

2 PETER CHAPTER ONE

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:

There are no first and second class Christians in spiritual, racial, or gender distinctions (Galatians 3:28). Peter's point is that believers share the equal gift of salvation because God's righteousness is imputed to them. That righteousness recognizes no distinction between people. So, not only do we have faith because God gives it to us, we are saved only because God imputes righteousness to us .

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

This is a blessing Peter speaks on those who believe. The more you know of Jesus, the more peace and grace you have. When we are full of Jesus, we are full of peace.

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:

Every believer is given the power and capability to live an holy and victorious life for God. Sanctification, service and suffering for the Lord will be rewarded with an inheritance in the millennial kingdom of Christ.

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.

Those "Great and precious promises" are the promise of eternal life as well as the promise of help in this life. Christians do not become little gods, but they are "new creatures" , and have the Holy Spirit living in them. Moreover, believers will partake of the divine nature in a greater

way when they bear a glorified body like Jesus Christ. It is our faith in Christ that makes us heirs along with faithful Abraham. Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto Him as righteousness. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and we are clothed in His righteousness. The entire New Testament is a list of the promises made to the believer. Galatians 2:20 says, **"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."**

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

These verses show how you should be growing as a Christian. These are areas of growth that follow after salvation. This growth should be lifelong.

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

Because of all the God given blessings, the believer cannot be indifferent or self-satisfied. Such an abundance of divine grace calls for total dedication. That is, making maximum effort. The Christian life is not lived to the honor of God without effort. Even though God has poured His divine power into the believer, the Christian himself is required to make every disciplined effort alongside of what God has done. We should earnestly try to please God in all that we do. "To be diligent in our work" would mean that we are totally dedicated to the task at hand. We should not only be hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word as well. To walk virtuous would mean that we had determined in our heart to do right before our God. But, to be virtuous, without the knowledge of what God's will is, is impossible. So, to walk in the will of God, we must know what His will is and we learn that by studying His Word. Knowledge of the Word of God gives us the ability to know what His will is.

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

All of this is explaining the growing in grace that a Christian must do. Jesus said in 1 John 4:20 **"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"**

"Charity" here, was translated from the word "agape", which means a special love. It is like the love of God. It is love not because of what you can do for me, but love wanting nothing in return.

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.

With these virtues increasing in one's life, a Christian will not be useless or ineffective. When these Christian qualities are not present in a believer's life, he will be indistinguishable from the world. But when these qualities are increasing in a Christian's life, it shows the "divine nature" within the believer. If these things be in you, you are full of Christ. In the process, you have taken on the nature of Christ and you are allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you.

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.

This refers back to those things in verses five, six and seven. This does not mean that a person is lost but probably has failed to grow spiritually or is a backslider. I base this thought on the statement that he was purged from his old sins. That happens at salvation.

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

God certainly knows who His elect are and has given them eternal security, the Christian might not always have assurance of his salvation. Security is the Holy Spirit revealed fact that salvation is forever. Assurance is one's confidence that he possesses that eternal salvation. In other words, the believer who pursues the spiritual qualities mentioned above guarantees to himself by spiritual fruit that he was called, and chosen, by God. This is just saying, make up

your mind to walk with Jesus and never wander away from that walk. If I am in Jesus, and He is in me, I cannot fall.

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

This phrase, "Lord and Saviour", is used only by Peter and only in this book. Peter's point is that a Christian who pursues the list virtues in verses 5-7, will not only enjoy assurance in the present, but a full, rich reward in the future life. A full reward awaits the faithful, godly believer in Christ's ever-lasting kingdom

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.

Some of the character traits of true are faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, kindness, charity, and godliness. Peter is reminding them of these things, so that they will not be negligent in keeping them. He says that they are already aware of this, but he is just reminding them, so they will grow in the Lord. "To be established in the truth", means you are daily studying God's Word and growing in that knowledge. To do otherwise, makes you a backslider.

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

This tabernacle is literally "his body": Death is described aptly as laying asides one's earthly dwelling. . Peter was likely in his seventies as he wrote this letter, most likely from a Roman prison, and he anticipated dying soon. Nero's persecution had begun and he was martyred in it, soon after writing this epistle. Tradition says he was crucified upside down, refusing to be crucified like his Lord. As I have said before, I take that last with a big grain of salt. When a person was to be crucified they did not get to choose how it was done.

