

Lesson 21: 2 Peter

Key Verse: But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

Introduction:

Peter wrote his first epistle in A. D. 65 and about a year later the Jews began to revolt against Roman rule. War began in Judea and spread throughout Palestine and lasted four years. The Christians began to leave the city of Jerusalem and move throughout the country. Persecution of Christians had intensified since Peter wrote the first letter. As Peter realizes that his death is near (A.C. 67) [1 Peter 1:14] he is compelled to write another letter to the churches. His first letter emphasized the grace of God but this letter focuses on the knowledge of God. The word “know” or “knowledge” is used 13 times in this short letter. The original word means more than mere intellectual understanding it also means to know through deep personal experience.

Peter begins the letter with a description of the Christian life. If you want to be able to identify falsehood, you need to know the truth. John 8:32 “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” You have probably heard how people learn to identify counterfeit money; they do it by studying the real thing. They know it so well that the counterfeit money is readily evident to them.

Day One: Chapter 1:1 – 4

Prayer: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the Great Physician and heals our hearts from the sickness of sin, we praise and thank you for saving us by your grace through faith. Amen!

1. How do we receive faith? V. 1

2. How is grace and peace multiplied? V.2

3. What have we received from God? V.3 You may want to see Ephesians 1: 3 – 8 also.

4. What are the results of receiving God’s precious promises? V. 4 What are some of His promises?

5. What does it mean to you to be a partaker in the divine nature?

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Day Two: Chapter 1: 5 – 21

In this section Peter reminds us that spiritual growth is not automatic. “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15. “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” Philippians 2:12 & 13

Prayer: Father we praise you for You alone are good. We thank you for the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control that you have made available to us through your Holy Spirit. Amen!

6. What seven qualities should we add to our faith? Briefly describe each. 5 – 7

For your personal reflection: How do you rate yourself on each of these qualities? If you are weak in any area ask the Lord to increase that quality in you.

7. What are the results of possessing these qualities? 8

8. What are the results of neglecting these qualities? 9

9. What will happen if we do seek these virtues? 10 & 11

10. What event is referenced in v. 17? It is recorded in Matthew 17: 1 – 13; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28 – 36. What is its significance?

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11. Where does prophecy originate? 19-21. You may want to refer to 2 Timothy 3:16 also.

Day Three: Chapter 2:1 – 3

The original word “heresy” meant “to make a choice”, then it added a new meaning; “a sect or party” as in a political party not a celebration. Don’t think there are no political parties in our churches. Have you ever heard a church member say “are you on my side or the preacher’s side?” This is an example of having a “party spirit” and it can lead to division in the church.

Prayer: Lord, teach us to use our strengths in cooperation with the strengths of others. Help us to serve as one so that we might know the joy of the power of our togetherness for Your Name’s sake and the advance of Your kingdom. Amen!

12. Where does this false teaching originate? See: 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 and John 8:44

13. What will false teachers do? 1

14. How was the truth blasphemed then? Now? 2

15. What will happen to these false teachers? 1 & 3

16. Who helps you recognize false teachings?

Day Four: Chapter 2: 4 - 16

Prayer: Father you have given us a record of yourself throughout ancient times as an example for us. Help us heed your word. Amen!

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17. One of the false teachings of that time was that God would not bring judgment so Peter gave three examples showing that judgment does come. Describe each.

a. v. 4 _____

b. v. 5 _____

c. v. 6 & 9b _____

18. After reading the description of these false teachers in v. 10 – 14, why do you think people would follow their teachings? See v. 18 and 2 Timothy 4:3

19. God works in mysterious ways. What example did Peter give? 15 & 16

20. Is anything too hard for God? What has He done for you that seemed too hard?

Day Five: 3: 1 - 15

Prayer: Father, help us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

21. Why did Peter write this second letter? 1 _____

22. What is a scoffer and what did they claim? 3 – 4 What do scoffers claim in our day?

23. How did Peter address the claims of the scoffers? 5 -7

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24. How is God showing mercy to this world? 8 – 9

25. What kind of people ought you to be? _____
