



GROWING  
STRONG

**2 PETER**

**BIBLE STUDIES FOR ASHFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## 2 PETER 1:1-11: FULLY EQUIPPED

Life can be tough, and there are plenty of people who'll lead you away from following Jesus. But the message of 2 Peter is that God has given us everything we need to live with significance and purpose.

This passage describes what a strong, effective and godly Christian life looks like. It doesn't use categories we are familiar with – like trusting in Jesus. That's found more often in Paul's writings. Peter expresses things differently.

1. Read 2 Peter 1:1-11. In verses 1-2 we are told that we will receive the gifts of faith, grace and peace through Christ's righteousness and knowledge of God. How does your own spiritual well-being depend in part on Christ's righteousness and in part on your knowledge of God?
2. Verse 3 speaks of both knowledge and holy living as a part of the Christian life. Think of the balance between knowledge of Jesus and holy living that you have seen in Christians. What happens if one area or the other is weak?
3. What is the source of everything we need for life and godliness? What is the conduit/ means by which it comes? (v3-4)
4. What does the world say we need to be equipped for life?
5. Faith in Jesus on its own is not enough (5). Knowledge of Jesus on its own is not enough. You can have knowledge but still be ineffective and unproductive (8). It must be accompanied by a participation in the divine nature, escaping the corruption of the world (4), What does this look like in the believer? (5-7).
6. Where does the balance lie between what God does, and what we do? God has done his part (electing and calling). Our part is to make our calling and election sure by making every effort to grow in these qualities (cf Phil 2:12-13; Eph 2:10).

7. How are knowledge of Jesus and godly living related to each other (vv. 8-9)?
  
8. What do you think it means for a person to be called and elected by God (vv. 10-11)?
  
9. Verse 3 says that the divine power of Jesus has given us everything we need for godliness here and also for eternal life. If you were to draw more fully on this power that Jesus makes available to you, what changes would you hope to see in yourself?
  
10. What does it mean, practically, to:
  - Escape the corruption of the world caused by evil desires? How does this relate to participating in the divine nature? See 2 Cor 3:17-18; 1 Jn 3:1-2.
  
  - Be effective and productive in our knowledge of Jesus? See Col 1:9-12; James 2:14-17.
  
11. Reflect on your life. What qualities of godliness is God developing within you?
  
12. Think of the things you consider most important in life. How important are they in the light of eternity?
  
13. Pick at least one thing from the list in v 5-7 that needs specific work in your own life. How can you work at this during this week? Be PRACTICAL!

### **Responding in Prayer**

Pray for the inner changes you think God is calling for within you.

*As you make every effort to participate in the divine nature in this life, you are making yourself more fit for eternity.*

## 2 PETER 1:12-2:22: STANDING FIRM

Nothing is more important than standing firm on the truths you first believed about Jesus. Peter himself was a witness to Jesus' authentication as God's Son by God himself at the transfiguration (1:17-18 – see Mk 9:2-8). Peter's testimony and experience backs up God's other communication concerning Jesus in the prophets (1:19), all of whom said the same thing because God was the one speaking through them (1:21).

These are the testimonies Peter's writers are to listen to (1:19-21), not the cleverly invented stories of the false teachers (1:16).

Peter goes into more depth in Ch 2 about the false teachers, telling made-up stories (2:3), even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them (2:1). This probably involves denying his right to rule (be sovereign) in their lives. This was seen in their immoral lives – partying all day, on the prowl sexually, experts in greed (2:13-14). They influence others, seducing the unstable who are just escaping their old way of life (2:18 cf 1:4), promising freedom which is really slavery (2:19). Their fate is condemnation and destruction (2:3). Peter is confident of this because God has a history of being able to rescue the righteous and punish the unrighteous (2:4-10).

Peter is so intolerant of such teachers because of the effect they have on believers (probably who 2:18-22 is describing). These verses are a severe warning against people not to follow the false teachers.

**Warm-Up:** As you think back over why you believe what you believe, who or what were the major influences in your life?

1. Read 2 Peter 1:12-21. What phrases here create a picture of Peter's view of death (vv. 13-15)?
2. Based on these phrases, how would you describe Peter's attitude about death?
3. What difference would it make to those who knew Peter that his teachings about Jesus came from an "eyewitness of his majesty" (v. 16)?
4. What do verses 19-21 show about the origin and purpose of Scripture?
5. What do you hope will be your own feelings when you approach death?

6. What could you be doing during your lifetime to build toward a "good death"?
  
7. Peter did not want his readers to be so dependent on him that their faith would fall apart after his death. Who would you like to influence with your faith in your lifetime, and how can you best go about it?
  
8. Read 2 Peter 2. Why are false teachers dangerous (2:1-3, also 1:20-21)?
  
9. Study verses 4-9. What did Peter want his readers to learn from these Old Testament events?
  
10. What characteristics should alert us that we are encountering a false teacher (vv. 10-19)?
  
11. Why might some people be attracted to teachers with these characteristics?
  
12. Why might it be better if a false teacher had never known the truth (vv. 20-22)?
  
13. How can you prevent yourself, and others, drifting away from Jesus?
  
14. What cautions can you institute to keep from becoming a false teacher yourself?

**Responding in Prayer**

Thank God for the gift of Scripture and the ways in which it increases our faith.  
Pray for those who are victims of false teachers.

# 2 PETER 3: COMING SOON

**Warm-up:** Have you ever wished that the world would end soon? Have you ever wished that it delay? Explain.

There are two sections in this chapter. Read 2 Peter 3:1-10.

1. What reasons did Peter give his readers to pay attention to this writing? (Look especially at verses 1-3 and 15-18.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What two reasons does Peter give for why we can be sure Jesus is coming back?
  - a. (v5-7)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. (v8-10)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What reasons does Peter offer for why Christ's return is delayed (vv. 8-9, 15)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What else do we learn about Jesus' return from 1 Thess 5:1-11?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. The false teachers don't think Jesus is coming back. How does this view affect their behaviour (see Ch 2)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Compare and contrast the use of fire and water in this passage. What is the significance of each?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Read 3:11-18. Notice the question of verse 11, "What kind of people ought you to be?" What answers can you find through the remainder of the chapter?

8. What does it mean, practically, to *look forward* to the day of Jesus' coming (3:12, 13)?

How can we *speed its coming*?

9. If the day of the Lord were to come in your lifetime, what would you like to accomplish first?

10. In what condition would you like God to find your work? How would you like God to find your relationships?

11. In 3:14, Peter repeats his exhortation for his readers to make every effort (1:4). In chapter 1 the motivation was to escape the corruption in the world. Here the motivation is the same – because we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth (3:13). Does your life reflect that effort, and that desire?

### **Responding in Prayer**

Pray that you will be always ready for Christ's return.