

# The Second Letter from PETER

**G**reetings, to all of you who have received the same incredibly precious assurances of eternal life that we have, thru faith in the morally right means made available to us thru our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

This is from Simon Peter, a servant and messenger of Jesus Christ.

<sup>2</sup>May God's many undeserved blessings, and peace of both mind and conscience, be very real in your lives in multiplied ways, as you consider the knowledge God has given you of Himself and of Jesus our Lord.

## *Making Sure of Eternal Life*

<sup>3</sup>By His supernatural power, God has given us everything we need in order to live, and to live a life that is truly pleasing to Him. And it's by our coming to a definite understanding of God's call to us<sup>a</sup> by means of His glory<sup>b</sup> and moral excellence<sup>c</sup> that we are now able to live a holy life.

<sup>4</sup>In fact, all of God's great and precious promises have been given to us by means of His glory<sup>b</sup> and moral excellence.<sup>c</sup> And God has given us these great promises so that, as we seriously consider their end result, we may be so greatly encouraged and challenged by them that we become part-takers of His divine nature, and thereby escape the corruptions in the world that are caused by evil desires.

<sup>5</sup>For that reason, you must be very diligent about adding moral excellence to your faith; and to moral excellence, add knowledge.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>6</sup>To knowledge, add self-control; to self-control,

perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness.

<sup>7</sup>To godliness add brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

<sup>8</sup>Because if you have these qualities, and if they are constantly increasing in your life, you will be neither inactive or without success in your efforts to increase your knowledge about our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup>But the one who doesn't have these qualities is blind to the truth. At best, he is nearsighted, and has forgotten the obligation to God that is now his after being cleansed from his past sins.

<sup>10</sup>So for that reason, my brothers and sisters, be most diligent to make your calling and election<sup>a</sup> to salvation and eternal life with God a sure thing! Because if you will make a practice of doing the things I have just pointed out to you, you will never stumble and fall.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>11</sup>By doing so, you will guarantee for yourself a glorious welcome, and the gates into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be thrown wide open for you.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>12</sup>So for that reason, I won't neglect to keep reminding you about these things, even though you know them and are presently firmly established in the truth.

<sup>13</sup>Yes, I think it's only right that I continually stir up your thinking about these things as long as I'm still with you in this temporary body.

<sup>14</sup>Our Lord Jesus Christ has recently made it clear to me that I must soon leave this tent<sup>a</sup> body.

<sup>15</sup>So for this reason too, I will be diligent in writing these things down. By that means, you will always be reminded of them, even after I'm gone.

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**1:3a** See Romans 8:28-30.

**1:3-4b** All that God is has been involved in bringing His salvation to us. God's glory includes all the greatness of His being, all of His great attributes, all He has done and is able to do, etc.

**1:3-4c** God's moral excellence was involved in His designing a plan for our salvation that is so just and so morally right.

**1:5a** ... *knowledge about God, about His plans for man and His dealings with man.*

**1:10a** Romans 8:28-30.

**1:10b** In his book *Life In The Sun* (p 298), Robert Shank states, "All Calvinist theologians ultimately

agree with Hodge, Eadie, and Calvin that the only unfailing evidence and ground for assurance that one is elect is deliberate perseverance in faith in Jesus Christ. Professor John Murray of Westminster Theological Seminary aptly states the matter:

... *let us appreciate the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints and recognize that we may entertain the faith of our security in Christ only as we persevere in faith and holiness to the end.*"

**1:11a** See 1 Peter 4:18b note.

**1:14a** A temporary, very primitive, and weak dwelling place.

### ***We Were Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory!***

<sup>16</sup>Because when we told you about our Lord Jesus Christ coming to earth, and about the great power He displayed, we weren't telling you cleverly invented fairy tales. We were there! We saw it all! We were actually eyewitnesses of His majesty!

<sup>17</sup>We were even with Him when He was honored and glorified by God the Father, when the Most Excellent Glory spoke to us about Him, saying, "This is My Son, whom I love so dearly. I have found such great delight in Him."

<sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice coming from Heaven when we were with Jesus on the holy mountain of transfiguration.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>19</sup>All of this confirms what the prophets wrote. So until the Day begins to dawn and the light of the morning star shines in your hearts, you will do well if you will read what they wrote, and always look to them as a light that continues to shine in a dark place.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>20</sup>Realize first of all that no prophecy in Scripture was the private opinion of some man.

<sup>21</sup>None of these prophecies ever came by means of some man imagining them. On the contrary, holy men of God spoke only as they were given God's message by the Holy Spirit.

### ***False Teachers and Their Destruction***

**2** But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. In underhanded, subtle ways, they will secretly introduce destructive heresies.<sup>a</sup> They will even deny many of the claims and teachings of the Lord who bought them. But the result for them

will be a swift and terrible end.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Many will put the immoral and destructive teachings of these false teachers into practice. And because of such people, and the way they will live, the Way of Truth will be scoffed at and ridiculed.

<sup>3</sup>In their greed, these false preachers will preach whatever most people want to hear, in order to gain them as their followers and have their financial support.<sup>a</sup> God's judgment has been hanging over them for a long time. He hasn't been asleep about the matter.

<sup>4</sup>Don't forget that God didn't spare even the angels who sinned, but threw them down into the deepest part of Hell, where even now they are chained in darkness, awaiting the Day of Judgment.

<sup>5</sup>Nor did God spare the ungodly people of the ancient world. He judged them with a great flood,<sup>a</sup> saving only Noah and his family, a total of eight people. Noah was a preacher who preached that one must turn from his sinning and live to please God if he was to be saved.

<sup>6</sup>God also condemned the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, overthrowing them with a fiery destruction that reduced them to nothing but piles of ashes.<sup>a</sup> He made them an example of what will happen to all who insist on living to please themselves instead of living to please God.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>7</sup>But He rescued Lot, a good man who was constantly distressed by the filthy, unrestrained, outrageous homosexual behavior of the people of Sodom.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>8</sup>Day after day, as that good man lived among them, his righteous soul was tortured as he continued to see and hear their ungodly behavior.

**1:18a** Matthew 17:1-9.

**1:19a** There could have been charges that Peter, James, and John conspired to make up the story that God spoke to them about Jesus on the mountain. But the many prophecies telling about Christ's coming had been given hundreds of years before He came: 1) The prophecies were numerous, which was better proof than a single report by Peter; 2) They were recorded, and the fulfillments could be compared carefully with the predictions; 3) The prophecies had been written hundreds of years before, by different prophets, living in different ages, so they couldn't have agreed together.

**2:1a** ... *that will result in the damnation of all who believe and follow them.* The soft, easy way to Heaven, preached by many today is a prime example of a destructive heresy.

**2:1b** Man brings upon himself the vengeance that God brings upon him. The *swift and terrible* end

no doubt refers to *Judgment Day*. There will be no mercy at all for those who have deceived others. Their destruction will be both swift and terrible. The false prophets of today are the many preachers who explain away many of the warnings of God and preach an easy way to Heaven.

**2:3a** 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

**2:5a** Genesis 6:1 to 9:1.

**2:6a** Genesis 18:16 to 19:29; Jude 7.

**2:6b** Psalm 1:1-6; Romans 5:6-11; 1 Peter 4:18.

**2:7a** Genesis 19:1-11.

**2:9a** Those who demand freedom to live as they please, with little or no regard for God's will, go to Hell at death, there to await their final judgment (1,000 years after Christ's return to earth) in the lake of fire.

