

Schedule

Thursday:

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Check-in
6:00 pm	Welcome (Erynn Sprouse) and Dinner
7:30 pm	Peter Character Sketch (Sandi Smith)
8:30 pm	Ice Breaker Games
9:00 pm	Devotional (Kayla Hyde)
9:30 pm	Free Time / Games

Friday:

8:00 am	Early Riser Devotional (Paula Christian)
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast
10:00 am	Intro to 2 Peter (Holly McCormack)
11:00 am	Break
11:30 am	2 Peter Chapter 1 (Lacy Crowell)
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	2 Peter Chapter 2 (Chelli Guthrie)
2:30 pm	Free Time
5:00 pm	Devotional and Singing (Keely McCary)
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Somebody Help Me Please!
9:00 pm	Devotional (Dee Tracy)

Saturday:

8:00 am	Early Riser Devotional (Nikki Burris)
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast
10:00 am	2 Peter Chapter 3 (Kathryn Baker)
11:00 am	Announcements
12:30 pm	Lunch

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Sandi Smith

Raised the daughter of a faithful Gospel preacher, Sandi Smith is a member of the Smithfield congregation in the Fort Worth area where she teaches Bible classes regularly. She has been married for 23 years to her husband, Joe, a computer genius. (At least he seems like a genius to her!) They have four children that they have schooled at home, ages 16 to 20, all of whom are now Christians, themselves. Sandi loves teaching ladies' Bible classes, speaking at ladies' day events, and is an instructor for the wives' program at the Brown Trail School of Preaching. She enjoys hosting in her home, crocheting, baking, and just spending time with her family.

Peter Character Sketch



The banner features a scenic background of a lake and mountains. On the left is a portrait of Simon Peter. The text 'FaithSpace' is in the top right, 'SIMON PETER' is in the center, and navigation buttons are at the bottom.

FaithSpace

SIMON PETER

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About

Overview

Work

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Holly McCormack

Holly McCormack, of Atlanta, Texas, has been married to her husband Jon for 13 years. They have three children that they homeschool. Lucy 8, Emma 6 and Noah 2. She loves to teach Bible class, decorate on a budget, and crochet.

Introduction to 2 Peter

Outline

1:1-4 - Faithful brethren greeted

1:5-11 - How to stay faithful

1:12-21 - Keep the true doctrine

2:1-3 - False teachers are coming

2:4-14 - Identifying false teachers

2:15-22 - False teachers want you

3:1-13 - God keeps His promises

3:14-18 - Don't be led away

Author

- 2 Peter 1:1 the apostle, Simon Peter
- Critics pick apart the letter to find “inconsistencies,” probably because of the strong condemnation of false teachers in the majority of the book.
- The accusations of forgery do not hold water.
- Remember the part the Holy Spirit played in the writing of the book.

Date and Audience

- 66, 67 A.D. to the same Jewish Christians mentioned in 1 Peter 1:1
- Internal evidence: 2 Peter 3:1 reference to earlier letter and 2 Peter 1:12, 16 shows familiarity with the brethren.
- It was written 1-2 years after 1 Peter, which is generally dated at 64, 65 A.D. and before the death of Nero in A.D. 68.

Purpose of Writing

- So the brethren would be ready to face the false teachers.
- False teachers identified:
 - 2 specific false doctrines mentioned – Denying the Lord and denying the second coming (2:1; 3:4)
 - The way they live their life
 - Despise authority and speak evil of those in authority (2:10)
 - Presumptuous and self-willed (2:10)
 - Live by lusts of the flesh (2:10; 3:3)
 - Hypocrites (2:13)
 - Forsaken the way (2:15)
 - Destructive heresies (2:1)
 - Deceptive words (2:3, 18)
 - Twist scriptures (3:16)
 - Blaspheme the truth (2:2)
 - Scoff those who live by the truth (3:3)
 - They will come from among brethren (2:1, 20)
 - They will target weak Christians and new converts (2:14, 18)
- The key words beware and grow help us understand the purpose.
 - 2 Peter 3:17 Beware: gk. Phyllasso – be on guard, keep an eye on, preserve yourself, escape from, save yourself, keep yourself from being snatched
 - 2 Peter 3:18 Grow: gk. Auxano – increase, grow up, your faith

Lacy Crowell

Lacy Crowell is a native Okie who now lives in Hobbs, NM where her husband, Jonathan, serves as the Associate/Family Minister for the Jefferson St. church of Christ. Jonathan and Lacy are blessed with four precious children which Lacy has the privilege of homeschooling. She serves as the Let It Overflow editor for www.ComeFillYourCup.com in addition to being a regular contributing author. She has been published in Christian Woman Magazine, THINK Magazine, Queenly Quest and Kaio Publications, and has spoken for ladies and teen girls in several states as well as abroad. She has an Associate's Degree in Biblical Studies from the Bear Valley Bible Institute, a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development from Amridge University, and will complete her Master's of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy through Amridge University this December. She is passionate about families and relationships and desires to use her knowledge and experience to help strengthen families in the Lord's church.

