

2 PETER

Escape from corruption (1:1-11)

1 From Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. To those who have obtained a faith as precious as ours in believing the full acceptance we have in our God and Saviour Jesus Christ. ²May grace and peace be given you abundantly through your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

³Through His divine power He has given us all we need for life and godliness, because we know Him personally. He has called us to live for His glory and in His goodness, by which He has given us such great and precious promises.

⁴So we have become those who share in His divine nature and escape from the corruption caused by desiring what the world desires. ⁵⁻⁷For this reason, make every effort to add goodness to your faith and to add knowledge to your goodness, self-control to your knowledge, perseverance to your self-control and holiness to your perseverance. Add friendship for the brethren to your holiness and to that friendship add God's love. ⁸If all these qualities abound in you, they will prevent you from being ineffective and unproductive in your relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these things is blind and has forgotten that his past sins have been forgiven.

¹⁰⁻¹¹Therefore, my brothers, be more eager to stand firm in the reality of your calling and election, for by doing so you will never fail and you will receive a wonderful welcome into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Beware of false teachers (1:12-2:3)

¹²Therefore I intend to keep reminding you of these things, even though you already know them and are now well established in the truth. ¹³⁻¹⁴I consider it right, while I remain in this body, to stir you by reminding you of these truths; for I know that it will not be long before I will put this body aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵I wanted to be sure that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

¹⁶For we did not tell you cleverly devised stories when we revealed the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we were eye-witnesses of His Majesty. ¹⁷For when He received honour and glory from God the Father, a voice came to Him from the majestic glory, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸And we heard this voice from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain (where He was transfigured before our eyes).

¹⁹And we can verify the words the prophets spoke about Him, and you will do well to take careful note of such words. They are like a light shining in a murky place, anticipating the dawning of a new day when the morning-star rises in your hearts. ²⁰⁻²¹ You must understand that no prophecy in scripture is fulfilled by self-interpretation, because no genuine prophecy came from man's will but because men were inspired by the Spirit, and so spoke from God.

2 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will use deceptive means to introduce heresies that are destructive because they deny the sovereignty of the Lord who purchased their salvation with His blood. They are bringing hasty destruction upon themselves. ² Many will be influenced by them, following their shameful ways and bringing the way of truth into disrepute. ³ These teachers are motivated by greed and will exploit you by their false testimonies. Their condemnation has only been a matter of time and their destruction is inevitable!

Consequences of sinfulness (2:4-22)

⁴God did not have mercy on the angels that sinned but consigned them to hell where they are confined to dark dungeons as they await the final judgment. ⁵He did not save the ancient world when He caused the flood to destroy sinful people. He only saved Noah, who preached the necessity of living in right relationship with God, and some others who were with him. ⁶God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, burning them to the ground as an example of the judgment awaiting the ungodly. ⁷⁻⁸He rescued Lot, another righteous man, who was greatly upset by the immoral lives of rebellious men. Lot lived among those men daily and, because of their lawless deeds that he witnessed, felt tormented in his soul.

⁹If God could do all these things, then He certainly knows how to spare godly men from trials and to keep the ungodly in turmoil

until the Day of Judgment. This applies particularly to those who give in to the evil desires of their self-life and despise those in authority.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ Such men are so bold in their arrogance that they are not afraid to speak evil of heavenly beings. But not even the angels slander these evil men before the Lord, even though they are stronger and more powerful. ¹² Those men blaspheme about things they do not understand. They are brutal, living only to satisfy their basic instincts and will inevitably be trapped in their own sins. They should be destroyed like beasts.

¹³ This will be the consequence of the harm they have caused. They have sunk to such depravity that they take pleasure in parading their licentious behaviour before others. They are marked by their sins and stand out like blemishes when they share in your feasts.

¹⁴ They look with adulterous lust on others and sin continually. They seduce the weak-willed, are well practised in satisfying their greed and spread curse all around them. ¹⁵ They have departed from the straight way and follow the example of Balaam, son of Beor, who loved the rewards of wickedness. ¹⁶ He was rebuked for his evil works by a donkey, an animal normally incapable of speech, who spoke in a human voice to restrain the prophet in his madness.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Such men are like waterless springs and mists driven along by stormy winds. The deepest darkness awaits them, for they speak in empty and boastful ways, appealing to the lustful desires of the corrupt nature, enticing those who are in the process of being freed from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They give promises of freedom while they are slaves of corruption themselves. ²⁰ For if, having escaped being defiled by the world through a full knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they again become entangled in worldly corruption, they are far worse off than they were before. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, having known it, only to turn away from the command given to them to be holy. ²² They truly fulfilled the proverbs, "A dog always returns to its vomit," and, "A washed sow wallows again in the mud."

The Day of the Lord (3:23-18)

3 My beloved friends, this is the second letter I have written to you. Both are intended to stir you to sound thinking by reminding you of the truth. ² Remember the words spoken by the prophets of old and the commandment our Lord and Saviour gave through the apostles.

³First, understand that in the last days those who ridicule the truth will follow their own evil desires instead. ⁴They will say such things as, "What has happened to His promised second coming? For since the time of our forefathers everything has continued as it was before, since creation began." ⁵They deliberately ignore the fact that the heavens existed long ago by God's Word and the earth was formed out of water and through water. ⁶It was also by water that the world was flooded and destroyed. ⁷But by the same Word, fire awaits the present heavens and the earth, for the Day of Judgment will see the destruction of ungodly people.

⁸So do not ignore the truth, my friends, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in fulfilling His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to be destroyed but desiring that all men turn to Him in repentance.

¹⁰For the Day of the Lord will steal up on people like a thief and then the heavens will vanish with a roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire. The earth and all its works will be exposed.

¹¹⁻¹²Because everything will be destroyed in this way, what holy and godly lives you should live as you await God's Day and hasten its coming, when the heavens will be destroyed and the elements will melt in the fire. ¹³But according to His promise we await the new heaven and the new earth where only righteousness will exist. ¹⁴Therefore, my dear friends, as you long for these things to be fulfilled, do all you can so that He will find you spotless and without blemish when He comes, for then you will be at peace. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶And consider our Lord's patience with us as the consequence of the salvation He has given us. Our brother Paul wrote to you in the wisdom God gave him, speaking of these things in all his letters, even though some of what he says is difficult to understand. Ignorant and unreliable people twist what he says, as they do other scriptures, but only to their own destruction.

¹⁷Therefore, dear friends, because you have been forewarned, make sure that none of you are deceived by the errors of unsubmitted men and so lose your security. ¹⁸Rather, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him all the glory belongs, both now and forever. Amen. It shall be so!