No, God will not accept your selective obedience; it's either unconditional surrender to God's will, or Hell, and the lake of fire! Revelation 20:7-15. Read

<sup>9</sup>So the Lord knows how to rescue godly people when they are tempted. He also knows how to shackle and imprison the wicked while they await the Day of Judgment and their ultimate punishment.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>10</sup>This is especially true of those who live only to satisfy the corrupt desires of their body, and hate and resist the teaching of the Scriptures that they must submit to Christ, and obey Him as their Lord, if they are to be saved.<sup>a</sup> Many of these are bold in their sinning, and thoroughly determined to do only what they want. They aren't even afraid to slander those in positions of authority.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>11</sup>But even angels, who are stronger and far more powerful than these false teachers, don't accuse these dignitaries with insults when they report to the Lord.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>12</sup>But like destructive animals that are made only to be caught and destroyed, which by nature have no powers of reason, these men rant and rave about things of which they know nothing. And because of their corruption, they too will be utterly destroyed.

<sup>13</sup>They will soon receive the wages coming to those who live in sin.<sup>a</sup> They settle for pleasure that lasts for only a day,<sup>b</sup> and then deceive themselves by taking delight in your fellowship while feasting with you.<sup>c</sup> They are dirty spots and blemishes in your fellowship!

<sup>14</sup>Their eyes are always wandering around, looking for someone to commit adultery with. Never done with sinning, they are always looking for some unstable person to seduce. Their money-grubbing hearts are also soaked in greed. They are

so definitely under God's curse!<sup>a</sup>

<sup>15</sup>They have abandoned the right road<sup>a</sup> and have gone astray. They're going the way that Balaam, the son of Beor, went, who loved the pay he would get for doing wrong.

<sup>16</sup>But even Balaam's donkey rebuked him for his sin. Here was an animal that couldn't speak, but with a man's voice he arrested the madness of the prophet.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>17</sup>These men are wells without water, clouds driven by a storm.<sup>a</sup> The awful gloom of the deepest darkness of Hell has been reserved for them forever.

<sup>18</sup>Because by using great-sounding empty words<sup>a</sup> that only puff people up and make them feel good about whatever they're doing, these preachers stir up lustful desires of the sinful human nature in people who have actually escaped from living the wrong kind of life.

<sup>19</sup>While they are continually promising others freedom,<sup>a</sup> they themselves are slaves of corrupt living, because a person is a slave of whatever controls him.

<sup>20</sup>If, after escaping the pollutions of the world by their knowledge of what the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has done for them, they again become entangled and overcome by those same pollutions, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.

<sup>21</sup>It would have been much better for them if they had never known the way to victory over sin, than after knowing it, to turn away from the Great News given them that demands holy living.

<sup>22</sup>In their case, the proverbs have been proven to

*The Amazing Story of God* in Appendix 247, page 520, and decide for God and Heaven! You don't need to settle for Hell. Yes, it costs to follow and obey the Lord. It will cost you your sin. But think of the terrible cost in the lake of fire for ages upon ages to come if you don't accept God's mercy, and then live this very brief life for Him.

Even the sheer joy of daily anticipating the eternal joy and glory that awaits you with God will far exceed any cost in serving and living for Him!

**2:10a** John 3:36; Romans 2:1-10; 6:16; 2 Corinthians 10:6; Hebrews 5:9; 1 John 2:3-4,17.

**2:10b** This can refer to angelic dignitaries (either evil or godly angels) or to authorities in the church or state. It appears that the primary reference is to angelic dignitaries, according to v 11.

**2:11a** Jude 8-9.

**2:13a** Romans 2:8,9; 6:23; Philippians 3:19.

**2:13b** ... *when God offers pleasures in His presence that will continue on forever* ... Psalm 16:11.

**2:13c** ... *at your church fellowship dinners*, ...

**2:14a** They are under the sentence of God's curse now, and they will experience that curse in horrendous reality for ages to come, in Hell and the lake of fire, unless they, in all sincerity, turn from their sinning before it's too late.

**2:15a** Matthew 7:14.

**2:15-16a** Numbers 22:1-35.

**2:17a** They are like clouds that pass overhead but send down no rain. Farmers are often disappointed by such clouds. False teachers are like this. The greatest danger to the church is not from opposition or persecution from without but from perversion and corruption of the truth from traitors within!

**2:18a** God takes delight in hearing His truths made understandable.

**2:19a** ... *freedom from the Law and from needless restraints to sin*.

be true that say,

A dog will come back to lick up its own vomit,<sup>a</sup>  
and

A pig that is washed will go right back to wallowing in the mud.