2 Peter Chapter 1

I. 1:1-2 - Peter's introduction was specific & intentional. Peter accomplishes 7 specific things in the first 2 sentences of this letter:

1. Begins with "Simeon Peter" in order to _____.
2. Uses the phrase "a servant" in order to _____.
3. "An apostle of Jesus Christ" in order to _____.
4. "God and Savior" in order to _____.
5. "Equal standing" likely referring to _____.
6. "Grace and peace" sets the stage for _____.
7. "In the knowledge of our Lord" reminds them of _____.

II. 1:3-7 The Foundation of Faith

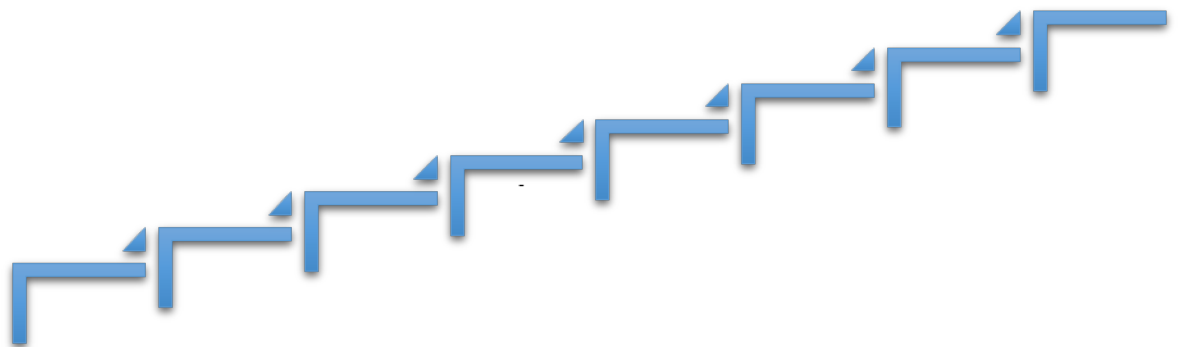
- A. At the end of verse 2 Peter reminded us that grace and peace come from our knowledge of Jesus Christ. He is now continuing that thought by emphasizing that through HIS divine power we have ALL things that pertain to life and Godliness.
 - a. Peter begins by assuring his readers that God has provided for them all that they need. This is a very positive approach to preparing to confront the false teachers and reminding us of what we stand to lose if we turn our back on the gifts that God has given us.
 - i. Do we struggle today with being tempted by things that appear "new" or "enlightened?"
 - b. Life – Literally the process of being on this earth. But God doesn't want us to simply eat, sleep, breathe until we die. He wants us to TRULY live. He wants

us to be happy, have fun, enjoy the world that he created for us, WHILE we glorify him in the process of our living.

- i. Why does God give us rules & expectations?
- ii. Why do we give our own children rules & expectations?
- c. Godliness – Honoring God through our lives.
 - i. Another way of looking at godliness is devotion to God. How do we know when we are devoted to another person?
 - ii. Our devotion to God is no different.
- B. The purpose of God’s promises
 - a. We are partakers of his divine nature THROUGH his promises.
 - b. Because we have ESCAPED the corruptions of our desires.
 - i. This word “escaped” literally means to have fled.
 - ii. This can be one of the hardest parts of Christianity, particularly for new Christians.
 - iii. Peter states that his readers have already done this, they have FLED from the corruption of their desires, yet I believe they are beginning to waiver. They are beginning to question whether or not it was really worth it, to be led astray to an “easier” form of Christianity by false teachers. He is reminding them of how beautiful God’s promises to the faithful are, and of all that is at risk if they stumble.
- C. Building On Our Faith

In this section of Scripture, Peter is building for us a beautiful bridge that will help us span the muddy waters of this world & come out with a stronger faith on the other side, with each step on the bridge building on the one before it.

The Bridge to
Building our
Faith



- a. _____ is foundational to receiving all that God has promised to us. Peter assumes his readers already have a firm conviction (faith) because he starts by telling them to supplement their faith.
 - b. He is preparing them for what they will need to remember to stand against the false teachers: both what is at stake, & what will allow them to identify the faithful from the hypocrisy of the deceivers.
 - c. Faith is a firm conviction, and we can't be convicted by something we have not experienced _____.
 - d. Our faith is the same way. We can't have true faith without experiencing for ourselves what it is like to live it.
 - e. As we see in Hebrews 11, faith must also be active. Abel's faith was SEEN in his _____, Noah's faith was SEEN as he _____. It is not merely a statement that we make before we are baptized, it is what characterizes who we are and all that we do.
 - f. Do we have true faith? Are we convicted? Or are we living off the faith of generations who have gone before us? & are we living our faith out in our daily lives? How is my faith SEEN by those around me?!
- D. Faith is foundational, but the first thing we must add to it is _____.
- E. Our next step is knowledge. The Greek word here is epignosis, which is much stronger than the word typically used, "gnosis."
- F. From here Peter tells us to add self-control.
- a. Self-control is vitally important for the Christian. Self-control, faith, and love are the only virtues consistently listed by both Paul and Peter.
 - b. It is also important to note that achieving self-control is listed as an expectation, NOT as a possibility.
 - c. Ways to improve our self-control:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

4.

