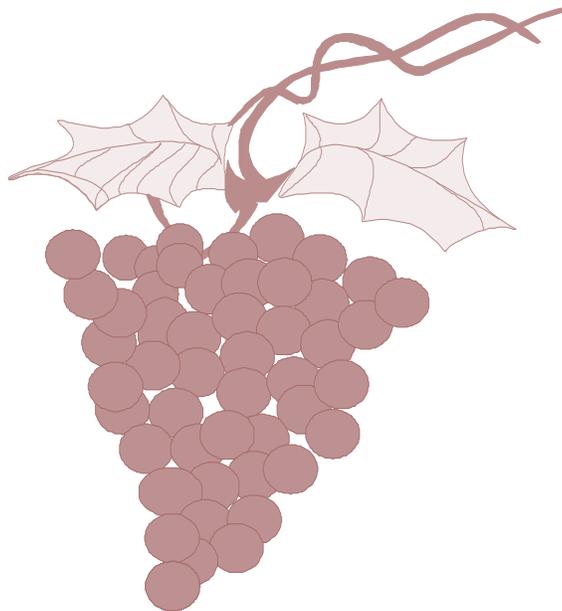


A STUDY COMMENTARY

Second Peter

Be Useful and Fruitful.

“For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2Pe 1:8 NAS95)



- The Potential for Fruitfulness
- The Opposition to Fruitfulness
- The Encouragement for Fruitfulness

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness. (2 Peter 3:17 NAS95)

Instructions for Viewing and Printing this Commentary

If viewing online with Adobe Reader, click on 'view', then 'page display', then 'two page view'. This will enable you to see the commentary on the right with the cross references on the left.

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Second Peter

A Study Commentary

2015

Commentary by Jim Iverson

Bible Text: The American Standard Version

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A Word About This Study Commentary

Since no commentary on the Bible is the final word, this one has been formatted to encourage your study and input. Space has been provided for you to record verses that the Spirit brings to your mind. There are no footnotes since other sources have not been quoted. This is not intended to be an exhaustive commentary, and it is assumed that you will consult other sources in your study.

Cross reference verses are recorded on facing pages as room allows. This is done for convenience, and the context of these references should be studied as well.

“And as for you, the anointing which ye received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any one teach you; but as his anointing teacheth you; concerning all things, and is true, and is no lie, and even as it taught you, ye abide in him.” 1 John 2:27 ASV

“As therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and builded up in him, and established in your faith, even as ye were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ: for in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and in him ye are made full, who is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:6-9 ASV

Comparison of 1st and 2nd Peter

1st Peter

1. Built around Peter's confession (Mt 16:13-19). The church is a building of living stones built upon Christ the Chief Corner Stone.
2. Church is called to share in the present sufferings of Christ.
3. Christ is our example.
4. Church is exhorted to be holy (1:15).
5. Motivation is future reward (1:7).
6. Deals with Satan's overt opposition through persecution (4:16).
7. Sights the example of Noah (3:20).

2nd Peter

1. Built around Peter's great experience (Mt 16:28-17:13). We were eye-witnesses of His majesty.
2. Church looks forward to reigning with Christ in His kingdom.
3. Christ is our King.
4. Church is call to be holy (3:11).
5. Motivation is future reward (1:11).
6. Deals with Satan's subversive opposition through false teachers (2:1).
7. Sights the example of Noah (2:5).

Outline

Outline of Second Peter Stirring Us Up In the Last Days

Be useful and fruitful; the King is coming!

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.” John 15:16

I Chapter 1 “The Potential for Fruitfulness”

- A. What God Supplies 1:1-4
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 - b. Sufficient Grace vs. 2
 - c. Guiding Peace vs. 2
 - d. Knowledge of God vs. 2
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- B. What We Supply 1:5-7
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- C. Peter’s Exhortation 1:8-11
 - 1. If Qualities are Present and Increasing
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 - 3. Make Certain His Calling and Choosing You
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 - 5. God Will Supply an Abundant Entrance into the Kingdom
- D. Peter’s Writing 1:12-21
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- A. Satan’s Method 2:1-3
 - 1. Is Not New
 - 2. Is Clandestine
 - 3. Is Anti Christ
 - 4. Is Popular
 - 5. Is Exploitive
 - 6. Is Short-lived
- B. God’s Action 2:4-9
 - 1. He Judges Angels
 - 2. He Judges Majorities
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 - 5. Entice the Unstable
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 - 7. False Springs
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 - 9. Promise Freedom
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III. Chapter 3 “The Encouragement for Fruitfulness”

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 - 1. Mocking Tactic
 - 2. Naturalistic Argument
 - 3. Ignoring Evidence
- B. God’s Answer 3:8-10
- C. Closing Exhortation 3:11-18

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 1

1Pe 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are sojourners of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

2Pe 3:1 This is now, beloved, the second epistle that I write unto you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by putting you in remembrance.

2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, knowing these things beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own stedfastness.

Joh 1:42 and he brought him unto Jesus: and having looked upon him, Jesus saith, 'Thou art Simon, the son of Jonas, thou shalt be called Cephas,' (which is interpreted, A rock.) (YLT)

Mt 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

18 And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Mt 7:24 Every one therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock:

25 and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon the rock.

1Co 10:4 and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of a spiritual rock that followed them: and the rock was Christ.

1Pe 2:6 Because it is contained in scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: And he that believeth on him shall not be put to shame.

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Co 6:20 for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body.

1Co 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of; for necessity is laid upon me; for woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel.

17 For if I do this of mine own will, I have a reward: but if not of mine own will, I have a stewardship intrusted to me.

Joh 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you.

15 No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I heard from my Father, I have made known unto you.

1Co 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

2Pe 1:15 Yea, I will give diligence that at every time ye may be able after my decease to call these things to remembrance.

Joh 21:16 He saith to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Tend my sheep.

Ga 2:7 but contrariwise, when they saw that I had been intrusted with the gospel of the uncircumcision, even as Peter with the gospel of the circumcision

Eph 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone;

1Pe 5:1 The elders among you I exhort, who am a fellow-elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who am also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according to the will of God; nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.

Re 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Ga 3:28 There can be neither Jew nor Greek, there can be neither bond nor free, there can be no male and female; for ye all are one man in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:8 for by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Ro 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith: as it is written, But the righteous shall live by faith.

Ga 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.

Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints.

Ro 3:25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (NAS95)

2Co 5:21 Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

2nd Peter 1:1

I. The potential for Fruitfulness 1:1-21

A. What God Supplies 1-4

2Pe 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained a like precious faith with us in the righteousness of our God and the Saviour Jesus Christ:

This is the second letter by Peter apparently written to the same group of believers mentioned in 1st Peter 1:1. His purpose is to *stir up* their *sincere mind by putting them in remembrance* (3:1) so that they are not *carried away with the error of the wicked*, and *fall from their own steadfastness* (3:17). He will remind them of the spiritual resources they have in Christ to not only resist the false teachers, but to live useful and fruitful lives in view of the coming Kingdom of Christ.

Simon is the Old Testament name Simeon which means ‘hearing’. No doubt his parents hoped he would be a good listener. **Peter** (rock) was the name given by the Lord that spoke of what he would become in the power of God (Joh 1:42). In Matthew 16:18 two different words are used which are translated ‘rock’. Peter (petros) is a small rock which can be moved or thrown. The rock (petra) upon which Christ will build His church is a mass of rock suitable for a foundation (Mt 7:24, 25, cf. 1Co 10:4). Both Peter and Paul recognized that Jesus was the foundation of the church (1Pe 2:6, cf. 1Co 3:11).

A **servant** is one who surrenders his will to his master’s. This can be a voluntary commitment or as a bond-servant—one that is purchased (1Co 6:20; 9:16, 17). With the Lord this is not a detached relationship however, but that of a trusted friend (Joh 15:14, 15). Both Peter and Paul realized the necessity of faithfulness in the stewardship that had been given to them (1:15, 1Co 4:1, 2).

Apostle of Jesus Christ refers to the role he was given by the Lord for the foundational period of the church (Joh 21:16, Ga 2:7, Eph 2:19, 20). This is why Peter is prominent in the beginning chapters of Acts. As the time of his departure for heaven approached, he passed this shepherding work on to elders in local churches (1Pe 5:1, 2) There is no Scriptural teaching of apostolic succession (cf. Rev 21:14).

Peter describes his readers as those who **obtained a like precious faith with us**. It is a salvation that is of equal value or honor to all believers. It is important to note that Peter does not regard himself as unique or of a higher spiritual level than others. Though spiritual gifts and place of service are distinctive for each individual believer, all are equal in the church (Ga 3:28, cf. 1Co 12). The **faith** includes both the initial salvation experience (Eph 2:8), the life principle by which believers are to live (Ro 1:16, 17, Ga 2:20), and the canon of inspired Scriptures (Jude 1:3).