### *God's Sure Judgment is Just Ahead*

**3** So, my dear friends, this is the second letter I am writing you for the purpose of stirring up your minds by reminding you to be most sincere and altogether clear in your thinking.

<sup>2</sup>I want you to be sure to remember what the holy prophets told us long ago. Also remember the information and commands given by our Lord and Savior, which were brought to you thru us, His apostles.

<sup>3</sup>In the first place, always keep this in mind: In the closing days of the age, scoffers who are concerned only about satisfying the desires of their flesh will be very outspoken.

<sup>4</sup>"Where is this Christ who promised He'd come again?" they'll jeer. "Ever since our earliest ancestors died, nothing has changed! Everything continues just as it did from the beginning of cre-

ation."<sup>a</sup>

<sup>5</sup>But they deliberately ignore the fact that it was God who created the stars and the planets in the heavens in ages past by means of His command,<sup>a</sup> and that by means of gathering the primeval waters together on earth, He caused the dry land to appear.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Nor will they admit that it was God who later caused those same waters to return, causing all life on earth to perish in the great flood.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>7</sup>But that same powerful word of God is now preserving the heavens and the earth as they presently exist. They are being kept unscathed until Judgment Day, when they will be burned with fire,<sup>a</sup> and all ungodly people will be destroyed.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>8</sup>But there's one thing, dear friends, that you must not forget: With the Lord one day is the same as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

<sup>9</sup>So the Lord isn't slow about fulfilling His promise, in the way that some consider being slow. But He is being patient with us. He doesn't want anyone to perish. He wants everyone to turn from their sinning and live in obedience to Him.<sup>a</sup>

2:22a Proverbs 26:11.

3:3-4a ... "No one comes back from the dead!" Those who *scoff* at the promise of Christ's second coming are almost always persons who are *living to satisfy the desires of their flesh*. They are living in willful sin, and they do not want the Lord to return. They don't even want to think about the fact that He *promised* to return. He *promised* to return to judge the ungodly and to reward the righteous. Of course, this turn of events would not fit into their plans.

Many of these *scoffers* are *uniformitarians*. They claim there never have been any great catastrophes on the earth—that things have continued as they are now from the very beginning, and that things always will continue in this way. They say, "Ever since our earliest ancestors died, nothing has changed!"

The doctrine of the second coming of Christ is the first area of teaching that modernists attack when they abandon the faith. Today there is talk about classifying prophecy teachers as "dangerous influences toward erratic social behavior." No doubt "bate laws" will be enacted to suppress anything that thought police deem to be de-stabilizing to a new world order. Often the proponents are none less than backslidden or unregenerate preachers and teachers occupying pulpits and classrooms of today.

Thought police would be persons appointed to suppress any teaching that the new worlders con-

sider destabilizing and disruptive of their plans for the world. They would have power to arrest, jail, and even liquidate.

3:5a They want to be ignorant—they *deliberately ignore* the fact that the heavens were created *by means of God's command*. They are able to make great scientific discoveries, but they do not want to make any discovery which would prove the Bible to be true.

3:5b Genesis 1:1-10.

3:6a Genesis 6:1 to 9:1.

3:7a God has promised He will never again destroy the earth by means of a flood. However, He states that next time He will destroy it by *fire*. v 12; 2 Thessalonians 1:8. Fiery judgments will fall upon the earth during the last days of this age. Ezekiel 38:22; 39:6; Revelation 8:7-8; 9:17-18; 16:8. But the *fire* mentioned here is no doubt that which will occur immediately following the Battle of Armageddon, when the earth will be completely renovated by earthquake and by fire. Revelation 6:12-17.

This purging by *fire* will also involve the heavens, meaning the atmospheric band surrounding the earth. It does not appear that this refers to the planets and stars in outer space, although it is certainly possible that they will be included. But the last words of the verse evidently refer to the lake of fire. Revelation 20:10,14,15.