5.

G. I don't believe it's any coincidence that steadfastness, or perseverance, comes right after self-control. When we think of self-control we typically think _____ . Perseverance is continually exhibiting self-control.

There are 2 parts to this:

#1.

#2.

H. Next we have godliness. We have already discussed this, but it is basically our frame of mind in how we conduct ourselves.

I. Once we have improved how we conduct ourselves in general, it's time to focus on our relationship with our brethren. The next step is brotherly kindness.

- a. The Greek word is _____.
- b. Galatians 6:10 says, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."
- c. How do we as Christians struggle with this?

J. And finally, as we have crossed those muddy waters of this world and step onto solid ground, we have learned to love, to agape.

- a. We often describe agape as selfless love, which it is, but it is so much more than that.

- b. According to the Complete Word Study Dictionary, God’s agape for us was shown in being willing to give us what we needed, rather than what we wanted.
- c. This does not necessarily jive with our American mentality of love being warm and fuzzy feelings.
- d. How do we see this in our interactions with the world?

- e. How do we see this in our interactions with our brethren?

III. 1:8-11 The Protection of the Foundation

Peter has laid a foundation of virtues for us, & now tells us that IF these qualities are ours and increasing, they will keep us from being ineffective or unfruitful.

- A. First and foremost, we need to note that tiny word _____ that is seen twice in this passage.
- B. This also means, however, that the opposite is true. If _____ then _____.

- C. We also need to discuss what it means to be ineffective or unfruitful.
 - a. Ineffective is the Greek word “*argos*” which literally means to be idle or lazy. This goes back to the use of epignosis for “knowledge,” it isn’t enough for us to simply KNOW what to do, we must actually DO it in order to be pleasing to God!
 - b. Unfruitful can have 2 meanings:
 - 1.

 - 2.

- i. This also ties in to Peter’s coming warning against false teachers. First of all, if an individual is ineffective or unfruitful, they are not a true disciple.
 - ii. Secondly, maintaining the virtues he mentioned earlier will protect them from becoming like those false teachers themselves.
- D. Next Peter states that lacking the virtues from verses 5-7 will make us blind and near-sighted.
 - a. Neither of these words refer to our actual, physical sight, but both are, in the original language, metaphors.
 - i. Peter and I might have had a slight issue if I had been around then, because the word blind refers to our minds and literally means to be ignorant, or stupid (which is a bad word at our house.)
 - ii. Short-sighted here has a connotation of CHOOSING to not see for oneself, almost the idea of choosing to allow our _____ to determine God’s will, rather than actually listening to what God has to say about it.
 - b. What does this near-sightedness or blindness result in?
- E. After this blunt warning, Peter once again encourages us to be diligent.
 - a. Here Peter uses the word “brothers.” He is once again reminding them of both their commonality in Christ, and where his message and authority come from.
 - b. The word “calling” here is beautiful, & literally means an invitation by a King to come into his Kingdom & enjoy all of its privileges.
 - c. Illustration:
- F. All of this goes to show that Christianity is so much more than being able to say the right things or quote the “Steps of Salvation,” (bonus points if you can list a Scripture for each.) Christianity is the entirety of our character, WHO we are from the inside out.

IV. 1:12-15 Be Reminded

- A. The start of this section of Peter’s letter is absolutely heart-wrenching. He begins with, “Therefore, I intend...” However this is once instance in which our English translations do not do full justice to what is being said. The Greek word here is *émellon* and its literal meaning is, “ready to or about to die.”
- B. With his own death looming, Peter is going back to the basics for these brethren. He is reminding them of what they have known from the beginning, because that knowledge, that conviction that led them to obey in the first place, is what will maintain them through all that will come.

- a. Sometimes in the church we overlook the value, the need, of going back to the basics.
- b. Example – Acts 2:38
- C. In verse 15 Peter states, “And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.” While it is natural to assume that when Peter states “these things” he is referring to what he has just finished sharing. However, many church historians believe that it is broader than that, and he is actually referring to all he had seen and heard while with Christ. It is believed that the Gospel of Mark is the fulfillment of this promise. The earliest historical records state that Mark’s gospel account actually came from Peter, as a chronicle of Peter’s time with Jesus, and that Mark was to Peter as Timothy was to Paul.