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

Peter was aware that not too long hence he would be dead. He was speaking to them while he could. Peter urges his readers to remember his testimony after he has died.

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

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.

What is a fable? Aesop wrote fables. Christ was crucified on a dogwood tree, and Christ was crucified on Good Friday are fables. In other words, things that are not true.

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.

This is a reference to the glory cloud on the Mount of Transfiguration from which God spoke to the disciples. The most outstanding thing to Peter, in all of this, was the moment of transfiguration, when the glory of God appeared on the mount, and Peter, James, and John heard the Father speak of Jesus as His Son, in whom He was well pleased.

“This is my beloved Son” affirms the deity of Christ.

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

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:

There is no miracle with more authenticity than the vision of Peter, James and John on the Mt. of Transfiguration. God the Father spoke audibly from Heaven and God the Son was transfigured before the eyes of the three apostles. This one could not possibly have been faked by Satan. Peter later stated that the written word of God was more sure than his experience.

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

The only true interpreter of the written word of God is the Holy Spirit. Any vision or apparent miracle is to be judged by the word of God.

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.

These words are written down and preserved for us ,and god gave us those words ,in English,in a King James Authorized Version bible. "It is a Holy book. We don't clean it up,we let it clean us up."

2 PETER CHAPTER TWO

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.

Be sure to notice that Peter places himself,with his readers,as a servant. When most of us read this we tend to think of the warning as something in Peter's day. That part is true but it is just as true today, It may very well be more prevalent today since communication over long distances is normal now. For instance,if you think those who teach false doctrine today are just harmless you are badly mistaken. These people are sending good,well meaning people to Hell on a daily basis. Now,I am not going to name names this time but you can take your choice from any of the TV con artists or 90% of the preachers in Santa Rosa county. That's a rough statement but it is true. God does NOT understand.

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

Many people who profess to be Christians but deny Christ's lordship over their lives, refusing to live as obedient servants to Christ and His

Word. Instead these “so called” Christians, follow the world, and the devil. Such “so called”s Christians tragically will be included in the Lord’s condemnation of hypocrites at the judgment. Denying the lordship of Christ while claiming to be a believer infects other people and discredits the gospel. These are people who put everything ahead of God.

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 have denied the God who purchased them. As such they will face eternal punishment. Be sure to notice that first part. They covet what you have and consider the gospel simply merchandise.

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;

Just in case you think that God is too loving and merciful to judge the wicked false teachers and their deceived people, Peter gives 3 powerful illustrations of past divine judgment on the wicked. He must judge wickedness because His holiness requires it.

1. Angels that did not keep their own domain but before the flood left their normal state and lusted after women.

2. He destroyed the entire world with a flood.

3. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for homosexuality and other sins.

All, I say again, all of these people and angels are in Hell today. Even the demons fear Hell. They begged Jesus during His life on earth not to send them there. Keep in mind that we are talking about people alive, and teaching, today who will join them there eventually.

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;

The future universal “judgment” of this world is illustrated by the reference to the “flood”, of Noah’s day which came upon the “old world,” that is, the antediluvian world. The universal extent of the Flood is an illustration of coming universal judgment at the end of this age. The deliverance of “Lot” from “Sodom and Gomorrah” is used to illustrate the fact that God will deliver His own from the coming universal judgment.

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;

Here we have God's reason for the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. It was for an example to those who engage in that practice today.

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

Do you get this? Lot was not happy in Sodom. He was wealthy and socially accepted but spiritually he was miserable. He was a judge there but he had left God behind. The bible says Lot's soul was vexed by the things he saw and heard in Sodom. How many Christians today are vexed by what goes on all around them. Finally, notice how the word “conversation” is defined in verse eight. It is seeing, hearing and lifestyle.

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

When God sends destruction on the ungodly, he usually delivers the righteous. It is possible for the children of the Lord, living among the most profane, to retain their integrity. There is more power in the grace of Christ, and His dwelling in them, than in the temptations of Satan, or the example of the wicked.