3:7b ... *in Hell and in the lake of fire*. Revelation 17:8,11; 20:10-15.

<sup>10</sup>But just like a thief in the night does, the Day of the Lord will come upon the ungodly when they are least expecting it. The heavens at that time will disappear with a great crackling roar. The elements will melt under extreme heat, and the earth and everything on it will be burned up.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>11</sup>So, since all these things will be dissolved, what kind of people should you be? Obviously, the only sensible thing to do is to live a holy life, truly dedicated to God.

<sup>12</sup>We should constantly be looking forward in great expectation to the Day of God, and with great eagerness desire its coming—the Day when God will dissolve the heavens by setting them on fire, causing the elements to melt with intense heat.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>13</sup>Because when that happens, we can look forward (in fulfillment of God's promise) to new heavens and a new earth in which everyone will live good, God-honoring lives.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to all of these happenings, be diligent in making every effort to be truly at peace with God, living spotless, blameless lives.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>15</sup>And you must always keep in mind that the reason the Lord is so patient with mankind, and is

holding back His judgment, is because He wants people everywhere to be saved. By means of the wisdom given our much-loved brother Paul, he said the same thing when he wrote you.

<sup>16</sup>Paul has spoken about these things in all his letters. He's also written about some things that are hard to understand, which those who are ignorant of the truth and unstable, twist and distort, just as they do with the rest of the Scriptures. So they're the cause of their own destruction.

<sup>17</sup>So, dear friends, in spite of the fact that you already know these truths, you must continually be on your guard so that you don't allow yourselves to be led astray by the sins of those who are not living in obedience to God, and thereby fall from your own secure position.

<sup>18</sup>Instead, you must continue to grow in your knowledge of all that the Lord has done for you and is continuing to do. Also, continue to grow in all there is to know about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May He be the One to receive the glory, both now and forever. So be it!

Most sincerely in Christ Jesus,  
Peter

**3:8-9a** God is *not slow about fulfilling His promises*. His withholding judgment is enabling many to be saved who would never come to repentance otherwise. God has not willed or predestined that anyone should *perish*. His heart's desire is that everyone will repent. However, He does not force His will upon anyone. If we were forced to obey God, our reaction would not be love. God is looking for genuine, deep, and true love on the part of those who would live with Him as His children thru-out eternity.

**3:10a** The *Day of the Lord* is advancing closer every day. But sinful mankind is unmindful of what is actually happening. They are so engrossed in their own pursuits that they don't realize that the end is very near, and that the Lord's wrath is indeed coming upon them *like a thief in the night*. God is allowing the earth to become ripe for judgment. People are demanding that they be given freedom to satisfy every lust they have in any way they please, and it is quite evident that God has already stepped aside (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8) and is saying, "All right, go ahead, but you must soon suffer the awful consequences."

When God pours out His wrath upon the earth in the last 3 1/2 years of this age, mankind will have just begun to reap the harvest from their sins. The

final *Day of the Lord* will occur at the end of the first 1,000 years of Christ's reign on earth, when He will judge those who still insist upon following Satan, even after enjoying the light and health of Christ's supernatural reign. Revelation 20:7-9.

**3:11-12a** How temporary and passing are the material things of this life. The only things that are real and permanent are those treasures to be given us by our Lord following this life. When we consider the promised glory and indescribable joy of being with our God in eternity, how can we do less than give our all to Him in full submission? How can we keep from giving praise and glory to Him for loving us so and for having such great plans for us?

**3:13a** The earth will not be reduced to nothing, but it will be changed in marvelous fashion. There will be no more oceans (Revelation 21:1), no high mountains or islands. Revelation 16:20. Since the sun is to be seven times stronger than it is today (Isaiah 30:26), God will evidently place a protective canopy of ice particles in the skies over the earth. So there will be far less water on earth. Instead, the earth will be a single expanse of rolling hills and plains, divided only by lakes and rivers. Vast numbers of people will be able to live on such an earth.

**3:14a** See Ephesians 4:26-27.

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—2 Peter 3:10-13