The last phrase of this verse is better translated as: “*in the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ*” (YLT). God’s **righteousness** is the foundation of our salvation. It was demonstrated in the public crucifixion of Christ (Ro 3:25, 26) enabling God to be ‘*just and the justifier*’. The **righteousness** of Christ qualified Him to be the sin barer on our behalf (2Co 5:21). As believers we are able by the power of the in-

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 1

Jas 2:20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? (NAS95)

Re 19:7 Let us rejoice and be exceeding glad, and let us give the glory unto him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And it was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen, bright and pure: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, (NAS95)

vs. 2

Ro 5:1 Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;

2 through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand; and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not found vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

2Co 12:9 And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Heb 4:15 For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need.

Lu 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

vs. 3, 4

Lu 1:37 For no word from God shall be void of power.

Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Php 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Php 4:19 And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

1Pe 1:5 who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1Ti 4:8 for bodily exercise is profitable for a little; but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life which now is, and of that which is to come.

1Ti 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.

Jas 1:21 Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves.

1Pe 2:2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation. (NAS95)

Joh 2:10 and saith unto him, Every man setteth on first the good wine; and when men have drunk freely, then that which is worse: thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11 This beginning of his signs did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

1Co 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, unto Jews a stumbling-block, and unto Gentiles foolishness;

24 but unto them that are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Tit 1:2 in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you for ever,

17 even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beholdeth him not, neither knoweth him: ye know him; for he abideth with you, and shall be in you.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (NAS95)

Ro 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (NAS95)

2Co 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Joh 5:42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in yourselves.

43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

44 How can ye believe, who receive glory one of another, and the glory that cometh from the only God ye seek not?

1Jo 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

2Co 1:19 For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us--by me and Silvanus and Timothy--was not yes and no, but is yes in Him.

20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. (NAS95)

2nd Peter 1:2

dwelling Spirit to do acts that are righteous in God's eyes (Jas 2:20, 21, Rev 19:7, 8).

Both **God** and **Savior** refer to **Jesus Christ** making this a very clear statement His deity (Col 2:8, 9).

2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

Grace and **peace** describe the sphere that we enter when **God** saves us (Ro 5:1, 2). We are at **peace** with Him, and His **grace** is His necessary and sufficient help in our times of need (1Co 15:10, 2Co 12:9, Heb 4:15, 16). Peter's desire is that these qualities grow in their influence in our daily lives, and this will happen as we grow **in the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord** (3:18). We must realize that although **Jesus is Lord**, we make that operative in our lives by obedience to Him (Lu 6:46).

3 seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue;

4 whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in that world by lust.

In these verses we have two things **granted** (bestowed) unto us, **all things that pertain unto life and godliness** and **His precious and exceeding great promises**. These are to equip and enable us to do all the God asks of us (Lu 1:37, Eph 3:20, Php 2:12, 13).

The **life** is this life time. God is able by **His divine power** to supply all the provision and protection that we need in this **life** (Php 4:19, 1Pe 1:5). His desire is that we emphasize **godliness** which has present and long range value (1Ti 4:8; 6:6). This **godliness** is realized in our lives **through** (the channel) **the knowledge of God**. As we take in the Scriptures, and through the power of the Spirit put them into practice, our lives are characterized by **godliness** (2Co 3:18, Jas 1:21, 22, 1Pe 2:2).

Glory and virtue relate to the acts of God that manifest His divine attributes (e.g. Joh 2:10, 11). These attributes are most clearly and fully seen in His work of salvation—**called us** (1Co 1:23, 24). The word **by** in the last phrase of vs. 3 can be translated 'to'. God's desire is that we show forth His excellencies (**virtue**) through **godliness** (1Pe 2:9).

The **promises** that God has bestowed on us are so that all believers **may become** sharers in **the divine nature**. The essential promise is eternal life (Tit 1:2). Other **promises** that relate to this are the indwelling Holy Spirit, the completed Scriptures, and the love of God which motivates us to live for Him and seek glory from God not men (Joh 14:16, 17, 2Ti 3:15, 16, Ro 5:5, 2Co 5:14, 15, Joh 5:42-44, 1Jo 5:3). These **promises** are self-commitments that God has made to us and the Bible is full of them. We can count on them because God knows the end from the beginning, He is all powerful, and He cannot

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 3, 4

2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2Pe 2:18 for overswellings of vanity speaking, they do entice in desires of the flesh--lasciviousnesses, those who had truly escaped from those conducting themselves in error. (YLT)

2Pe 2:20 for, if having escaped from the pollutions of the world, in the acknowledging of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and by these again being entangled, they have been overcome, become to them hath the last things worse than the first. (YLT)

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

vs. 5-7

Ro 12:11 in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.

Ga 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.

Ro 4:4 Now to him that worketh, the reward is not reckoned as of grace, but as of debt.

5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is reckoned for righteousness.

Tit 3:5 not by works done in righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Php 3:12 Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I could not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before,

14 I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

1Pe 2:20 For what glory is it, if, when ye sin, and are buffeted for it, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye shall take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21 For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps.

1Co 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes; that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written; that no one of you be puffed up for the one against the other.

Joh 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (NAS95)

2Pe 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Ga 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 meekness, self-control; against such there is no law.

Ga 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Lu 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Jas 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves.

1Pe 1:7 that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold that perisheth though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time

Eph 5:8 For ye were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord: walk as children of light

9 (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

10 proving what is well-pleasing unto the Lord;

11 and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them;

12 for the things which are done by them in secret it is a shame even to speak of.

13 But all things when they are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for everything that is made manifest is light.

2Pe 3:11 Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness

Ro 13:12 The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

13 Let us walk becomingly, as in the day; not in revelling and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

2ndPeter 1:5

change (2Co 1:19, 20). They should motivate us to live our lives as **having escaped from the corruption that is in that world by lust** (2Co 7:1). Later Peter will differentiate between those who have truly **escaped** and those who only experienced a period of self-improvement (2:18, 20). In this context, we must remember that not all of the promises in the Bible apply to the church dispensation. We must read Scripture with discernment (2Ti 2:15).

A. What We Supply 5-7

5 Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in your virtue knowledge;

6 and in your knowledge self-control; and in your self-control patience; and in your patience godliness;

7 and in your godliness brotherly kindness; and in your brotherly kindness love.

Given what God has done, we are now exhorted to do our **part** to live the Christian life. This requires **all diligence** (Ro 12:11). The **faith** mentioned here includes the life principle to which we now adhere since we have been born again by **faith** (Ga 2:20). We are not adding something as a necessary part of our salvation which is by God's grace and mercy alone (Ro 4:4, 5, Tit 3:5).

Peter now lists seven qualities that we are to **supply** in this sphere of **faith** with God that we are **in**. Although there is some logic to the order that they are listed, he is not saying that we start with the first quality and when that is sufficiently mature we add the second and so on. Rather, all of these qualities are to be supplied simultaneously as we grow spiritually. We never reach perfection in any area in this life (Php 3:12-14).

Virtue is moral excellence or righteousness. The word also has the idea of valor or manliness. It is to live righteously in an ungodly world even though it brings unjust persecution (1Pe 2:20, 21).

In this life of moral excellence we are to supply **knowledge** of God and His Word. We must be sure that our behavior is consistent with the word of God and not go beyond what is written (1Co 4:6). The Holy Spirit will never lead us into activity that is not supported by the Bible (Joh 16:13). This **knowledge** is to be dynamic and growing (3:18).

Self control is a part of the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces in us that enables us to obey the commandments of Scripture (Ga 5:22, 23, 16). To put the **knowledge** gained into practice (Lu 11:28, Jas 1:22).

Patience is hopeful waiting. It is willingly accepting God's plan even when it involves trials, realizing that He has purpose in everything and our faithfulness will result in future reward (1Pe 1:7; 5:6)

Godliness is the lifestyle that exhibits Christ-likeness to this present spiritually dark world (Eph 5:8-13, 3:11). It is the outcome of daly putting on the Lord Jesus Christ (Ro 13:12-14).

Brotherly kindness is that relational characteristic that

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 5-7

Ga 6:10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith.

1Jo 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. (NAS95)

1Pe 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart. (NAS95)

1Jo 3:17 But whoso hath the world's goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him?

18 My Little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth.

Mt 5:44 but I say unto you, love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you;
45 that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.
46 For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

Ro 5:5 and hope putteth not to shame; because the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us.