V. 1:16-21 Peter’s Source and Authority

- A. Peter is responding to an accusation that his teachings were just myths & fables, so to counteract this he recounts a specific time he witnessed the deity of Jesus Christ.
- B. He is referring to the account in Mark 9:7 (the transfiguration) here as both evidence of Jesus Christ and HIS authority, and of Peter’s own authority as an apostle of Christ. In this section Peter offers 3 affirmations for the authenticity of his message:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- C. If we look at Verses 3:3-10 when taken into account it appears that one of the false teachings Peter is combating is that Jesus was not going to return again. Therefore when Peter says, “The power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” he is actually referring to Jesus’ second coming, not his first. The “power” that Peter speaks of, which Jesus evidenced while on earth, is also evidence that he will return again just as he said he would.
- D. What is “the prophetic word” in this context?

- E. We can't conclude this lesson without speaking to verse 21. Peter clearly says that Scripture is NOT the work of man, but rather the work of God as the Holy Spirit carried them. The word "carried" here is "*phérō*" which means "to be in charge of, directed by." This means that the Holy Spirit was in charge of, and directing, all that these men recorded for us. The application for us is this: If what was written was not the will of man, but the will of God, then it needs to be used and applied as such. We do not have the luxury or privilege of deciding how to interpret Scripture, that is what Peter referred to as short-sightedness and blindness. It is our job as Christians to gain a true knowledge of God's word, which means studying it as He intended, rather than as we desire.

REFERENCES

Warden, D. (2009). *1 & 2 Peter And Jude, Truth for Today Commentary: An Exegesis & Application of the Holy Scriptures*. Searcy, AR: Resource Publications.

Zodhiates, S. (2000). *The complete word study dictionary: New Testament* (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

Chelli Guthrie

Chelli (pronounced Shelly) Guthrie has been married for 14 years to Luke Guthrie, the pulpit minister at the Abell Street church of Christ in Wharton, TX. She homeschools their three children: Grace (age 12), Sophia (age 9), and Levi (age 6). Chelli grew up in Arkansas in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains north of Russellville. She graduated from Arkansas Tech University in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in secondary education. In her free time she blogs at www.theplantedtrees.com about homeschooling, enjoys reading, studying God's word, writing, cooking, and traveling.

2 Peter Chapter 2

Don't Say I Didn't Warn You (verses 1-10a)

Verse 1:

- *False prophets*
 - a problem throughout the Old Testament, but especially Jeremiah and Ezekiel (Jer. 23:10)
 - Predicted by Jesus (Matt. 7:15-23)
- *Secretly*
 - Word that's used is in reference to a spy or traitor
 - Under the cover of true doctrine, but chipping away little by little at the truth
- *Destructive heresies*
 - Literally "opinions of destruction", aka sit around and say what you think the verse means
 - Result of heresy:
 - Destroys the church
 - destroys the message
 - destroys those who teach and those who follow
- *Denying the Master who bought them*
 - These were Christians who had fallen away (calling Jesus Master and being bought) No Calvinism here!
 - Possibly the heresy was a denial of Christ's deity (1:16-18), but not given more information.
- *Swift destruction*
 - Not soon, but when it happens, it will happen quickly so you cannot escape

Verse 2:

- *Many will follow*
 - The vast majority of people will fall in with error and immorality because it is easier to indulge than practice self-control.
 - The right thing is always the more difficult thing.

- *Sensuality*
 - One who lives with no restraints (1 Peter 4:3)
 - People often evaluate truth based on the character of the one speaking
- *The way of truth will be blasphemed*
 - Not abstract ideas, but a set of doctrines to be followed
 - Christians are held to a higher standard even by non-believers
 - The church is continually characterized by the worst among us.

Verse 3:

- *Their greed*
 - Making money is part of the motivation
 - Freedom from morality + emotional excitement – truth + popularity = money
- *Condemnation is not idle, destruction is not asleep*
 - Personification at its best!
 - It's going down even if it looks like God's not paying attention.

Verses 4-8:

- *The example of sinning angels.*
 - Not meant to be information about angels, but about God's judgement.
 - Could possibly reference the events of Genesis 6:1-4 or fall of Satan from heaven
 - "hell" is Tartarus in the Greek. Part of the underworld where the Titans, fallen immortals, were held.
- *Noah and his generation.*
 - Only place Noah is called a preacher. The sins of Noah's generation bothered him as well.
 - God only rescued the godly, but punished all the wicked.
- *Sodom and Gomorrah*
 - One of the most referenced events in the Bible to show God's judgment (Deut. 29:23, 32:32; Is. 1:9-10, 3:9, 13:19; Jer. 23:14, 49:18, 50:40; Lam. 4:6; Ezek. 16:46-56; Amos 4:11; Zeph. 2:9).
 - Now destruction by fire versus water with Noah (3:7).
- *Deliverance of Lot*
 - Three times Lot is referenced as righteous in these verses (no obvious in the Genesis account)

- Lot is not perfect (neither was Noah), but he was rescued by God instead of being condemned
- Lessons to learn:
 - God judges the ungodly and delivers the faithful
 - Christians must not compromise with sin or they will share the judgement too.

