

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PETER

The Outline

- I. **Introduction: The Apostle's Greeting (2 Peter 1:1-4).** The emphasis is upon *what we all have in Christ*. This is the beginning of what the Apostle Peter would say especially about THE PRESENT.
- II. **THEIR PRESENT NEED (2 Peter 1:5-21).** While there was no difference between the believers, then or now, as to what we have in Christ, yet as far as our growth in the Lord is concerned, there are always great differences. But God's ultimate purpose for us all is the same. We are saved to be made like our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - A. **Their need to add to their faith (1:5-11).** Note Peter's emphasis on "these things" in verses 8, 9, 10, 12, and 15. He was emphasizing their need for spiritual growth.
 - B. **The Apostle Peter's great concern for them (1:12-21).** His concern went beyond his own lifetime, and that is one reason he was writing to them.
- III. **Warnings from THE PAST (2 Peter 2:1-22).** This basically has to do with false teachers, false teaching, and sinful living. This chapter illustrates why it is so important for us to read the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. We need to know about God's judgment of angels, his judgment on the whole world in the days of Noah, Sodom and Gomorrah, and even Balaam. False teachers will lead us into sin. The Bible teaches us that God is not only a God of love, but that He is righteous, and that He judges sin.
 - A. **False teachers past and present (2:1-3).** As true doctrine produces holy living, so false doctrine produces a sinful lifestyle. This is a very important point in this epistle. Corrupt living is always the fruit of false doctrine.
 - B. **Old Testament examples of God's judgment against sin (2:4-16).** Peter wanted his readers to understand that in all of the following examples false doctrine was involved.
 1. The angels who sinned (2:4). Cf. Jude 6; Gen. 3:1-5; 6:1-4; Matt. 8:28-29.
 2. The flood in the days of Noah (2:5). Cf. Gen. 6:5-8:22; Matt. 24:38
 3. Sodom and Gomorrah (2:6-14). Cf. Gen. 18:16-19:38.
 4. Balaam (2:15-16). Cf. Num. 22-24; 31:8; Rev. 2:14.
 - C. **The hypocrisy of false teachers (2:17-22).** They promise blessing but produce corruption. They promise liberty, but produce bondage to sin.
- IV. **Assurance regarding THE FUTURE (2 Peter 3:1-16).** Peter began the epistle by speaking about the promises of God; he concludes his epistle on the same note. See verses 4, 9, 13. God's promises are all sure and certain. Therefore, our hope in the promises should affect the way we live.
- V. **Conclusion (2 Peter 3:17-18).** In verse 17 we have a warning; in verse 18 a command to continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of "our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." To be growing spiritually is our greatest safeguard against sin and false teaching.