Mt 5:44 but I say unto you, love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you.

Lu 6:27 But I say unto you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you,
28 bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you.

vs. 8

Eph 5:18 And be not drunken with wine, wherein is riot, but be filled with the Spirit.

Mt 5:16 Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

vs. 9

Heb 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (NAS95)

Joh 13:10 Jesus *said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

11 For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean." (NAS95)

Joh 15:3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (NAS95)

2Pe 1:4 whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in that world by lust.

Mr 8:35 For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's shall save it.

36 For what doth it profit a man, to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life?

Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

26 accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he looked unto the recompense of reward.

2Pe 2:7 and delivered righteous Lot, sore distressed by the lascivious life of the wicked

8 (for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their lawless deeds).

9 the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment unto the day of judgment.

2nd Peter 1:8

requires us to demonstrate love for fellow believers (Ga 6:10, 1Joh 5:1). It is to be sincere and active (1Pe 1:22, 1Jo 3:17, 18).

The capstone of these qualities is **love**. This is a different word that **brotherly kindness** (philadelphia) it is (agape) which is the exercise of the will. It is that sacrificial **love** that is commanded in Scripture even toward our enemies (Mt 5:44-46). It is possible because it has been put into our heart by the Holy Spirit (Ro 5:5). The exercise of this **love** will not necessarily have an emotional aspect, but an active response such as prayer and good works (Mt 5:44, Lu 6:27, 28).

C. Peter's Exhortation 1:8-11

8 For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All of these qualities are in us because of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and it is only by His power that they can be active in our conduct. For them to be ours, we must take ownership of them by yielding control of our lives to the Spirit (Eph 5:18).

If we do this and they **abound** (increase in their activity in our conduct), we will **be not idle nor unfruitful**. In other words we will be useful and fruitful **unto** (with respect to) **the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. We will be Christ-like. It is in this way that people can be drawn to Christ for salvation (Mt 5:16).

9 For he that lacketh these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins.

The reference to the **cleansing from his sins** indicates that this person is born again. The **cleansing** speaks of the work of Christ on the cross, and is the word that the Lord used to indicate that the disciples were genuine believers (Heb 1:3, Joh 13:10, 11; 15:3).

The qualities that Peter has just enumerated are not active in this person's life however. He sees his salvation as only an escape from Hell and not also from "*the corruption that is in that world*" vs 4. He is spiritually **near** sighted. He doesn't see this life as an opportunity to live for the Lord and future reward (Mr 8:35, 36, cf. Heb 11:24-26). To unbelievers he seems like one of them—**blind**. This kind of Christian often has doubts about his salvation as well.

Abraham's nephew Lot is an example of this kind of believer. To read the Old Testament account you would not think he was a true believer in God. Peter refers to him as a "*righteous man*" however, and sites him as an example of a godly person that God delivers (2:7-9).

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

11 for thus shall be richly supplied unto you the entrance into

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 10, 11

Mt 22:14 For many are called, but few chosen.

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, for that God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
28 and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.

Tit 1:2 in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal.

1Jo 5: 13 These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God.

1Pe 1:5 who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1Jo 2:28 And now, my little children, abide in him; that, if he shall be manifested, we may have boldness, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.
29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one also that doeth righteousness is begotten of him.

1Jo 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.
19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him
20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.
21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God. (NAS95)

Joh 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spake unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Joh 11:9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If a man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

Ga 6:1 Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

1Jo 3:9 Whosoever is begotten of God doeth no sin, because his seed abideth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is begotten of God.

Lu 19:15 And it came to pass, when he was come back again, having received the kingdom, that he commanded these servants, unto whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by trading.
16 And the first came before him, saying, Lord, thy pound hath made ten pounds more.

17 And he said unto him, Well done, thou good servant: because thou wast found faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

18 And the second came, saying, Thy pound, Lord, hath made five pounds.

19 And he said unto him also, Be thou also over five cities.

Mr 8:35 For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's shall save it.

Re 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God, and such as worshipped not the beast, neither his image, and received not the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they lived, and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

2Pe 3:12 looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

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

Re 19:6 ... Hallelujah: for the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigneth.

7 Let us rejoice and be exceeding glad, and let us give the glory unto him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And it was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen, bright and pure: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Da 7:27 And the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High: his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Re 22:3 And there shall be no curse any more: and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be therein: and his servants shall serve him;

5 And there shall be night no more; and they need no light of lamp, neither light of sun; for the Lord God shall give them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

vs. 12-15

Joh 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.
19 Now this he spake, signifying by what manner of death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Ac 10:38 even Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the country of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom also they slew, hanging him on a tree.

40 Him God raised up the third day, and gave him to be made manifest,

41 not to all the people, but unto witnesses that were chosen before of God, even to us, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Heb 2:3 how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation? which having at the first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed unto us by them that heard;

4 God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will.

2nd Peter 1:12

the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Here Peter exhorts us to **give the more diligence** to practice these qualities in our life. Verse 10 gives the present benefit of this lifestyle. Our **calling** is that divine invitation to salvation. Our **election** is what made it effectual (Mt 22:14, 2Th 2:13).

The fact that believers practice these spiritual disciplines does not make their possession of eternal salvation more certain. Our eternal security is based on the Word of God (Joh 10:27,28, Tit 1:2, 1Joh 5:13), and the power of God (1Pe 1:5). **Sure** is firm or sure footed. It relates to a sense of security that comes from being on solid ground. Seeing evidences of spiritual life gives assurance to our hearts (1John 2:28, 29; 3:18-21)

The second present benefit is to **never stumble**. **Never** is a double negative which is intensified in Greek meaning no way ever. To practice these qualities is to walk in the light (Joh 8:12; 11:9). To **stumble** is to trip or commit a sinful act (Ga 6:1). This does not mean that a Christian will never sin, but that when he is walking in the light (his new Spirit controlled self) he cannot sin (1Joh 3:9). The point here is that genuine spiritual life is more about living out these qualities than mechanically adhering to a list of things we don't do.

The future benefit of supplying these qualities in our life (vs. 5) is that that God will **richly supply the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**.

This is the reward for living for the Lord in this life. Whereas eternal life, heaven, and the new heaven and earth are promised to all believers as a free unmerited gift, the rewards referred to here are proportional and earned in this life (Lu 19:15-19). In this way we save this life by loosing it for Christ (Mr 8:35).

The **entrance in the eternal kingdom** may refer to the thousand-year reign of Christ prior to the destruction of this present earth (Re 20:4, 3:12, 13). At the beginning of this millennium all believers from Adam to the rapture plus believers who die during the Tribulation, will return with Christ to reign with Him (Re 19:6-8). All believers will continue to reign with the Lord in the new heavens and earth which is the **eternal kingdom** (Da 7:27, Re 22:3-5).

D. Peter's Writing 1:12-21

12 Wherefore I shall be ready always to put you in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and are established in the truth which is with you.

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

14 knowing that the putting off of my tabernacle cometh swiftly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ signified unto me.

15 Yea, I will give diligence that at every time ye may be able after my decease to call these things to remembrance.

The background behind this section is the Lord's words to Peter in John 21:18, 19. The apostles were those who had been with the Lord, and were commissioned by the Lord to be the witnesses of His life, death, and resurrection (Ac 10:37-41, Heb 2:3, 4).

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 12-15

1Pe 5:13 She that is in Babylon, elect together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Mark my son.

2Pe 2:1 But there arose false prophets also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

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

2Co 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2Co 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

vs. 16-18

2Pe 3:1 This is now, beloved, the second epistle that I write unto you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by putting you in remembrance;

2 that ye should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandments of the Lord and Saviour through your apostles:

3 knowing this first, that in the last days mockers shall come with mockery, walking after their own lusts,

4 and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

Mt 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart:

2 and he was transfigured before them; and his face did shine as the sun, and his garments became white as the light.

3 And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with him.

4 And Peter answered, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, I will make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.

5 While he was yet speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

7 And Jesus came and touched them and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

8 And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, save Jesus only.

9 And as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen from the dead.

Ac 1:9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they were looking stedfastly into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 who also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye looking into heaven? this Jesus, who was received up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye beheld him going into heaven.

vs. 19

1Pe 1:11 searching what time or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did point unto, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glories that should follow them.

2Pe 1:10 Wherefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never stumble

Mt 16:21 From that time began Jesus to show unto his disciples, that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up.

22 And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall never be unto thee.

2nd Peter 1:16

The circumstances of Peter's life at the writing of this letter are not known from biblical record. He may have been in Rome, *spiritual Babylon* (1Pe 5:13). By some means he senses that his **decease cometh swiftly**—is imminent. With this in mind, he wants to write this letter (**I think it right**) so that after he has gone the church will have a written record of these fundamental **things**. Of course we see God's hand in this, and the church has benefited from this book down through the years.