Verse 9:

- *Rescue the godly from trials*
 - Trial of Noah and Lot is being surrounded by evil and wickedness
 - Not everyone will be able to resist this trial or temptation
 - Deliverance from sin will always cost us something (Noah, the labor of building, Lot, his wife and possessions)
- *Under punishment until the day of judgement*
 - Being punished now or not until the future, doesn't matter. Their punishment is certain.

Verse 10a:

- *Indulge in the lust of defiling passions*
 - Literally those who go after the flesh with desire of defilement
 - Wording is talking about homosexuality
- *Despise authority*
 - Not obeying God or possibly the apostles' teaching
 - 2 main categories of sin: immoral and disobedience. Example: Adam and Eve in the garden, not a moral sin, but disobedience.

That These Enslaved Animals

Verse 10b:

- *Bold and willful*
 - Full of pride, no humility
 - Do what we want as long as we're happy
 - Shameless and irreverent boldness
- *Blaspheme the glorious ones*
 - Tons of variations in the translation

- Literally “blaspheme the glories” = rare word usage in the plural.
- Possibly refer to celestial beings or illustrious people
- In this context, most likely church leadership including the apostles (Eph. 2:20).

Verse 11:

- *Angels though greater in might and power*
 - Than whom? Than these false teachers.
- *Pronounce a blasphemous judgement against them*
 - Against whom? “the glories” (previous verse)
 - Fools rush in where angels dare to tread.
 - False teachers blaspheme church leadership, but angels wouldn’t dare.

Verse 12:

- *Irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed*
 - They are so bad they’ve become like rabid animals who can’t help themselves.
 - You cannot reason with them because they are too headstrong. Savage beasts who only respond to force.
 - There are times to reason away false teachings, but these guys have crossed that line.
 - Solidified rebellion
- *Be destroyed in their destruction*
 - In both places, it literally means corruption.

Verse 13:

- *Suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing*
 - No one gets away with sin, not even in this life.
 - The full force is actually suffering hurt for the hurt inflicted.
 - Numbers 32:23
 - Sin is its own punishment.
- *Revel in the daytime*
 - No shame; don’t care who sees
 - Sin is no less sinful if done at night, but could indicate one with a soft heart who knows they are doing wrong and is ashamed
- *Blots and blemishes*
 - Disgrace to Christ’s body

- *Reveling in their deceptions*
 - Chiding readers for not exposing and separating from them.
 - “deceptions” could be translated “love feasts”
 - Idea is that accepting them in fellowship is accepting their sin and false teachings

Verse 14:

- *Eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin*
 - Literally “eyes full of an adulteress”
 - Only look at women as sexual gratification to be used and dismissed
 - So wrapped up in sin, they cannot stop
- *Entice unsteady souls*
 - To catch with bait (James 1:14)
 - New Christian or weak Christians are in jeopardy
 - Spreads throughout congregations until the church condones sinful behavior
- *Hearts trained in greed*
 - Word “trained” is the Greek word we get “gymnasium” from
 - Not a sudden fall into sin
 - Sex and money were the main motivation then and now.

Verse 15:

- *Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray*
 - Were once Christians, but now fallen away. No Calvinism!
 - Not enough to have faith and be baptized, you MUST live it.
- *Followed the way of Balaam*
 - His story begins in Numbers 22
 - Perfect example
 - Balaam was swayed from being a prophet of God by money and power
 - Balaam encouraged Balak to entice the Israelites into idolatry and sexual immorality (Num. 25:1-9 and Num. 31:16)
 - Not a Jew, but followed God.
 - Made prophecies, including one about the Messiah (Num. 24:17)
 - Ultimately known as a traitor, not a prophet.

Verse 16:

- *A speechless donkey spoke*
 - Contrast to the “irrational animals” in verse 12
 - Donkey shows more sense than Balaam and these false teachers
- *Restrained the prophet’s madness*
 - Balaam really repented at this point
 - He did what God wanted
 - BUT, he couldn’t stay away from the money so he turned from God in the end.
 - His “madness” is choosing to disobey God for earthly gain.

Will Destroy Themselves and All Who Follow

Verse 17:

- *Waterless springs and mists driven by a storm*
 - Promise everything, but give nothing
 - Springs full of water in the spring, but dry up in the summer
 - Clouds that seem full of rain, but give none
 - We are loving and trusting, but must be ready to ask hard questions of those teaching and leading in the church (1 John 4:1; Acts 20:30)
 - Don’t judge on first impressions, but wait for the other shoe to drop.

