressive record so that these Christians would always know how to live, he worked hard to leave behind an impressive record.

A. He wrote the Scriptures (1 and 2 Peter, and he was the driving force behind Mark’s Gospel.)

B. A life of total dedication to our Lord Jesus Christ.

His life was an example of how people should live.

2 PETER
STUDY 6

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST
(Chapter 1:16-18)

INTRODUCTION.

The main theme of Second Peter is that of encouragement, it is not a theological treatise or a philosophical essay, but it is a pastoral letter. Encourage and strengthen believers. Thus far he has reminded them of all that God has done for them and what their responsibility is. Now he comes to remind them of the second coming of Christ, points 1 and 2 are by way of background, and point 3 is our Authority.

1. THE NATURE OF THE SECOND COMING.

- A. It will be Glorious (Matt.20:30, Rev.1:7)
It will be the culminating revelation of the majesty and glory of our God
- B. It will be Decisive (1 Cor. 15:24)
History will come to a close, the world and the universe will stop, the curtain will close on the stage of time.
- C. It will be Sudden (Matt 24:37-44,, 1Thes 5:1-6)
Despite references to the signs of the times, the Bible speaks clearly about the unexpectedness of the Lord's return.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE SECOND COMING.

- A. To complete the work of Redemption
All God's enemies, sin, Satan, and death will be removed from our world
(1 Cor. 15:22-28, 42-47, Rev.12:7-11, Rev 20:1-10)
- B. He is coming to resurrect the dead (Jn. 5:28)
- C. Jesus when he comes will judge all people (2 Tim. 4:1,Rev. 20:11)
- D. He is coming to deliver the Church (Matt.24:12, 1 Thes.4:17, Rev.6:9)
By coming the Lord will deliver His people from all their enemies and gather His elect together. Now what Peter asks is. Where is your authority for believing this?

3. WHAT IS OUR AUTHORITY FOR BELIEVING THIS?

- A. The Scriptures
The basis of our faith rests solidly upon certain facts to which witness is borne by the Apostles, not only are the Scriptures but the witness of the Apostles
- B. Apostolic witness of the facts.
Peter and the apostles witnessed the transfiguration when Jesus was glorified before them on the mountain when the Father gave His great approval 'this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.' That leads on in v.19-21 to the whole question of our final authority.

2 PETER
STUDY 7

OUR FINAL AUTHORITY
(Chapter 1:19-21)

- VERSE 19** - **‘We have the words of the prophets made more certain.’**
From personal eye witness testimony Peter now turns to the Bible to support his teachings, the prophets are made more certain, further you will do well to pay attention to it - this means:
Matthew Henry: **“Bend yourselves to it so that we may be moulded and fashioned by it.”** If you do this, ‘ you will do well’ It will be compared to a light shining in a dark place and he compares it to the day that will dawn when the Morning Star will rise in our hearts - this phase can be seen in 2 ways (**Lk 1:78, Rev.2:28, 22:16.**) - tell us the Morning Star is Jesus, so our understanding of Jesus is going to be growing more and more until the day when He returns.
- VERSE 20 +21** - He now answers the question about the origin and the reliability of the Scriptures.
Negatively - They did not come by the prophets own interpretation
Positively - They came as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit, in other words the Holy Spirit inspired these men to write down what they wrote, so that what was written is, the very Word of God and therefore we claim that the Bible is **INSPIRED** and therefore is **INERRANT** and **INFALLABLE** that is our final authority in all matters. From there Peter will deal with the false teachers on Chapter 2.

2 PETER STUDY 8

HOW TO RECOGNIZE FALSE TEACHERS

(Chapter 2:1-3)

INTRODUCTION.

Of all the chapters to be found in the Bible the second chapter of 2 Peter is the most terrible for threatening, for warning, for the idea of doom and disaster. There is no other passage in the Scriptures which surpasses this chapter. The question is why did Peter write like this? The reason is because of his concern for Christians in the future.