His purpose is to **stir us up**. The picture is of rousing a slumbering person. It is easy for Christians to be overcome by the repetitiveness of life and be lulled into complacency. In this state we are easy targets for the false teachers (2:1, 2).

Peter refers to his body as **this tabernacle**, a temporary dwelling like a tent. It reminds us that this present life and its possessions are for a short time, so our focus must be on eternal things (2Co 4:18).

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

17 For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there was borne such a voice to him by the Majestic Glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased:

18 and this voice we ourselves heard borne out of heaven, when we were with him in the holy mount.

The main false teaching that Peter deals with in this letter is the denial of the promised second **coming** of Christ (3:1-4). This teaching of the **power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** to reign on this present earth, was not made up by the apostles to perpetuate the Christian religion. Peter references the experience that he had along with James and John on the mount of transfiguration. This event is recorded in each of the synoptic gospels (e.g. Mt 17:1-9). During this event they heard the **voice from God the Father** giving the **Lord honor and glory** (Mt 17:5). Peter assures his readers that this was an eyewitness account where the three apostles **heard this voice** that came **out of heaven**. Also, all of the apostles heard the words of the two angels at Christ's ascension (Ac 1:9-11).

19 And we have the word of prophecy made more sure; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts:

The affect this experience had on Peter was that the Old Testament prophecies promising the future glory of Christ (1Pe 1:11) were **made more sure** to him. This is the same concept as he mentioned in verse ten of this chapter. In Matthew 16, the Lord told the disciples very plainly of His coming suffering which Peter could not comprehend (Mt 16:21, 22). The experience on the mount of transfiguration (Mt 17), gave him the needed assurance that the impending death of Christ would not negate the Old Testament covenant promises regarding His eventual reign in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus.

His exhortation here is to **take heed**—apply oneself to

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 19

1Co 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known.

1Th 4: 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first;

17 then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Jas 5:8 Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Nu 24:17 I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh: There shall come forth a star out of Jacob, And a sceptre shall rise out of Israel, And shall smite through the corners of Moab, And break down all the sons of tumult.

Re 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright, the morning star.

Mt 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise-men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,

2 Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we saw his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Ro 8:17 and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified with him.

Re 2:26 And he that overcometh, and he that keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give authority over the nations:

27 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to shivers; as I also have received of my Father: 28 and I will give him the morning star.

Lu 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country, to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13 And he called ten servants of his, and gave them ten pounds, and said unto them, Trade ye herewith till I come.

14 But his citizens hated him, and sent an ambassage after him, saying, We will not that this man reign over us.

15 And it came to pass, when he was come back again, having received the kingdom, that he commanded these servants, unto whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by trading.

16 And the first came before him, saying, Lord, thy pound hath made ten pounds more.

17 And he said unto him, Well done, thou good servant: because thou wast found faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

Heb 2:9 But we behold Him who hath been made a little lower than the angels, even Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God he should taste of death for every man.

vs. 20, 21

1Co 2:9 but as it is written, Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, And which entered not into the heart of man, Whatsoever things God prepared for them that love him.

10 But unto us God revealed them through the Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For who among men knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of the man, which is in him? even so the things of God none

knoweth, save the Spirit of God.

12 But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words.

Joh 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak from himself; but what things soever he shall hear, these shall he speak: and he shall declare unto you the things that are to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall take of mine, and shall declare it unto you.

15 All things whatsoever the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he taketh of mine, and shall declare it unto you.

Ac 27:14 But after no long time there beat down from it a tempestuous wind, which is called Euraquilo:

15 and when the ship was caught, and could not face the wind, we gave way to it, and were driven.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (NAS95)

2Ti 3:16 every Writing is God-breathed, and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for setting aright, for instruction that is in righteousness. (YLT)

Re 22:18 I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book:

19 and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book.

De 4:1 And now, O Israel, hearken unto the statutes and unto the ordinances, which I teach you, to do them; that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which Jehovah, the God of your fathers, giveth you.

2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God which I command you.

De 12:32 What thing soever I command you, that shall ye observe to do: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Pr 30:5 Every word of God is tried: He is a shield unto them that take refuge in him.

6 Add thou not unto his words, Lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Lu 11:50 that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

51 from the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zachariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary: yea, I say unto you, it shall be required of this generation.

2Pe 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote unto you;

16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2nd Peter 1:20

these prophecies. They are like **a lamp shining in a dark place**. The **dark place** is something obscure, which sometimes characterizes events in this life (1Co 13:12). It is during these times that the **shining** light of God's prophetic promises are especially encouraging (1Th 4:16-18, Jas 5:8).

The **day-star** or '*morning star*' is a reference to the Lord Jesus reigning as King during His millennial Kingdom (Nu 24:17, Re 22:16). Probably Balaam's quote in Numbers was known to the wise men who traveled to Jerusalem to worship the young child Jesus (Mt 2:2). Those who faithfully endure in this life will reign with Him (Ro 8:17, Re 2:26-28). **Until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts** may refer to this coming day. This anticipation should have a present effect on our life however. Though He is still rejected as King in this world, we can serve Him as King in our **hearts** (Lu 19:12-17, Heb 2:9).

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation.

21 For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

These verses speak of the source of Scripture not the understanding of it. Inspired **prophecy** does not originate from the **will of man** (1Co 2:9, 10). This verse is key to understanding the process God used in giving us the Bible in the original documents. The apostles came to understand these things by revelation through the Holy Spirit (1Co 2:10, 12), and wrote down the very words God wanted through the teaching of the Holy Spirit (1Co 2:13). Verse 21 above gives further insight into this process. The word **moved** is the same word translated '*driven*' in Acts 17:15. There were three things in this situation, that caused the boat to end up at its destination. The shape of the boat, the condition of the sea, and the strong wind. These three illustrate the process that produced the inspired Scriptures (2Ti 3:16, 17). The condition of the sea is a picture of the life circumstances of the apostles when they wrote the original documents. For instance, several of Paul's letters were written from prison. The shape of the boat pictures the distinct personality of each apostle, and the wind illustrates the work of the Holy Spirit. In both cases the strong wind is the determining factor. The writers were **moved by the Holy Spirit** to produce the Scriptures. All Scripture is *God-breathed* (2Ti 3:16).

The last apostolic writing was by John, and his book of Revelation closes with a warning against adding to the finished Scripture (Re 22:18, 19). While this reference may be specific to Revelation, the warning applies to all of the Bible (De 4:1, 2; 12:32, Pr 30:5, 6). Though the Old Testament canon was recognized by the time of Christ as consisting of our current 39 books (Lu 11:50, 51), the complete Bible was not formally recognized until the Council of Carthage in 397 A.D. This recognition did not make them inspired; they were verbally inspired when the apostles wrote them. Peter recognized the writing of Paul as Scripture (2Pe 3:15, 16).

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 1

Jer 1:4 Now the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying,
5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee; I have appointed thee a prophet unto the nations.
6 Then said I, Ah, Lord Jehovah! behold, I know not how to speak; for I am a child.
7 But Jehovah said unto me, Say not, I am a child; for to whomsoever I shall send thee thou shalt go, and whatsoever I shall command thee thou shalt speak.

1Co 14:29 And let the prophets speak by two or three, and let the others discern.

30 But if a revelation be made to another sitting by, let the first keep silence.

Ac 13:1 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers, Barnabas, and Symeon that was called Nigger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen the foster-brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 And as they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Eph 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone.

Eph 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ.

Ac 20:28 Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood.

29 I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock;

30 and from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Ga 2:4 But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.

5 But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you. (NAS95)

1Jo 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 and every spirit that confesseth not Jesus is not of God: and this is the spirit of the antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it cometh; and now it is in the world already.

1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man destroyeth the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, and such are ye.

1Co 6:19 Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own;

20 for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.

1Pe 1:5 who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1Pe 2:24 who his own self bare our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed.

Ro 3:25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Ro 11:5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

6 But if it is by grace, it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.

7 What then? that which Israel seeketh for, that he obtained not; but the election obtained it, and the rest were hardened

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, for that God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus,

6 who gave himself a ransom for all; the testimony to be borne in its own times

1Jo 2:2 and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.

Heb 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries.