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:

“This kind of deliverance will occur prior to the Tribulation, when the Church will be kept “from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth”. That's Rev. 3:10 if you are taking notes. Perhaps the best example of this is the fact that God saved Noah in the midst of the flood. This statement, is not just for their age, but ours, as well. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ protects us from the enemy, even today. Jesus will separate the good from the evil. The judgment spoken of in this verse is the final judgment and is called the Great White Throne Judgment. This is where all the ungodly of all the ages will be raised, judged finally, and cast into the lake of fire.

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.

This is speaking of the punishment coming on those who are controlled by their flesh and its lust. We have discussed in these lessons before, that the person who is in authority (whether in government or in the church), are there because God placed them there for a purpose.

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

The holy angels, are greater in power than human beings. Unlike false teachers who are defiant toward higher powers, the holy angels so revere their Lord that they will not speak insults against any authority. Even the archangel, Michael, recognizing the great presence and power of Satan, refused to speak evil of him, but called on the Lord to do so. No believer should be so boldly foolish as to mock the power of supernatural demons, especially Satan. When Jesus took on the form of flesh, He was spoken of as being a little lower than the angels. This is speaking of flesh being lower than the spirit. Angels are not controlled by the limitations of the flesh. They are ministering spirits to help the believers. They have a specific job, as you will see in the next Scripture. Now I know that some call angels messengers and some say they are “appearances” but the bible says

they are ministering spirits. That's Hebrews 1:14 if you want the reference.

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;

The teaching of evolution produces people who act like beasts. When the minds of young children are taught that they come from animals they will tend to act like animals. Some, in the last days, will be the most wicked in human history.

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;

This is speaking of those who profess to know God, but are really not His. Notice the statement, shall receive the reward of unrighteousness. We see this, now in the churches. Men, who are professing to be leaders of the church, living very worldly lives. They are attempting to cover their sins, and deceive the people into believing they are in right standing with God. These false teachers are even worse than the people who have not made any commitment to God. They bring a false message and are not only deceived themselves, but deceive others as well.

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:

There are several key words in this; notice "children". This is still speaking of those who profess to know Jesus, and yet are not His at all. They are deceivers. Notice, these children are cursed, because of their evil life-style. God can see right through a phony. He knows what is in our heart. He knows what we do when it appears that no one is watching.

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;

You remember Balaam who had the talking donkey. Apparently in his personal life he was a moral man but he made his living from the unrighteous acts of evil men.

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

We will find in the Scriptures the determined Baalam who was stopped by God from doing a very foolish thing. The Lord did not want him to go, and he went anyhow. This prophet had gone astray, as these last few lessons have been teaching us about the false prophets. This, Balaam, is determined to follow evil. Some of our ministers are determined to teach a false doctrine.

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

A well that does not provide water is a great disappointment. I think that is what God is saying here. False teachers are a great disappointment to God. Clouds that do not produce rain are speaking of the same thing. "Water" symbolizes the Word of God. This could be speaking of those ministers who do not bring the Word of God, and the great disappointment they are to God.

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.

This is both the TV guys and 90% of the preachers here in Santa Rosa county.

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.

Always watch out for these words by politicians. Peace, civil rights, equality, freedom, democracy, liberty and unity. These are catch phrases to get you to, line up on their side.

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.

This verse is speaking of those who have heard the gospel but are not saved. They have listened, perhaps even for years, and yet turned back to the world. The bible speaks of it as drawing back into perdition.

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.

Peter says here that it would be better for those in verse 20 to never have heard the gospel. This leads to the conclusion that those who never heard the gospel will get a lighter punishment. They will still be in Hell, but in first class Hell if there is such a place..

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.

Righteousness is putting on the righteousness of Christ, putting us in right standing with God. To be full of Christ and His teachings and then turn back into the world would be choosing the flesh over the spirit. Jesus said: "If you love me, keep my commandments" Jesus gave His body on the cross for all believers in Christ. His blood washed our sin away. It, the sin that is, no longer exists. So to boldly choose to go back into a sinful way of life, after we are freed from sin, would require a total turning away from God. It would mean we had chosen the devil and his ways, rather than God's ways. Now, if a person is saved and chooses to turn back to the world he, or she, still can't get that blood off. It's permanent.