Verse 18:

- *Speaking loud boasts of folly*
 - A good speaker is a blessing to the church, but false teachers will also be gifted with
 - The combination of a good speaker appealing to your baser nature is a difficult combination to resist
 - “speaking” = loud bombastic oratory empty of meaning.
- *Entice by sensual passions*
 - Entice again means to bait (v. 14)
 - The bait hides the deadly hook.
 - Sensual or appealing to fleshly desires

Verse 19:

- *Promise freedom, but they are slaves of corruption*
 - Echo of Paul in Romans 6:16 and Jesus in John 8:34
 - Freedom is only found in Jesus and following him (John 8:32-33; Gal. 5:1)
 - Slavery of choice, not force.
- *Whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved*
 - Deep insight for a fisherman!
 - Reference to addiction
 - Messing with sin can send you into a slavery that you don't even know how to escape
 - Sex, drugs, alcohol, greed, gambling, etc.
 - Jesus gives us commands to help us not ruin our fun.

Verse 20:

- *After they have escaped the defilements of the world*
 - These are the things that have made them slaves
 - “defilements” is only found here in the entire New Testament and refers to shameful deeds that are destructive to self and others
- *They are again entangled in them and overcome*
 - Could refer to either the false teachers or the spiritual babes who they have led astray
 - Again, these are Christians who have fallen away. No Calvinism!
- *The last state has become worse for them than the first*
 - Before they became Christians, they were lost. Now after becoming Christians and falling away, they will be punished more severely than those who had fewer opportunities to come to God.
 - Luke 12:48, Hebrews 6:4; Matthew 12:43-45

Verse 21:

- *For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness*
 - This verse implies that these false teachers once had the full knowledge of Christ.
 - They were faithful and dedicated teachers of God's word at one point.

- They were not pretenders or merely enlightened. They were full members of the body of Christ.
- *After knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment*
 - This is the instruction including the commands and demands that are required of a Christian when it comes to holy living.
 - Peter specifically uses the word commandment here to contrast the “freedom” promised by the false teachers.
 - God’s commands are not in place merely to prove our loyalty, but for our good (Deut. 6:24; 1 John 5:3).
 - Once you have known the goodness, forgiveness, and mercy of God, and then turn back to sin, you are even more hardened in sin than you were before you became a Christian because you have consciously chosen sin over God.
 - It will be very difficult, almost impossible, to reach them again with the gospel.
- *Delivered to them*
 - The message of Christ, the gospel, must be delivered from person to person, generation to generation, parents to children, friend to friend.
 - There is no other method to hear the gospel than for the church to share it. That is our only mission on earth.

Verse 22:

- *The dog returns to his own vomit*
 - Original saying found in Proverbs 26:11.
- *The sow to wallow in the mire*
 - Proverb that was known among the Hellenistic Jews because both animals, dogs and pigs, were unclean.
 - It’s not a pretty sight when a Christian chooses to leave the faith for a life of sin.

Application Questions:

As faithful Christians, Peter would say we have right and duty to confront those in the church who are teaching untruth. He wants to enlist us to stand for truth. Can you think of a time when you stood for truth? A time when you should have?

What are some false doctrines you see taught in the church? In the greater Christian world? How would Peter say we should combat those?

Christians are a free people who are to live within the constraints God has determined. Peter talks about being overcome by sin and thus enslaved by it. Have you ever been enslaved by a sin? Are you enslaved now? How difficult is it to get out of an addiction to sin even if you want to (Ecclesiastes 8:8b)?

One of the main points Peter wants to make in this chapter is that sin will always get a firmer hold on you each time you venture into its shadow. Like dragging a cotton ball over a pin, small strands of cotton will be left behind until nothing is left. Sin does that to us by making us a little less sensitive to goodness and God. Many times people play around with sin thinking that at any point, they can walk away until they find that they no longer want to or they can't. Have you seen an example of this in your own life or in the life of someone you know?

Kathryn Baker

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2 Peter Chapter 3

Overview:

II Peter is structured like a sandwich. Warnings sandwiched between reminders.

- **Chapter 1** – Reminder: Christians need to grow the way they ought.
- **Chapter 2** – Warning: Dangerous false teachers will come into the body.
- **Chapter 3** – Warning: Scoffers are coming to mock Christians and their beliefs.
Followed by Reminder: Look forward to the coming of “the day of the Lord” (3:10).

Chapter 3:

As most good preachers and teachers will do, Peter address the three questions that we all commonly ask ourselves (often unknowingly) when anyone is speaking to/addressing us.

- 1) **What?** - What is the information that you have to share with me? Scoffers are coming to try to undermine the word of God (vv. 1-7).
- 2) **So What?** - How does this information impact me? God hasn’t forgotten His promises. The day of the Lord is coming, and that will impact everyone. (vv. 8-10)
- 3) **Now What?** - What should I do with this information? Live holy and blameless and growing as a Christian should (vv. 11-18).

This chapter is centered on **the promises of God. They are so important to having a steadfast and firm faith. Thus, the promises of God become a backdrop for the discussion of these things in 2 Peter 3.