28 A man that hath set at nought Moses law dieth without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses:

29 of how much sorer punishment, think ye, shall he be judged worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know him that said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

2nd Peter 2:1

II The Opposition to Fruitfulness 2:1–22

A. Satan's Method 1-3

2:1 But there arose false prophets also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

Whereas 1st Peter spoke of Satan's opposition via overt persecution, 2nd Peter speaks of his covert, **privily** work through **false teachers**. This is effective since it has the aspect of spiritually and the error is always mixed with good amount of truth. As a side note, Peter links **prophets** with **teachers**. The distinguishing mark of the prophets of God was that they received their message by direct revelation from God (Jer 1:4-7, 1Co 14:29, 30). There were **prophets** throughout the Old Testament and in the foundational period of the church (Ac 13:1, 2, Eph 2:19, 20). With the completion of Scriptures, the gift of **prophets** ceased and the work of proclaiming the Word of God is done today by gifted **teachers**, evangelists, and pastors (Eph 4:10-12). Notice the verb tenses, **there arose false prophets, there shall be false teachers**.

The method of these **false teachers** is to infiltrate the church (**among you**) and introduce their **destructive heresies** secretly (Ac 20:28-30, Ga 2:4, 5). Their goal is to discredit the person and work of Christ; **denying even the Master that bought them** (1Jo 4:1-3). Their actions will soon bring eternal **destruction** on themselves (1Co 3:16, 17).

The interpretation of the phrase **denying the Master that bought them** is challenging. The other five times where this word **bought** is used in relation to people, it refers to those who are saved or redeemed (1Co 6:19, 20). If that is the way it is used here it would mean that these **false teachers** were at one time saved, but are now are **denying the Master** and are heading for eternal **destruction**. They have lost their salvation. This interpretation is discredited however by other scriptures that state clearly that once saved a person cannot lose their salvation (Joh 10:27, 28, 1Pe 1:5).

The answer may lie in whether the redeeming work of Christ on the cross is understood as retributive (e.g. 1Pe 2:24) or rather a public demonstration of God's righteousness (Ro 3:25, 26).

If retributive, it would mean that Christ endured a specific amount of suffering at the hand of God, for each sin that all of mankind committed, but this would seem to be a case of double jeopardy since not all are elect (Ro 11:5-7, 2Th 2:13).

If the cross was a public demonstration, it would enable God to be just and justify all who would respond in faith (Ro 3:26). Christ would be the propitiation for the whole world (1Ti 2:5, 6, 1Jo 2:2). This would also mean that all are **bought** by the **Master** and thus He has the right to save those who believe and bring **destruction** on those who do not (Heb 10:26-30). This seems to be the best understanding to me.

It is also important to understand that the **denying** of these **false teachers** according to the original language is a continu-

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 1

Lu 22:55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the court, and had sat down together, Peter sat in the midst of them.
56 And a certain maid seeing him as he sat in the light of the fire, and looking stedfastly upon him, said, This man also was with him.
57 But he denied, saying, Woman, I know him not.

Lu 22:31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan asked to have you, that he might sift you as wheat:
32 but I made supplication for thee, that thy faith fail not; and do thou, when once thou hast turned again, establish thy brethren.

2Ti 2:11 Stedfast is the word: For if we died together--we also shall live together;
12 if we do endure together--we shall also reign together; if we deny him, he also shall deny us;
13 if we are not stedfast, he remaineth stedfast; to deny himself he is not able. (YLT)

2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, knowing these things beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own stedfastness.

vs. 2, 3

2Ti 4:2 preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
3 For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts;
4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables.

2Pe 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light.
15 It is no great thing therefore if his ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works.

2Co 2:17 For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God. (NAS95)

Jas 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain. (KJV)

vs. 4, 5

2Pe 2:11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, bring not a railing judgment against them before the Lord.

Ge 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born unto them,
2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all that they chose.

Lu 8:31 And they entreated him that he would not command them to depart into the abyss.

1Pe 3:19 in which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison,
20 that aforetime were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

Jude 1:6 And angels that kept not their own principality, but left their proper habitation, he hath kept in everlasting bonds under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Re 20:3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut it, and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years should be finished: after this he must be loosed for a little time.

2nd Peter 2:2

ing condition. When Peter denied the Lord (Lu 22:55-57) the language construction suggests a single event from which Peter repented as the Lord said he would (Lu 22:31, 32). Peter's act was more that of faithlessness than blatant denial (2Ti 2:11-13). He fell from his own "*steadfastness*" 3:17.

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

3 And in covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose sentence now from of old lingereth not, and their destruction slumbereth not.

Because their teaching appeals to basic human desires, these false teachers will often draw big crowds (2Ti 4:2-40). This will create a band-wagon effect, and people will wrongly see it as God's blessing. Those who are misled **follow the lascivious**, lewd lifestyles of their teachers. Since they claim to be Christians, the public tends to broad brush all Christians as believing these false doctrines, and **the way of the truth is evil spoken of**.

Feigned words are statements, often quotes from the Bible, that these false teachers mold or *wrest* (3:16), to support their false doctrines (2Co 11:14, 15). Peter says that these greedy individuals **make merchandise**— "*buy and sell*" their victims to satisfy their greed (2Co 2:17, see Jas 4:13 for only other appearance of this word). Since their eventual **destruction** seems to be delayed they think they are getting away with their plan. It's not true however.

B. God's Action 4-9

4 For if God spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to hell, and committed them to pits of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

5 and spared not the ancient world, but preserved Noah with seven others, a preacher of righteousness, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Peter now looks at Old Testament history as evidence that God will eventually judge these false teachers. The first illustration contrasts the power of the opponent, and God's omnipotence. **Angels** are greater in power than any human (2:11). The **angels that sinned** refers to the incident recorded in Genesis 6:1, 2. God judged these demons by casting them **down to hell**. This is the abyss, a place of temporary incarceration where they await their final **judgment** (Lu 8:31, 1Pe 3:19, 20, Jude 1:6, Re 20:3).

The second illustration emphasizes the multitude of opponents and the delay for judgment to come. In the case of **Noah**, it was eight people against the **ancient world of the ungodly**. Often people will believe a false doctrine reasoning that all these people can't be wrong. Unlike these false teachers who are purveyors of lust, **Noah was a preacher of righteousness**. God saved him and his family, and destroyed the entire **world of the ungodly**. It could be that there may have been 120 years between God's command to **Noah** and the first drop of rain. No doubt, everyone thought that since it had been so long, it

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 4, 5

2Pe 2:3 And in covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose sentence now from of old lingereth not, and their destruction slumbereth not.

2Pe 3:5 For this they willfully forget, that there were heavens from of old, and an earth compacted out of water and amidst water, by the word of God;

6 by which means the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.

vs. 6,- 8

Ge 18:23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou consume the righteous with the wicked?

24 Peradventure there are fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou consume and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked, that so the righteous should be as the wicked; that be far from thee: shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Ge 19:17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the Plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my lord:

19 behold now, thy servant hath found favor in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy lovingkindness, which thou hast showed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest evil overtake me, and I die:

20 behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one. Oh let me escape thither (is it not a little one?), and my soul shall live.

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow the city of which thou hast spoken.

22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither.

Ga 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness.

7 Know therefore that they that are of faith, the same are sons of Abraham.

Ge 19:4 Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter;

5 and they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them."

6 But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him,

7 and said, "Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly.

8 "Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof."

9 But they said, "Stand aside." Furthermore, they said, "This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them." So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door. (NAS95)

vs. 9

1Pe 4:5 who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them from the world,

but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil one.

1Pe 1:5 who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to guard you from stumbling, and to set you before the presence of his glory without blemish in exceeding joy,

25 to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and power, before all time, and now, and for evermore. Amen.

Mt 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour,

9 whom withstand stedfast in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are accomplished in your brethren who are in the world.

2Pe 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and for ever. Amen.

vs. 10, 11

1Ti 4:1 But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons,

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. (KJV)

2nd Peter 2:6

wasn't going to happen, but the **flood** did come and suddenly (2:3; 3:5, 6).

6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, having made them an example unto those that should live ungodly;

7 and delivered righteous Lot, sore distressed by the lascivious life of the wicked

8 (for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their lawless deeds):

This third account illustrates the character of God as the Judge of all the earth (Ge 18:23-25). It demonstrates His righteous judgment and His constraining mercy to rescue those that are His. Lot was hardly an example of a godly person, yet the judgment of **Sodom** could not begin until he was safely out of harms way (Ge 18:17-22). Lot's righteousness was not because of his lifestyle but because God declared him **righteous** by faith (cf. Ga 3:6, 7). The only evidence of this was that his conscience was constantly tormented by the ungodliness of **Sodom** (Ge 19:4-9).