1. THEIR MARKS

Through out the New Testament we are warned that false teachers will come and in general terms they will always have four characteristics:

A. They are more interested in gaining popularity than in telling the truth (Jer.6:14)

In the days of King Jehosophat, Zedekiah the false prophet said it is all going to be okay, whereas the prophet of God Micah spoke the truth, furthermore in the days of Jeremiah, the false prophet was Hannaniah, he said the Babylonians would collapse, Jeremiah said we are going to be defeated. And so one of the first characteristics of the false prophet is that he tells the people what they want to hear, not the truth because his aim is popularity.

B. They are more interested in personal gain (Micah 3:11, Titus 1:11, 1Tim.6:5)

The false teachers are more concerned with money than with the truth.

C. The false teacher is loose in their personal lives (Is.28:7, Jer.23:14 +32)

D. The false teacher leads people further away from God.(Dt.13:1-5, 18:20)

2. THEIR MESSAGE

A. They preach Destructive heresies.

The never base their teaching on the Bible, they preach heresy.

B. They denied the Lord who bought them

i) By not making Him central. VITAL

If Jesus is not central, He is being denied.

ii) They deny His person.

Some deny His humanity, some deny His divinity.

iii) They deny His atoning work

And so the false teacher doesn't only preach heresy, but he doesn't make Jesus central.

C. False in their lives and living.

Their false teaching is highlighted in their shameful living, false teaching always leads to loose living therefore they brought the truth into disrepute.

D. Superficial teaching

'They exploit you with stories they have made up', they are never biblical, they come with stories, and many follow false teachers.

3. THEIR METHOD

A. They are Subtle

They will secretly introduce destructive heresies.

B. Its Effect

They bring the way of truth into disrepute.

C. Its End

Their condemnation and their destruction.

2 PETER
STUDY 9

EXAMPLES OF NOAH AND LOT
(Chapter 2:4-9)

INTRODUCTION

We must keep reminding ourselves that the object Peter had in mind when he wrote this Epistle is to help, encourage, and comfort Christians. The biggest danger facing Christians is that of despair and discouragement. Peter is now going to give us illustrations, each will show us what Good will do to the false teachers and also of how God will deliver the righteous.

1. THE SIN OF ANGELS (v.4)

Peter is quoting from **Gen.6:1-4** it is also recorded in **Jude v.6** and in **Rev 12**

A. They did not keep their first estate

Angels have a very high and peculiar dignity, a particular domain given to them by God, tragically instead of keeping to their domain they became rebellious, insubordinate and left.

B. They left their own habitation.

Because they were apostates they left their habitation.

C. They gave themselves over to fornication.

They came to this earth and seduced mortal women, the result of this lustful union was the race of giants and because of such wickedness on the earth God now said he was going to destroy the world, the angels were sent to hell and there they will wait for judgement.

**2. THE MEN OF THE FLOOD AND THE RESCUE OF NOAH (v.5)
(Gen. 6:5-9)**

God in his judgement and his pain was now going to destroy the world, but Noah found favour in the eyes of God and by the grace of God he became a preacher of righteousness, so it was not only his life but his preaching, and for 120 years he preached and not a soul listened except for his family, and so Noah and the seven members of his family were saved. There was judgement for the world and grace for Noah and his family.

3. THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH AND THE RESCUE OF LOT (v.6-8)

This story is told in **Gen 18 + 19**, it began with Abraham's plea to God to save Sodom and Gomorrah, God in his judgement was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, their predominant sin was homosexuality

CONCLUSION

1. The Lord knows how to punish the unregenerate.
2. The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials.

2 PETER
STUDY 10

THE CHARACTER OF A FALSE TEACHER

(Chapter 2:10-19)

INTRODUCTION

This passage has sometimes been called: How to spot a phony. Peter writes with white heart passion here exposing us to the evil of a false teacher. So far, in **Chapter 2**, we have seen in **v.1-3** the danger of teaching, in **v.4-10** the condemnation of the false teacher, and now we come to their character in **v.10-19**.

D. Wheaton “In this passage the language is complicated and unusual as the writer piles word upon word to heighten the enormity of their behaviour.”

1. THEY ARE INSOLENT (v.10b-12)

Peter calls them bold and arrogant. **BOLD** - speaks of a reckless daring that defies God and man. **ARROGANT** - speaks of someone who is obstinate, determined to get what he wants at any cost.

Barclay “If a man is arrogant neither logic nor common sense, nor appeal nor a sense of decency will keep him from doing what he wants to do and what he has decided to do.”