2 PETER CHAPTER THREE

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

Willful ignorance on the part of a Christian is a sin, period. Willful ignorance is a characteristic of skeptic, evolutionist and bible changers. God will call for an accounting from all of these, including the Christian

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:

This is not just a book to read but is a message God sent. The commandments, spoken of by the apostles and prophets, are sent by the Lord to His people. That is, His people then, and His people now.

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

We must be aware that the world will not receive this message of God. These "scoffers" are those who make fun of those who believe in salvation through Jesus Christ. These scoffers who have hardened their heart against God, will laugh at those who believe. They are so caught up in themselves that they think only of the desires of their own flesh. They do not believe in anything they cannot see with their physical eyes.

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.

This, of course, is a snide question. Where is Jesus? I thought He said He would return. This is nothing but an attempt to mock the believers.

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:

The earth was formed between two realms of watery mass. During the early part of the creation week, God collected the upper waters into a canopy around the whole earth, and the lower waters into underground reservoirs, rivers, lakes and seas.

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water,

perished:

This worldwide flood is the one from Genesis 1:2. God destroyed that creation for the same reason He destroyed the human race in Noah's day and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah later. His reason is always Satanic evil on the part of the race in existence at that time. Be sure to notice that here in verse six the earth was destroyed. In verse seven it speaks of the heavens and earth which are now.

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.

The second world system is reserved for future judgment, which will come by the Word of God just as creation and the flood came. God will speak it into existence as well, after the present order is again destroyed. Humanity, since the flood, lives in the second world order. One of the obvious differences between the two world orders is that people live 70 years in the present world not 900 years, which was a common age of pre-flood human beings. And Peter was making the point that there is a third form of the heavens and earth yet to come following another cataclysm.

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.

The thousand year day system seems to point out the history of the earth. There will be six thousand years of labor and then a thousand years of rest. That is the millennial kingdom. The problem with this is that we do not know exactly how accurate the calendar is. However, the end has to be close whatever the calendar error might be.

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 perfect will of God is that everyone would be saved but the free will of man works against that. The Holy Spirit will not force anyone to

be saved. God desires voluntary acceptance of the redemption of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

The world did not start with a big bang but it will end with one just prior to the Great White Throne Judgment.

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

This is a straightforward challenge for Christians to conform their lives to God's standards in light of the reality of coming judgment and eternity. All the worldly goods in your custody today will be gone forever, someday. This world and everything in it will pass away. We should be spending our time laying up treasures for heaven.

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?

We must be a part of what God is doing on the earth. Though this is speaking of the end of the millennium we are to stay busy until the Rapture.

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Once again, a reminder that Peter is speaking to Jews who believed that the Tribulation was coming in their lifetime. We will eventually get a new heaven and a new earth that is completely without sin. The only problem I see with that is that we will go back to being vegetarians. I will miss ribs and steak on the grill.

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.

When Christ returns, each Christian should be found enjoying the peace of Christ which knows no worry or fear about the Day of the Lord or the judgment of Christ. To have this peace means that the Christian has a strong sense of assurance of his salvation and a life of obedience to Christ. He is coming for a church that is without spot or wrinkle. Keep your love for Him pure. If you love Him, you will keep His commandments.

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;

Peter wisely directs his readers to the writings of Paul. The epistles of Paul provide doctrinal soundness for the Body of Christ.

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.

It is difficult for self righteous people to understand the free gift of salvation and eternal security for wicked sinners. It is difficult for arrogant scholars to believe they can hold a pure copy of God's word in their hand.

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 steadfastness.

Since Christians now know that there will be false teachers who will appear, twisting and distorting the Scriptures, they should be all the more on their guard. So much of the confusion in the church causes people to fall away from the church. 1 Corinthians 15:58 says;

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

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.

Physical growth requires proper nutrition. Spiritual growth is the same in that it should be a continuing process that goes on until death. The proper nutrition for spiritual growth are those same three things we mention in almost every lesson. Prayer, meditation on the things of God and study of the Word.