God's dealing with these two cities is **an example** to all who **live ungodly**. It shows that God will eventually judge the **ungodly** in this world, but He will **deliver** those that are His before He does so. As a side note, this example gives some validity to the pre-tribulation view of the rapture of the church.

9 the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment unto the day of judgment;

Here is the conclusion to Peter's logic statement. These Old Testament accounts demonstrate God's ability and determination do **deliver the godly** from trials and to **keep** in custody, **the unrighteous unto the day of judgment** (1Pe 4:5). God has committed to guard those that are His and bring them safely home to heaven (Joh 17:5, 1Pe 1:5, Jude 1:24, 25). This does not mean that we should be lax however, but rather alert and growing in the knowledge of God (Mt 26:41, 1Pe 5:8, 9, 2Pe 3:18). See the epistle of Jude for parallel teaching.

C. Characteristics of False Teachers 10-22

10 but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of defilement, and despise dominion. Daring, self-willed, they tremble not to rail at dignities:

11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, bring not a railing judgment against them before the Lord.

Peter now lists the life-style characteristics of these false teachers. He does so because these traits may initially be more obvious than the errors in their doctrine. These things should be red flags to us and make us more diligent to scrutinize their teaching (1Ti 4:1, 2Ti 2:15).

God deals particularly with those who live immoral lives. They **despise** any censorship of their activities. They are pompous and **self-willed**—arrogant. Rather than honoring rul-

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 10, 11

Jude 1:8 Yet in like manner these also in their dreamings defile the flesh, and set at nought dominion, and rail at dignities.

9 But Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing judgment, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

10 But these rail at whatsoever things they know not: and what they understand naturally, like the creatures without reason, in these things are they destroyed.

Ro 13:7 Render to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

1Pe 2:13 Be subject to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether to the king, as supreme;

14 or unto governors, as sent by him for vengeance on evil-doers and for praise to them that do well.

Lu 20:46 Beware of the scribes, who desire to walk in long robes, and love salutations in the marketplaces, and chief seats in the synagogues, and chief places at feasts;

47 who devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater condemnation.

3Jo 1:9 I wrote somewhat unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

10 Therefore, if I come, I will bring to remembrance his works which he doeth, prating against us with wicked words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and them that would he forbiddeth and casteth them out of the church.

vs. 12

2Pe 2:2 And many shall follow their lascivious doings; by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of.

vs. 13, 14

Mt 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.

16 By their fruits ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but the corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Ac 20:28 Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood.

29 I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock;

30 and from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Ec 10:16 Woe to you, O land, whose king is a lad and whose princes feast in the morning. (NAS95)

Jer 6:15 "Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD. (NAS95)

1Co 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Ga 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

10 I have confidence to you-ward in the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

1Co 11:20 When therefore ye assemble yourselves together, it is not possible to eat the Lord's supper:

21 for in your eating each one taketh before other his own supper; and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

Col 2:6 As therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,

7 rooted and builded up in him, and established in your faith, even as ye were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8 Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ:

13 till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error.

Mt 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he is become so, ye make him twofold more a son of hell than yourselves.

1Ti 4:1 But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron;

3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by them that believe and know the truth.

vs. 15, 16

2Pe 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first.

21 For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

Joh 5:39 Ye search the scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me;

40 and ye will not come to me, that ye may have life.

2nd Peter 2:12

ers they speak disrespectfully of them. It seems that Peter's main thought here is that they revile spirit beings—**angels**, either good or bad (Jude 1:8-10). Often these individuals also speak arrogantly against human officials as well (Ro 13:7, 1Pe 2:13, 14). They are self-centered, having an egotistical view of their own importance and power (Lu 20:46, 47, 3Jo 1:9, 10).

12 But these, as creatures without reason, born mere animals to be taken and destroyed, railing in matters whereof they are ignorant, shall in their destroying surely be destroyed,

Here Peter likens the false teachers to **animals** who act out of instinct rather than **reason**. They are like a pig that eats everything in sight not realizing that it is being fattened for slaughter. This is the idea of **in their destroying** they will **surely be destroyed**. It is like an animal that is attracted to bait in a trap not realizing that it is the satisfaction of this attraction that will do it in. The false teaching with which they entice their victims will eventually be the means by which their true identity is evidenced and they are **destroyed**. Recent history provides many examples of this. Of course this is exactly what the world loves to see, since it provides them an opportunity to discredit the gospel (vs. 2).

13 suffering wrong as the hire of wrong-doing; men that count it pleasure to revel in the day-time, spots and blemishes, reveling in their deceivings while they feast with you;

14 having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; enticing unstedfast souls; having a heart exercised in covetousness; children of cursing;

These false teachers want to be part of the recognized church since they believe that religious people will be easy targets for their pseudo spirituality (Mt 7:15-17, Ac 20:28). The fact that they **revel in the day-time** speaks of their shameless attitude (Ec 10:16, Jer 6:15). Their actions are **blemishes** on the whole church (1Co 5:6, Ga 5:9, 10). The **feast** may refer to the custom of eating a shared meal along with the observance of the Lord's Supper (1Co 11:20, 21).

The false teachers entice **unstable souls**. These may be individuals who are close but not yet saved, or newly saved members of the church, or immature believers, that are not yet grounded in the Scriptures (vs 18 "*those who are just escaping*") (Col 2:6-8, Eph 4:11-14). They may be easily led into false doctrine by someone that they assume is more taught in the Scriptures (Mt 25:15). Often these teachers will stress outward things that are really "*doctrines of demons*" (1Ti 4:1-3).

15 forsaking the right way, they went astray, having followed the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the hire of wrong-doing;

16 but he was rebuked for his own transgression: a dumb ass spake with man's voice and stayed the madness of the prophet.

These false teachers are not acting out of ignorance but willfully forsake **the right way** (vs. 20, 21, Joh 5:39, 40). They imitate **Balaam** a false prophet whose story is in Num-

Cross Reference Verses

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Nu 25:1 And Israel abode in Shittim; and the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab

Nu 31:14 And Moses was wroth with the officers of the host, the captains of thousands and the captains of hundreds, who came from the service of the war.

15 And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive?

16 Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against Jehovah in the matter of Peor, and so the plague was among the congregation of Jehovah

Nu 25:9 And those that died by the plague were twenty and four thousand.

Nu 22:32 And the angel of Jehovah said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I am come forth for an adversary, because thy way is perverse before me:

33 and the ass saw me, and turned aside before me these three times: unless she had turned aside from me, surely now I had even slain thee, and saved her alive.

vs. 17-19

Ge 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat; and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.

Joh 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Every one that committeth sin is the bondservant of sin.

Ro 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered;

18 and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness.

19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye presented your members as servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity, even so now present your members as servants to righteousness unto sanctification.

20 For when ye were servants of sin, ye were free in regard of righteousness.

21 What fruit then had ye at that time in the things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

22 But now being made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end eternal life.

Jas 1:25 But he that looketh into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and so continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing.

vs. 20-22

Mt 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but inwardly ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Joh 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, during the feast, many believed on his name, beholding his signs which he did.

24 But Jesus did not trust himself unto them, for that he knew all men,

25 and because he needed not that any one should bear witness concerning man; for he himself knew what was in man.

Mt 12:43 But the unclean spirit, when he is gone out of the man, passeth through waterless places, seeking rest, and findeth it not.

44 Then he saith, I will return into my house whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man becometh worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this evil generation.

2nd Peter 2:17

bers 22-24. Though he could not curse Israel as Balak wanted, he was unwilling to give up **the hire of wrong-doing** (1Ti 6:10) and so counseled Balak to entice Israel into sinful actions, knowing that God would punish them for it (Nu 25:1; 31:14-16; 25:9). He illustrates Peter's assessment of false teachers in verse 12. His unreasoning animal saw what he didn't and saved his life (Nu 22:32, 33).

17 These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm; for whom the blackness of darkness hath been reserved.

18 For, uttering great swelling words of vanity, they entice in the lusts of the flesh, by lasciviousness, those who are just escaping from them that live in error;

19 promising them liberty, while they themselves are bondservants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he also brought into bondage.

The comparisons here illustrate the complete disappointment that the followers of these false teachers will eventually experience. Like the desert wanderer who arrives at a **spring** only to find it is **without water**; or a farmer during a drought, who sees the storm clouds coming, but they produce no rain. So all who follow these teachers soaking up their **great swelling words of vanity** (emptiness), will be greatly disappointed. Their doctrine appeals to the desires **of the flesh** which more easily entices those who are almost to the point of being born again or possibly newly saved—**just escaping from them that live in error**. This was the tactic of Satan in Eden (Ge 3:6). The false teachers give sermons that promise **liberty**, but at the same time they themselves are enslaved to **corruption** (Joh 8:34, Ro 6:16-22). Their **words of vanity** often begin with the statement, "The Bible doesn't say you can't do this." They present the Bible as restrictive, but it is really the "*the perfect law, the law of liberty*" (Jas 1:25).

