

SECOND PETER

A.D. 64-68

Key Word: Remembrance

PLAIN SENSE PARAPHRASE

MAY 6, 2017

CHAPTER ONE

This letter is from Simon Peter, a voluntary slave-for-life and apostle of Jesus Christ.

I am writing to you who share the same precious salvation we have - salvation that comes not through our good works, but through the righteousness of God our Savior, Jesus Christ.

2 May you experience more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

Exhortation to Grow in the Spiritual Life

3 God, by his divine power, has given us everything we need to be saved and to live a godly life. We received all of it by believing in Jesus as our Savior - the one who called us to future glory and present virtue. 4 And it is by believing the many great and precious promises He has given us in His Word that we are able to grow more like him in our behavior and escape the world's decadence caused by sinful desires. 5 Since God has given us everything we need, make every effort to mature spiritually.

These will be the steps of your spiritual maturing:

The first step is faith - learning to really trust God and His Word.

The next is a desire to align with God in your life.

And to align with God, you will have to get to know Him better by learning about Him in His Word, the Bible.

The more you desire to honor God by aligning with Him, the more you'll discover the need for self-control.

Then you'll find that, despite your best efforts, it takes time and patience and endurance to change some of your old habits.

But, gradually, your behavior will become consistently godly.

When that happens, your focus will shift from yourself to others, and you'll begin to be more concerned about being a blessing to others around you.

You'll know you've finally grown up spiritually when God's love for others directs your thoughts, words, and actions.

8 If you move forward along this path of spiritual maturity, you will not be fruitless as a Christian, but, instead, your relationship to the Lord will produce plenty of good fruit. 9 Anyone who doesn't mature spiritually like this is still in darkness regarding how to live in this world, is short-sighted about the coming Rapture, and has forgotten what it means to be saved.

10 So, dear brothers and sisters, instead, be careful to show that you are truly saved. If you continue to seek after this kind of spiritual maturity, you need not worry about losing your salvation, 11 and God will welcome you warmly into Heaven.

12 This is important, so I will never stop reminding you about these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught. 13 And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you while I am still on this earth with you, 14 for our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly

life. 15 So, I am working hard to make sure you don't forget these things after I am gone, and turn from your faith in Jesus.

16 For we were not making up clever fables when we told you about the birth and miracles of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes, 17 when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice, originating from a cloud of brilliant light, said "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." 18 We heard that voice from heaven with our own ears when we were with him on that holy mountain, Mt. Hermon.

19 But, even though we were eye-witnesses of these things, we have even *more* confidence in the writings of the Old Testament prophets who prophesied about Jesus. We advise you to pay close attention to what they wrote about Him. Their words about Jesus are like lamps that bring light to dark places — they can bolster your faith in Jesus, help you learn more about Him, and help you grow in your relationship to Him. Study the Old Testament carefully until you fully understand all they said about Jesus. As you do so, it will be like the morning light which dispels all of the darkness, as your confidence in the truth about the Morning Star (Christ) fills your hearts and minds with light concerning Him.

20 Keep in mind that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, 21 or from human initiative. No, everything the Old Testament prophets wrote was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

2 PETER 2

Warning Against False Teachers

But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Jesus who died to redeem them. In this way, they will, one day, bring swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their unbiblical teaching and shameful immorality. And because of

teachers like these, Christianity will be discredited. 3 In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money.

The Destruction of False Teachers

But God condemned such behavior long ago, and sooner or later they will be destroyed.

4 For God didn't even spare the angels who sinned. He threw them, bound in chains, into the darkness of hell [*Gk: Tartarus - a place of permanent confinement for fallen angels*], until the day of judgment.

5 And God didn't spare the entire ancient civilization—except for Noah - an example to the world of righteous living - and the seven members of his family. God destroyed the rest of that ungodly civilization with the flood.

6 God, also, condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes, as an example of what will happen to anybody who lives ungodly lives as they did.

7 But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick at heart of the deplorable immorality of the wicked people around him. 8 Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day.

9 So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.

A Description of False Teachers

10 God is especially hard on those who follow their own perverted sexual desires, and who hate to be governed. These people are arrogant and obstinate, with no fear of vilifying elected officials. 11

Whereas, the angels, who are far greater in power and strength, are never disrespectful in talking about earthly officials to the Lord.

12 The false teachers we were speaking about earlier — no better than wild animals, born to be trapped and killed — scoff at things they are ignorant about, and like animals, they will be destroyed in their ungodliness. 13 Their destruction is their reward for the harm they have done. They love to indulge in evil pleasures — in broad daylight! They are a disgrace and a stain among you. They delight in deception even as they eat with you in your weekly fellowship meals. 14 They commit adultery with their eyes, and their desire for sin is never satisfied. They lure unstable people into sin, and they are well trained in greed. They live under God’s curse. 15 They have wandered off the right road and followed the footsteps of Balaam son of Beor, who loved to earn money by doing wrong. 16 But at least Balaam was stopped from his mad course when his donkey rebuked him with a human voice.

17 These people are as useless as dried-up springs or as mist blown away by the wind. They are doomed to blackest darkness.

The Victims of False Teachers

18 They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With an appeal to the flesh, they lure back into sin those who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception. 19 They promise “freedom”, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For we are slaves to whatever controls us. 20 And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before. 21 It would be better if they had never known the way of righteousness than to know it and then reject the command they were given to live a holy life. 22 They prove the truth of this proverb: “A dog returns to its vomit.” [*Proverbs 26:11*] And another says, “A washed pig returns to the mud.”

The Warning Concerning the Second Coming

This is my second letter to you, dear friends, and in both of them I have tried to stimulate your wholesome thinking and refresh your memory. 2 I want you to remember what the holy prophets said long ago and what our Lord and Savior commanded through us, the apostles.

3 Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. 4 They will say, "What about the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created."

5 They refuse to believe that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and that he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. 6 Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. 7 And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

Concerning the Lord's Return

8 But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. [*Psalm 90:4*]

9 The Lord isn't being irresponsible about his promise, as some people think He is. No, he is being patient for our sakes. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to turn from their sin and turn to Him to be saved.

10 Someday, the Day of the Lord - The Great Tribulation - will come upon people like these as unexpectedly as a thief. On that day, the heavens will be consumed with a terrible noise, and the very

elements themselves will explode, and the earth and everything on it will be burned up.

Believers' Lifestyle in View of Coming Judgment

11 Knowing that the sin-filled world around us is going to be destroyed in this way, **what holy and godly lives we should be living**, 12 as we anticipate this judgement day, and rapidly approach its arrival — the day when God will burn up the heavens! and the very elements will explode! 13 But, even though we know this is going to happen, we look beyond it, counting on God's promise to make new heavens and a new earth — a world of righteousness.

Concluding Exhortations

14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, **do your best to live the kind of lives He will approve — sinless and blameless**.

15 And keep in mind that our Lord's restraint gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him— 16 speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are unsaved and untrustworthy have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture, which will result in their own destruction.

A Final Warning

17 You already know these things, dear friends. **So be on guard, so you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing**. 18 Rather, you must grow in coning with Christ and in trusting Him to live His life through you.

All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.