

## 2 Peter

### Summary

Second Peter is a very short book with an important message. The primary purpose of this writing was to stop people from claiming to be Christians while sabotaging Christian ethics and doctrine. If they did not stop, the Christian faith itself would be at risk. After being saved, these people began to live and teach in a way that uncovered their true motives. In any case, they denied the future coming of Christ, a future judgment, prophetic texts, all the while, seeing their own distorted agenda as the path to freedom. Second Peter is an intense effort to stop their perversion of the truth that we know is found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Author

The book of 2 Peter has been attributed to the apostle Peter because the greeting of the letter identifies the writer.

### Date

Second Peter was written toward the end of Peter's life, prior to his death in A.D. 68. Though many scholars disagree on the date of this book, the date is most likely close to A.D. 65-68.

### Primary Characters

Peter (2 Peter 1)

False Teachers (2 Peter 2)

Growing Christians (2 Peter 3)

Paul and His Letters (2 Peter 3)

## Historical Moments

Peter Reminds the Readers of the Evidence Pointing to Jesus Being the Fulfillment of Prophecy and How Our Calling Reflects that Truth (2 Peter 1)

Peter Warns Against False Teaching (2 Peter 2)

Peter Confirms the Hope Found by Holding On to Jesus (2 Peter 3)

## Major Theological Themes

**Salvation Through Jesus** - We have everything we need in the salvation and love of Jesus Christ, including the assurance of being with Him forever in His eternal kingdom. It is important that we remind ourselves, and each other, of these truths frequently. When we fully realize the sin that is in our nature and the fact that it is impossible to reconcile through human perfection, we can truly comprehend the power of God's grace. Grace is being loved by God and doing absolutely nothing to earn it; it is His free gift of love to us.

**God Abhors False Teaching** - While Jesus had warned that false teachers would come, 2 Peter confirms they are amongst believers and actively attempting to guide them away from the truth. These false teachers are slaves to depravity, adultery, greed, and more. Powerful warnings are needed. The danger presented in following their false teachings is severe; the turning of one's back on God Himself. Throughout the Bible, it is made very clear that there will be very severe consequences for those who lead believers astray through false teaching.

**Suffering for Christ** - The Lord is patient and eager for all to come to repentance, not wanting any to perish. If we remain faithful to Him through suffering and vigilant against false teaching, our rewards will be great. We will live with God forever in the new heaven and earth, where righteousness dwells.

## Lessons Learned from 2 Peter

**We Are Saved by Grace** - Remembering our sin daily gives us a sense of constant conviction. While that can be overwhelming, we are not condemned to that place. God has given us the new covenant of grace, with unmerited favor and salvation through Jesus. We remember our sin, and then we remember and accept His gift of grace that covers sin. Our hearts melt at the realization of how great this kind of love is. Ideally, this would lead us to offer that same kind of love for others.

**Stand Firm in Faith** - We must constantly be on guard. There were false teachers in the time of 2 Peter, and there are countless false teachers today. They stand ready to lead us in many directions, all which lead away from the truth that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and that all come to the Father through Him. Any other teaching is evil and dangerous.

**Confidence in Our Future** - The day of the Lord is coming. In anticipation of this truth, we must live holy lives, as we cannot know the exact time of His coming. We must be ready every minute of every day. Therein lies our hope. When we cling to Jesus, we have it all. We have Him living in us now and we will have eternity with Him.