20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first.

21 For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22 It has happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog turning to his own vomit again, and the sow that had washed to wallowing in the mire.

It isn't absolutely clear here if these verses are speaking of a person who almost comes to saving faith in Christ or of the false teachers themselves. In either case, the individual experiences a measure of reformation **through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior**. They are never truly saved however, and eventually their true character comes out. The Pharisees were examples of this (Mt 23:27, 28). In the Lord's experience, some who saw His miracles seemed to believe, but He knew they were not genuine (Joh 2:23-25). He also warned against this in Matthew 12:43-45, where the unclean spirit returns to

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 20-22

Mt 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast your pearls before the swine, lest haply they trample them under their feet, and turn and rend you.

Heb 6:4 For as touching those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

5 and tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come,

6 and then fell away, it is impossible to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Joh 15:22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no excuse for their sin.

23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

24 If I had not done among them the works which none other did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

25 But this cometh to pass, that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

vs. 1, 2

2Pe 3:11 Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness,

Mt 26:35 Peter saith unto him, Even if I must die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Mt 26:73 And after a little while they that stood by came and said to Peter, Of a truth thou also art one of them; for thy speech maketh thee known.

74 Then began he to curse and to swear, I know not the man. And straightway the cock crew.

75 And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Ac 12:7 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shined in the cell: and he smote Peter on the side, and awoke him, saying, Rise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And he did so. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

1Pe 3:22 who is one the right hand of God, having gone into heaven; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

2Pe 2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment (NAS95)

Heb 1:1 God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners,

2 hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds

Heb 2:3 how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation? which having at the first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed unto us by them that heard;

4 God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will.

vs. 3, 4

Da 9:24 Seventy weeks are decreed upon thy people and upon thy

holy city, to finish transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy.

25 Know therefore and discern, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the anointed one, the prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: it shall be built again, with street and moat, even in troublous times.

26 And after the threescore and two weeks shall the anointed one be cut off, and shall have nothing: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and even unto the end shall be war; desolations are determined.

27 And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate.

Ge 19:14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons-in-law, who married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for Jehovah will destroy the city. But he seemed unto his sons-in-law as one that mocked.

Joh 7:47 The Pharisees therefore answered them, Are ye also led astray?

48 Hath any of the rulers believed on him, or of the Pharisees?

49 But this multitude that knoweth not the law are accursed.

Ro 1:21 because that, knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

1Co 2:7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, even the wisdom that hath been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds unto our glory:

8 which none of the rulers of this world hath known: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory:

Joh 13:19 From henceforth I tell you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

2nd Peter 3:1

find the house swept and decorated but empty—religion but no Savior. Notice the same result, **the last state is become worse with them than the first**. Certainly the false teachers fit this scenario, and for them there is no repentance (Mt 7:6, Heb 6:4-6). This passage illustrates the biblical truth, that increased revelation creates increased responsibility (Joh 15:22-25).

III. The Encouragement for Fruitfulness 3:1-18

A. The Skeptic 3:1-7

2Pe 3:1 This is now, beloved, the second epistle that I write unto you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by putting you in remembrance;

2 that ye should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandments of the Lord and Saviour through your apostles:

Peter restates his purpose in writing these two epistles. He recognizes that opposition from Satan can discourage and intimidate believers. He wants to **stir them up** to fruitfulness—“*holy living and godliness*” (3:11). He has experienced fear that led him to deny the Lord (Mt 26:35, 73-75), and also relief at being rescued (Ac 12:7, 8). In 1st Peter he reminded these believers that all the powers that are against them are subject to their risen Lord (1Pe 3:22). In this letter he reminds them that their God is able to rescue them (2:9).

These are not just the words of Peter but the Word of God **spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandments of the Lord** spoken by the **apostles** (Heb 1:1, 2; 2:3, 4).

3 knowing this first, that in the last days mockers shall come with mockery, walking after their own lusts,

4 and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

In the balance of this chapter Peter deals with the seeming delay of **the promise of His coming**. This **coming** refers specifically to the Christ’s second advent. The timeline of these end-time events is given in Daniel 9:24-27. The Lord compared this time to the days of Lot, who when he warned his sons-in-law of the coming judgment, they took it as a joke (Ge 19:14). These **mockers** do so to ease their consciences, and continue **walking after their own lusts**. Mocking is a tactic often used when people have a weak argument (Joh 7:47-49). The worldly wise have a history of making bad assessments regarding spiritual things (Ro 1:21-23, 1Co 2:7, 8). Their naturalistic argument states that the **fathers** have died and the natural order of everything continues on as it has always done. The fact that the Scriptures predict this attitude, only serves to encourage the believer (Joh 13:19). It demonstrates that God knows the end from the beginning.

5 For this they willfully forget, that there were heavens from of old, and an earth compacted out of water and amidst water, by the word of God;

6 by which means the world that then was, being overflowed

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 5-7

Mt 24:37 And as were the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of man.

38 For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,

39 and they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall be the coming of the Son of man. Joh 3:19 And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, lest his works should be reprov'd.

vs. 8, 9

Ro 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (NAS95)

Ro 2:1 Wherefore thou art without excuse, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest dost practise the same things.

2 And we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against them that practise such things.

3 And reckonest thou this, O man, who judgest them that practise such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

1Ti 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (NAS95)

1Jo 2:2 and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.

Joh 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. (NAS95)

Ro 9:19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he still find fault? For who withstandeth his will?

Joh 6:39 And this is the will of him that sent me, that of all that which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

Joh 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.

2Pe 2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment. (NAS95)

1Co 15:57 but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

2nd Peter 3:7

with water, perished:

7 but the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

The Lord also used the historical event of universal flood as characterizing these last days (Mt 24:37-39). It seems that this is the event to which Peter is referring. From the biblical record we see that God only spoke to Noah once about the coming judgment, but he may have been many years in building the ark. Delay can be discouraging to the believer and give a false sense of security to the unbeliever. The biblical record proves however, that judgment did come, and when least expected (Mt 24:39). By the **same word** that told of the coming flood, this present **heavens and earth have been stored up for fire**. This is why there is such an effort today to disprove the worldwide flood of Noah. The **ungodly willfully** do not come to the light because it exposes their sinful lifestyle (Joh 3:19, 20).

It is interesting that both Peter and the Lord use Lot and Noah to illustrate believers living in ungodly situations. Both were rescued from God's judgment, but it is much better for us to be like Noah than Lot.

8 But forget not this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Before we accuse the Lord of delay, we must realize that we view the passage of time differently than He does. Peter is not giving a formula to convert human days into divine days, but pointing out that where time is finite to us, it is infinite to God. It doesn't mean that time is irrelevant to God, but that He is not restricted by it. He does things at the right time (Ro 5:6). What we should see instead of tardiness in this case, is that God is **patient** (Ro 2:1-4).

The phrase **not wishing that any should perish** presents somewhat of an interpretation problem. The word translated **wishing** here is a much stronger word than indicating a desire for something. In 1 Timothy 2:4, Paul states that God desires (different Greek word) all to be saved, and we know that the Lord's death is sufficient for all to be saved (1Jo 2:2). At the same time, we know that not all will be saved (Joh 5:39, 40).

The Greek word used in this verse can refer to a more determined act as seen in Romans 9:19. It seems then that this phrase is not so much expressing a compassionate feeling of God toward all people, but a determined will to rescue **all** those that are His, with the assurance that He will do it (Joh 6:39; 10:26-28). This interpretation fits Peter's teaching in 2:9.

The believers Peter is writing to were going through very hard times and they needed to know that God would bring them through, and all their work and suffering would be worth it (1Co 15:57, 58).

The conclusion then is that what the skeptics see as delay, is not the result of any negligence on God's part, but evidence

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 8, 9

2Pe 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote unto you

Joh 6:37 All that which the Father giveth me shall come unto me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Ac 13:48 And as the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of God: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Ac 18:9 And the Lord said unto Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak and hold not thy peace:

10 for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to harm thee: for I have much people in this city.

1Pe 4:6 For unto this end was the gospel preached even to the dead, that they might be judged indeed according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

vs. 10

Joh 5:22 For neither doth the Father judge any man, but he hath given all judgment unto the Son.

Ac 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the day of the Lord come, That great and notable day.

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; then they that are Christ's, at his coming.

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have abolished all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all his enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be abolished is death.