I. Think On His Promises (vv. 1-2)

“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,”

a) What is the purpose for writing?

- Beloved - ἀγαπητός - agapētos -esteemed, dear, worthy of love
- Stir up – διεγείρω - diegeirō - wake up, arouse
- Mind – διάνοια- dianoia – deep thoughts, understanding
- Reminder - ὑπόμνησις- hypomnēsis – recollection

Peter deeply loves these Christians. Nearing the end of his life, he writes both 1 & 2 Peter to remind them of the commandments that they have already been taught. This isn't a mere suggestion for consideration, it is a wake-up call! This is of the utmost importance, and Christians really need to understand this. He draws attention to the words God has spoken. Have any of His prophecies, promises, counsels, or commandments failed at any time? God has proven trustworthy and Christians must be aware that His chosen spokesmen in the apostles will not lead them wrong.

b) *Mark Your Bible*

Beloved – 3:1, 3:8, 3:14, 3:17

Reminder words - 3:1, 3:2, 3:5, 3:8

II. Scoffers Will Mock His Promise (vv. 3-7)

“3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

a) Who are these scoffers?

Definitions:

Scoffer:

- ἐμπαίκτης empaiktēs – mocker, derider, and by implication, a false teacher - Strongs
- *Noun*- an expression of mockery, derision, doubt, or derisive scorn; jeer. – dictionary.com
- *“A proud and haughty man— “Scoffer” is his name; He acts with arrogant pride.”* - Proverbs 21:24
- *“A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise.”* – Proverbs 15:12

Characteristics:

- It could be that these scoffers are related to the same false teachers who were warned against in chapter 2. What we find is where false teaching is present, there are often the same character sins (See Gal. 5:19-21).
- They walked according to their own lusts. (v. 3)

- Outspoken against God (v. 4)
- These men obviously knew something about God and His promises. (v. 4)
 - Perhaps Jews and/or fallen away Christians
- They willfully chose to forget the past evidence of his faithfulness (v. 5)
- They ultimately discounted the power of God's word
 - By God's word, the earth (both land and sea) were created (v. 5)
 - By God's word, the earth was destroyed with water in the flood (v. 6)
 - By God's word, the earth will be destroyed in the future with fire (v. 7)

b) *Mark Your Bible*

Word of God/Word/Promises/Commandment – 3:2 (2x), 3:4, 3:5, 3:7, 3:9, 3:13

- You might specifically highlight the word promise to emphasize the theme.

Heart Check: Am I like those scoffers?

- Am I humbly willing to accept correction (Prov. 15:12)?
 - Do I willingly forget God's precepts? - "I know what the Bible says, but I deserve some happiness."
 - Do I, by my actions, scoff at God's promise of the coming judgement? - "I know there are some changes that I need to make in my life, I'll get around to it one day."
-

III. God Has Not Forgotten His Promise (vv. 8-10)

"8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is 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 toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

****** We often study this section of chapter 3 in isolation concerning the characteristics of the end of the world. But, the context flows straight from our first section. He's addressing the day of the Lord because that is exactly the *promise* that these false teachers were mocking!

Field Trip: Theistic Evolution (vs 8)

Theistic Evolutionists or Old Earth Creationists often use this verse to substantiate that the six days of creation were periods of years rather than literal 24 hour days. Consider these brief arguments, and for more information visit apologeticspress.org.

- The context of this verse has nothing to do with the creation of the world and everything to do with the end of it.
- The literary device used here is a simile, not a formula for a mathematical ratio.
- The Hebrew language of Genesis 1 was advanced enough in vocabulary to specify a variation of time had that been case. However, the word for day and the further detail of “evening and morning” give confirmation that they were, in fact, 24 hour periods of time.

a) What characteristics of God do we see in this passage?

- His timeline is not our own. (v. 8)
- (Not) Slack - βραδύνω bradýnō - to delay, to render slowly (v. 9)
- Longsuffering - μακροθυμέω makrothyméō – long of spirit, not to lose heart, to be mild and slow in avenging, patient (v. 9)
- Love – it is not His intention that *any* of us should be lost. He desperately wants us to do what is right. (v. 9)
- God has a plan and it will be executed (v. 10)

b) What details are given about the day of the Lord? (v. 10)

- It will come unannounced, like a thief
- There will be a loud noise
- It will be hot
- All that is physical will melt and burn

Cross reference I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 1:7-10

c) *Mark Your Bible*

Will (verb) phrases – 3:10 (4x), 3:11

Heart Check: How am I prepared for the end?

- Do I cringe at the thought of my material/physical possessions one day burning up?
- Do I eagerly anticipate the Lord’s return? Is my heart prepared to be opened like a book before the Lord at judgement? Or are there things in my life that I’d rather He not see?