Furthermore, he is not afraid to slander celestial beings, this is a difficult phrase that can be understood as:

- A. To make light of.
- B. To speak disrespectfully
- C. To refuse to submit to church leaders. This is a serious situation because even the angel's don't do that.

In summary, a false teacher is proud, bold, and headstrong. They show contempt for other people, they are self-willed only concerned for themselves.

2. THEY ARE LICENTIOUS (v.13)

This means they live in luxury, they enjoy a soft life and therefore they become blots and blemishes against the church

3. THEY ARE IMMORAL (v.14)

- A. Their eyes are full of adultery
They never stop sinning
- B. They seduce the unstable
They often take advantage of high emotion.

4. THEY ARE GREEDY (v.14-16)

They are experts in greed this means they have a desire for more and more and so Peter compares them to Balaam (**Num.22-24**), he was prepared to tempt Israel to sin for money.

5. THEIR EMPTINESS (v.17-19)

- A. Wells without water
They are compared to a well without water, those false teachers may put on a great show and produce wonderful statistics, but they disappoint the thirsty.
- B. They are like mists driven by a storm
This speaks of their instability and the fleeting nature of their teaching.
- C. They mouth empty boastful words.
- D. By appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature.
Sinful humans lust after the following, health, wealth, success, happiness, pleasure, sex, no depression etc.
- E. They promise them freedom while they themselves are slaves to depravity.
They are in bondage to corruption.

CONCLUSION

1. Be careful of the false teaching.
2. Test everything by the Word
- 3, Study the Word.

2 PETER
STUDY 11

A REMINDER OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING
(Chapter 2:20-22)(Chapter 3:1-7)

INTRODUCTION

Thus far, in Chapters 2 three issues have been covered in **v.1-3**. The danger of false teachers, the condemnation of false teachers **v.4-10**, the character of the false teachers **v.10-19**. The chapter now closes in **v.20-22** with a section that has always been controversial and it deals with the retrogression of the false teachers, in these verses we read of how the false teacher has escaped the corruption of the world by the world we mean society alienated from God, the false teacher has got out of that. They did this by knowing our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This knowledge was an intellectual apprehension of the truth.

Matthew Henry “Some people are for a time kept from the pollutions of the world by the knowledge of Christ, who are not savingly renewed in the spirit of their mind.” The lessons are very challenging for today.

1. We can know about Christ, and yet not be saved.
2. The terrible danger of shallow conversions.

Miller. “The emotional decision which follow often bring outward moral reformation for a while there is a surface experience but no new birth. There is emotional feeling but no change of will.”

These very people are again entangled in it and overcome. This time says Peter they are worse off than at the beginning (**Lk.12:47, Matt.12:45**), this person now feels that they have tried it, but it didn't work and they become very difficult to reach. **v. 21** says it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than to have known it and turned from it, the sacred commandment is a rejection of God's law, the first step to rejecting God and so they are compared to a dog returning to its vomit. You cleansed the outside not the inside and so Chapter 2 is really one of the most horrible chapters in the Bible, and now in Chapter 3 we move away from the false teacher to the second coming of Christ and Peter gives us a reminder of Christ's second coming in **Chapter 3:1-7**.

1. A CALL TO REMEMBER THE PROMISE (v.1-2)

Peter stresses the unity of this letter with his previous one, he calls them his dear friends, and he is filled with love and affection for his readers and he then clarifies two reasons why he wrote the letter.

- A. To stimulate you to wholesome thinking.
Calvin “The meaning is that when exhortations are given up the minds of the godly become dim and as it were attract rust, the laziness of the flesh smother doctrine.”

L. Morris “Unadulterated by false teaching”.

- B. What will do this?
‘Words spoken in the past by the Holy Prophets’. The Bible and also through the commands given by our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **A WARNING TO IGNORE SCOFFERS (v.3-4)**

Peter reminds us what will happen before Christ returns.

- A. Scoffing
Scoffing means to mock or jeer.
- B. Following own evil desires.
M. Green “Anthropocentric hedonism always mocks at the idea of ultimate standards and a final division between the saved and the lost.”
- C. They laugh at the Second Coming.