27 For, He put all things in subjection under his feet. But when he saith, All things are put in subjection, it is evident that he is excepted who did subject all things unto him.

28 And when all things have been subjected unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subjected to him that did subject all things unto him, that God may be all in all.

Isa 13:1 The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.

6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. (NAS95)

Re 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God, and such as worshipped not the beast, neither his image, and received not the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they lived, and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Ac 2:17 And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour forth of my Spirit upon all flesh: And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams:

19 And I will show wonders in the heaven above, And signs on the earth beneath; Blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke:

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the day of the Lord come, That great and notable day.

Re 20:7 And when the thousand years are finished, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

9 And they went up over the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are also the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Re 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat upon it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne; and books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works.

15 And if any was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

Re 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth are passed away; and the sea is no more

2Pe 3:12 looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (NAS95)

Ge 19:14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons-in-law, who married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for Jehovah will destroy the city. But he seemed unto his sons-in-law as one that mocked.

1Th 5:1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that aught be written unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 When they are saying, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall in no wise escape.

vs. 11-13

1Co 7:31 and those that use the world, as not using it to the full: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

2Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory;

18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2nd Peter 3:10

of His divine patience and determination to save **all** that are to be saved (3:15, Joh 6:37, Ac 13:48). This encourages these believers and us to continue to evangelize even in hard times (Ac 18:9, 10, 1Pe 4:6).

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

The **day of the Lord** is a biblical term that has to do with the judging work of the Lord Jesus in which He eventually brings all things into subjection to God (Joh 5:22, 1Co 15:22-28). These times of judgment have occurred in history such as Sodom or Babylon (Isa 13:1, 6), but the final **Day of the Lord** is still future. It includes the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy (Dan 9:27), and the thousand-year Kingdom of Christ on the earth (Rev 20:4). This is the event Peter referred to in Acts 2:17-20 and is described here.

At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be released and launch his final rebellion against God (Re 20:7-10). Then will follow the Great White Throne judgment (Re 20:11-15). Once the judgment of the Great White Throne is completed the present heavens and earth will be destroyed, and God will make new heavens and earth (Re 21:1). This final event begins the eternal state of all believers where the whole universe is subject to the Father, this is called the Day of God (3:12, 1Co 15:28).

Dissolved means to loose or break up. It is doubtful that any of Peter's readers could have imagined what this might be, but to us it depicts a nuclear explosion. Paul states the present work of the Lord regarding the universe, as holding it together (Col 1:16, 17). What happens here is that the Lord lets go.

Peter describes this coming **as a thief**. This emphasizes that it will be unexpected, and while people feel secure. This would have been the case with the flood, since there had never been rain or a flood. Lot's sons-in-law made fun of his warning thinking that the destruction of Sodom was impossible (Ge 19:14). This is the way it will be during the Tribulation period (1Th 5:1-3).

11 Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness,

12 looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

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

The conclusion then is, since **all these things are to be dissolved**, and it could begin at any time, our lives should be characterized by **holy living and godliness**, not amassing **things** (1Co 7:31). It is living for God that is of eternal value (2Co 4:17, 18).

The day of God refers to the **new heavens and new earth**, the eternal home of all believers. To the extent that we are

Cross Reference Verses

vs. 11-13

Col 3:1 If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth.

3 For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory.

Ge 15:13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be sojourners in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years.

14 and also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

Ex 2:23 Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God.

24 So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

25 God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.

Ex 3:7 The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings.

8 "So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Ex 12:41 And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

vs. 14-16

1Pe 1:7 that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold that perisheth though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ:

1Jo 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it;

26 that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word,

27 that he might present the church to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful.

1Jo 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, we have boldness toward God;

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Joh 6:37 All that which the Father giveth me shall come unto me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Ro 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God

leadeth thee to repentance?

1Co 2:6 We speak wisdom, however, among them that are fullgrown: yet a wisdom not of this world, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nought:

7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, even the wisdom that hath been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds unto our glory:

8 which none of the rulers of this world hath known: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory:

9 but as it is written, Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, And which entered not into the heart of man, Whatsoever things God prepared for them that love him.

10 But unto us God revealed them through the Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For who among men knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of the man, which is in him? even so the things of God none knoweth, save the Spirit of God.

12 But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words.

1Th 2:13 And for this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when ye received from us the word of the message, even the word of God, ye accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God, which also worketh in you that believe.

2Pe 2:3 and in covetousness, with moulded words, of you they shall make merchandise, whose judgment of old is not idle, and their destruction doth not slumber. (YLT)

Ro 3:8 and why not (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say), Let us do evil, that good may come? whose condemnation is just.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (KJV)

2Ti 3:15 And that from a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness.

17 That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.

1Jo 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which ye received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any one teach you; but as his anointing teacheth you; concerning all things, and is true, and is no lie, and even as it taught you, ye abide in him.

2nd Peter 3:14

looking for this we will live in the right relationship to the things of this world (Col 3:1-4). To **earnestly** desire this Kingdom will cause us to pray “*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.*” Mt 6:10

Does praying for the Kingdom to come really effect its coming? There is an interesting illustration of this idea in the Old Testament. God told Abraham that his descendents would be enslaved in Egypt for a limited time and then He would bring them out. When it came time for this **promise** to be fulfilled, God connected His delivering them as an answer to their prayers (Ge 15:13, 14, Ex 2:23-25; 3:7, 8; 12:41). Their circumstances caused them to cry out to God for deliverance.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for these things, give diligence that ye may be found in peace, without spot and blameless in his sight.

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote unto you;

16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

The purpose for bible prophecy is not to satisfy our curiosity but to encourage us to godly living. To **be found** refers to our spiritual state at the Lord’s coming (1Pe 1:7, 1Jo 2:28, 29). The Lord wants His bride to be spiritually beautiful (Eph 5:25-27). To be **in peace** means to have a quiet confidence that we are in fellowship with God (Col 3:15, 1Jo 3:21). To be **without spot and blameless** does not mean sinless, but we have no unconfessed sin of which we are aware (1Jo 1:9).

The longsuffering of our Lord is so that not one of His sheep remains lost (Joh 6:37). Peter sites the corroborating evidence of Paul’s **epistles** (Ro 2:4). In doing so he acknowledges that even at this early date, the inspired writings of Paul were regarded as **wisdom given to him** by the Holy Spirit (1Co 2:6-13), and were accepted as Scripture (1Th 2:13). He acknowledges that some of these writings are not easily **understood**, and **the ignorant and unstedfast wrest** or twist them to support their false doctrine (2:4, cf. Ro 3:8). Paul exhorted us to diligently study the Scriptures so we can understand them (2Ti 2:15; 3:15, 16, cf. 1Jo 2:27). The more we know the Scriptures the easier it is to see false doctrine.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, knowing these things beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own stedfastness.

18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Peter closes with two exhortations. **Beware** of false teaching and **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord**. If we are diligent to do the second, the first will be easier. He doesn’t want his readers to be **carried away** (seduced) into accepting

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Col 1:23 if so be that ye continue in the faith, grounded and stedfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye heard, which was preached in all creation under heaven; whereof I Paul was made a minister.

Col 2:5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and builded up in him, and established in your faith, even as ye were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8 Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ:

9 for in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily

2Pe 1:10 Wherefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never stumble.

2Pe 1:2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord

Ro 5:1 Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;

2 through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand; and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace have ye been saved),

6 and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus:

7 that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

2nd Peter 1:17

the error of the wicked. He does not say that it is possible to **fall from** our salvation but **steadfastness**. To remain steadfast is to remain true to the fundamentals of the gospel making them the characteristic of the way we live our lives (Col 1:23; 2:5-9). It is that “*making our calling and election sure*” that Peter spoke of in 1:10.

The **grace** that we receive at salvation is to be a dynamic relationship that continues to **grow** throughout this life, and will be fully realized in glory (1:2, Ro 5:1,2, Eph 2:5-7).

In knowing all of this we say with Peter, **To him be the glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

“After this manner therefore pray ye. Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.” Mt 6:9, 10

Repeated Words in 2nd Peter

2Pe 1:3 seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and **godliness**, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue;

2Pe 1:6 and in your knowledge self-control; and in your self-control patience; and in your patience **godliness**;

2Pe 1:7 and in your **godliness** brotherly kindness; and in your brotherly kindness love.

2Pe 3:11 Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and **godliness**.

2Pe 2:1 But there arose false prophets also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift **destruction**.

2Pe 2:3 And in covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose sentence now from of old lingereth not, and their **destruction** slumbereth not.

2Pe 3:7 but the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and **destruction** of ungodly men.

2Pe 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own **destruction**.