- Do I champion the longsuffering of the Lord because I have loved ones that are lost?
What am I doing to reach them with the time that remains?
-

IV. Trust in His Promise (vv. 11-18a)

“11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

a) What characteristics should be evident in the life of a Christian?

- **Holiness** – purity/set apartness in speech and behavior (v. 11)
 - Where would these Christians have read extensively about holiness? – I Peter
 - **Godliness** – σπεύδω speúdō - a reverence toward God. (v. 11)
 - Living in holiness because you understand that God means what He says.
 - **Eager anticipation of the 2nd coming.** (v. 12,14)
 - Looking for - προσδοκάω prosdokáō – hope filled with expectation
 - Hastening – σπεύδω speúdō –to urge, eagerly await
 - **Diligence**- σπουδάζω spoudázō – prompt and earnest effort, not half-hearted following (v. 14)
 - **Peace** - εἰρήνη eirēnē – harmonious relationship between men and God(v. 14)
 - **Purity** - ἄσπιλος áspilos – without spot, ἀμώμητος amómētos – blameless (v. 14)
 - **Patience** (v. 15)
 - The longer (to us) the Lord waits, the more opportunity others (and ourselves) have for salvation
 - **Steadfastness** - στηριγμός stērigmós - stability (v. 17)
-

Field Trip: New Heaven and New Earth (v. 13)

Some religious groups like to presume just exactly what this new heaven and new earth will be like. The fact is, we really don't know much about it. Here are some things we do know:

- When Christ comes back there will be “times of restoration” (Acts 3:21).
- When Christ comes back, following the judgment, the new heavens and new earth will be revealed (II Pet. 3:13; Rev. 22:1-2).
- The righteous will dwell in the new heavens and earth (II Peter 3:13).
- The new heavens and new earth are eternal (Isa 66:22)
- It will be so wonderful in the new heavens and new earth that this old earth won't come to mind (Isa 65:17ff). *Isaiah might have been speaking/prophesying of a dual-fulfillment with the change from the Jewish law to the Christian law. Certainly it squares with how Peter and John speak of heaven from this earth.*
- The new heavens and new earth are a specially prepared place where God will dwell with His people (Rev 21:1-4).

b) What characteristics should be guarded against?

- Ignorance - ἀμαθής amathés – untaught, unlearned (v. 16)
- Instability - ἀστήρικτος astérikτος – vacillating, unfixed (v. 16)
- Perversion of the scriptures - στρεβλόω streblóō – twist (v. 16)
- Following error (v. 17)

c) *Mark Your Bible*

Use contrasting colors or circles/underlines to mark the godly characteristics vs. ungodly

d) How can ungodliness and falling from steadfastness be guarded against? (v. 18)

- Grow - αὐξάνω auxánō– increase, mature
- Grace - χάρις cháris – good will, unmerited favor, gratitude/thankfulness
- Knowledge - γνῶσις gnosis – understanding, wisdom

** Jesus grew physically, and he also grew in wisdom(sophia) and favor (cháris)with God and man! – Luke 2:52 If our aim is to be like Him, we will give diligence to growing ourselves!

Heart Check: How am I growing?

- Has my Bible knowledge increased from this time last year?
 - Am I better able to discern, avoid, and resist temptations that come my way?
 - Is there evidence of bearing fruit in my life?
 - As a result of increased knowledge and deeper understanding of what the Lord has done for me, do I have deeper gratitude and appreciation toward Him? Do I tell Him? Do I tell others?
-

V. A Final Promise (v. 18b)

“To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

In a final doxology (praise of God), Peter reiterates that God will receive glory both now and forever. Looking over the past section, particularly, Peter’s desire is that these Christians live in such a way that God is glorified through them here and now. Ultimately, God will be gloried by all of us, regardless of how we’ve lived at the end of the age. How much better it is for us to honor Him in obedience now, so that can continue to glorify him throughout eternity.

Mark your Bible

II Peter 3 (NKJV)

³ Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, ³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.” ⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶ by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* 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 toward us, ¹⁰ not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

TLC Retreat Survey

Help us make the Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat even better next year! Give us your thoughts...

Using a 0-10 scale (0 = worst, 10 = best):

1. Overall, how would you rate the TLC Retreat? _____
2. Was it a good value for the price paid? _____
3. Were your expectations for the weekend met? _____
4. Overall, how would you rate the location / accommodations? _____
5. Overall, how would you rate the speakers? _____
6. Did the speakers meet your expectations? _____
7. How well would you say the Bible was taught / expanded on? _____

Give a brief answer:

8. Who would you suggest as a future speaker? _____
9. Did you enjoy a "book" study? What other Bible book or topic would you suggest?

10. Would you come again next year? _____
11. Would you recommend TLC to a friend? _____
12. How would it affect you if TLC was in another part of the state (any other location/camp suggestions)? _____
13. What was your favorite part of the TLC Retreat?

14. What was your least favorite part of the TLC Retreat?

15. Use the back of this form to give us any other comments or suggestions you may have.