3. **A REASON NOT TO IGNORE THIS WORD (v.5-7)**

- A. Creation
By God’s Word the heavens and the earth were formed, we totally reject the atheist teaching of evolution.
- B. Flood.
By the power of God the flood destroyed the world.
- C. Destruction of the world.
By the same power there will be the final destruction of the world.
Martin Lloyd Jones. “This is the trouble with the scoffers they forget the power of God, the world seems very stable, fixed and unmovable but we must remember the God who made it and controls it, is a God who not only brings things into being out of nothing, but He can also destroy it in a moment.”
From v.8-10 Peter explains why it is delayed.

2 PETER
STUDY 12

WHY THE SECOND COMING IS DELAYED

(Chapter 3:8-10)

INTRODUCTION

Peter has introduced this last chapter with a call to wholesome thinking. He has warned us of scoffers that will come and of how the unbelievers will mock at the thought of the second coming, they say thousands of years have passed and Jesus has not returned.

1. PETER ARGUES FROM SCRIPTURE (v.8)

Peter turns our attention away from the scoffers to the Word of God and he quotes from **Ps. 90:4** and this verse gives us three lessons:

- A. God sees time with a **perspective** we lack
Even the delay of thousands of years will seem just like a day against the background of eternity.
- B. God sees time with an **intensity** we lack.
Day is like a thousand years.
- C. Three lessons:
 - i) *Everything happens in His time*
The most important principle, which Peter lays down, is that we must always remember that we cannot by our very nature and constitution fully understand the mind of God, we are limited, God always works in His time.
 - ii) *Therefore we are to be on the alert.*
We ought constantly to be ready because the end could come at any time.
 - iii) *Time is always to be regarded as an opportunity for us.*
Never waste a moment of your life.

2. PETER ARGUES FROM THE CHARACTER OF GOD (v.9)

Peter's next refutation of the scoffers is drawn from the nature of God, it is not slackness that delays the second coming, but rather God's patience and long suffering.

- A. Not anyone to **perish** (1 Jn. 2:4, Ezk. 18:23, Jn. 3:16)
- B. But everyone to come to **repentance**

M Green. “The plain meaning is that although God wants all men to be saved, and although he has made provision for all to be accepted some will exercise their God given will to exclude God.”

Matthew Henry. “It is giving more time to His own people, whom He has chosen before the foundation of the world, many of them are not as yet converted, and those who are in a state of grace and favour with God are to advance in knowledge and holiness, for God is not willing that any of these should perish.”

With the first view God wants all people to be saved, but if people do not choose God they will not be saved.

C. To Repentance.

i) *Intellectual element*

This means a change in view, I see my sin as serious.

ii) *Emotional*

Change of feeling where I feel great sorrow for my sin.

iii) *Volitional*

Change of purpose, we change from the past.

3. PETER ARGUES FROM THE PROMISE OF CHRIST (v.10)

A. Certainty

The day of the Lord will come.

B. It will be very sudden (Matt.24:43-44)

i) *Heavens will disappear*

The sky thought of like an envelope around the world will disappear.

ii) *Elements will be destroyed by fire*

That will include the sun, moon, stars (**Mk. 13:24+26**)

iii) *Everything will be laid bare*

Our solar system will be abolished, all the elements which make up our physical world will be dissolved and melt away.

2 PETER
STUDY 13

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

(Chapter 3:11-13)

INTRODUCTION.

In the previous verses Peter focused on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, or the end of the world, and the final day of judgement. In the verses before us (v.11-13) Peter applies this doctrine.

M. Green. “There is an indissoluble link between conduct and conviction.”

J.M. “Theological truth is the father of God-honouring practicality.
How does the Second Coming affect my life?”

1. OUR LIVES OUGHT TO BE MARKED WITH HOLINESS (v.11)

- A. It is the habit of being of one mind with God.
That means we hate what he hates, and we love what he loves.
- B. We endeavour to shun every known sin and to keep every known commandment (Ps 119:128)
- C. We strive to be like our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Jn 2:6)
- D. We strive after meekness and the control of our tongue
- E. There is self-denial (1 Cor. 9:27)
- F. We follow after love
We treat others, as we would like them to treat us, we speak to them, as we would want them to speak to us.
- G. A spirit of mercy and benevolence towards others (Acts 9:36)
- H. Purity of heart.
- I. The fear of God
- J. Humility
- K. Faithfulness.
- L. A spiritual - mindedness

David Livingstone “He will value everything, and place, and company just in proportion as it draws him nearer to God.”

