

2 Peter

Chapter One

2nd Peter was written around the end of Peter's earthly life. around 65-68 A.D. The book of 1st Peter dealt with persecution that arises from those outside the church. 2nd Peter deals more with false teachers and evil doers who've tried to plant themselves within the church. Peter calls for Christian growth and need for spiritual authority. He speaks about the coming judgment and the characteristics of the coming end time as we wait on the certainty of Christ's earthly return.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter One

SUMMARY: Verses 1-21

1. Simon Peter refers to himself as a servant and an apostle of Jesus. Make a note that to Peter the calling of a servant was as great matter indeed. Everything God would call you to starts out first in the role of a servant.
2. Faith is not just a set of beliefs. Faith is RIGHTEOUSNESS by Jesus Christ. Salvation can never be separated from righteousness.
3. Godliness doesn't just come through good works. Godliness comes through a knowledge of Jesus. We are not only godly by good deeds alone. We are godly by relationship with Jesus and in knowledge of Him.
4. God is not after a stagnant religion. He desires your life to participate with His life. It's in this participation of your life being intertwined with His that we find freedom from worldly and evil desires that corrupt us.
5. Faith is dynamic. Your faith is to grow and increase. God doesn't want you living unproductive and ineffective. Because you are called of God you are to manifest certain Christian virtues that keep your life grounded.
6. To live unproductive and not increase in faith is to live nearsighted and blind to the work Christ has accomplished.
7. It's good to call to remembrance God's truths. It's how you become firmly established in your faith. You can't just casually handle God's Word in your life and expect to remain stable in your faith.
8. Peter assures them that the stories of Jesus are not fairy tales and fables. He reminds them that he was an eye witness of Jesus' earthly life and resurrection. Peter intimates that this Jesus, who calls Himself the Son of God, is in fact who He says He is. The prophets of the Old Testament prophesied Christ's coming. It happened exactly as foretold. This, says Peter, is proof that both Jesus and Scripture are divine in nature.
9. Peter brings them to the importance and certainty of Scripture. Scripture is not just some man-made writings about Jesus and God. He assures his readers that Scripture is divinely inspired, a God thought process, and a Spirit led endeavor. He proves such by stating that Scripture is certain because it foretold of Christ's coming.
10. Our Scripture, that which we call the Bible, is a divine book. It's not of human origin but a supernatural God origin.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out to you most?
2. Why do you think Peter viewed servanthood so highly?
3. Explain this phrase: Salvation can never be separated from righteousness in Jesus Christ.
4. What do you think Peter meant when he said we could 'participate in the divine nature'?
5. How could our Bible prove that Jesus was not a fairy tale?

APPLICATION

1. How do you make sure you are consistently serving other people?
2. What area of your life could be more productive and effective for God?
3. How could you practically share and prove to people that Jesus is not a fable or fairy tale?
4. How could you implement the Scripture being more certain in your life?
5. How do you practically participate in the divine nature of God?