In summary holiness comes through the working of God’s Holy Spirit in my life, as I also do my part.

2. SERVICE (v.12)

v. 12 tells us that the timing of the coming of Christ is to some extent dependent upon the state of the church, we speed its coming.

Martin Lloyd Jones. “Let us hasten this day by preparing ourselves by spreading the gospel, by preaching and by supporting missionary work.”

- A. Service of evangelism and works of mercy.
- B. We need to pray
- C. Missions

3. EAGER ANTICIPATION (v.13) ‘We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth.’ It is called the home of righteousness, it is our eternal home.

2 PETER
STUDY 14

HIS FINAL WORD
(Chapter 3:17-18)

INTRODUCTION

Throughout this letter Peter has stressed in great detail what God has done for us in Christ and how we respond is that with diligence, this is with a view to the second coming. But sadly Chapter 2 reminded us of the false teaching which we need to be careful of. And so Peter draws to a close with his final word. Two main themes are mentioned here:

1. **WATCH** (v.17)

‘Be on your guard’

A. **So that you will not be carried away with error**

Error always has many attractive faces by which even the most experienced Christians may be deceived, Jesus exhorted us in (**Mk.13:5, 9, 33**), to watch and pray.

B. **So that you will not fall from your secure position**

Over the centuries, many Christians have fallen into sin, be on your guard, don’t give in to temptation.

And so we are exhorted to watch so that we don’t fall into error and from your secure position.

2. **GROW**

A. **Why must we grow?**

i) Because life brings growth

Are we alive spiritually, is the question? How do we know?
Growth

ii) It is commanded that we must grow in grace and knowledge.

iii) So that we no longer stay immature (**Eph. 4:10-14**)

iv) So that we can be used in service (**Eph. 4:11**)

B. **What is growth?**

i) In grace

That means we are growing in graciousness, becoming more and more gracious in the way we speak and act.

ii) In knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C. **How?**

i) Bible

Through the Word, we must have a daily quiet time.

ii) Prayer

Spend more time in prayer

- iii) The means of grace are available to us
Church services, communion.
- iv) Meditation of God's Word - think it over again and again.
- v) Reading sound books
- vi) Avoiding anything harmful.
- vii) Exercise
- viii) Discipline
You must read "**Ordering your private world**" by Macdonald
- ix) Self-examination
Am I growing? Am I watching?

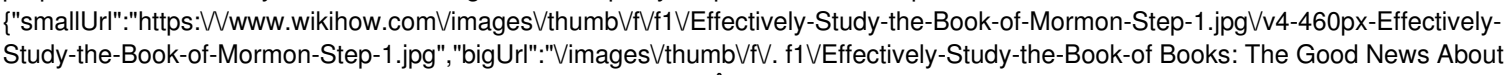
D. Conditions

- i) Must be truly saved
- ii) Tremendous desire for growth.
- iii) I must be involved
Total involvement in the local church.

CONCLUSION

Peter closes with a doxology "**To Him be the glory both now and forever**" All the glory must go to our Lord Jesus Christ. He alone has saved us, He alone keeps us, and one day He is coming back. To Him be the glory. So the two words are: To Watch and to Grow

Indeed, studying the Book of Mormon invites the Spirit, and the Spirit is the medium of revelation. This suggests that we study in a thoughtful, meditative fashion—pondering, praying, and perhaps making notes as we read. This puts us in a condition to receive added light and understanding, both about what we are studying and about other matters. We are fortunate today to have a number of tools that can assist our study of the Book of Mormon. Some are bound with our scriptures—the Topical Guide, Bible Dictionary, and index in the English scriptures and the Guide to the Scriptures in other languages. And we have in Latter-day Saint editions of the scriptures numerous footnotes and cross-references on every page. Once you have read the Book of Mormon and you have had the confirmation of its truthfulness, how do you effectively study so that you gain the greatest benefit from your study time? How do you prepare to read not only for understanding, but for help in your personal life? Steps.

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