Knowing God

Lesson 20: 2 Peter 1

May 17, 2020
Introduction

• 2 Peter has been the center of much controversy
• There are many words that are unique in Peter’s letters
• A second letter, but we don’t know if it is the same audience
• 1 Peter had a focus on suffering, 2 Peter deals with false teachers
• Similarity with Jude – which was written first, did they borrow? Common source?
 Commands

• 1:5 in your faith supply moral excellence
• 1:10 be all the more diligent to make certain
• 3:8 do not let this one fact escape your notice
• 3:14 be diligent to be found by Him in peace
• 3:15 regard the patience of our Lord as salvation
• 3:17 be on your guard so that you are not carried away
• 3:18 grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord
Themes and Purpose

• The origin of Scripture
• False teachers
• The destruction of the world by fire
• Knowledge – appears 16 times
• Remember: 1:13, 3:1, 3:2
• Promise: 1:4, 3:4, 3:9, 3:13
• Savior: 1:1, 1:11, 2:20, 3:2, 3:18
• Purpose: 3:17-18 – beware, grow
Letter outline

• 1:1-11 Introductory appeal to growth
• 1:12-2:22 The importance of knowledge of God
  • 1:12-18 Remember the truth of the Gospel
  • 1:19-2:22 Because there will be false teachers among the church
• 3:1-10 The importance of godly conduct
  • 3:1-3 Remember the word of the prophets and apostles
  • 3:4-10 Because there will be mockers in the last days
• 3:11-18 Concluding appeal to growth
Chapter outline

• 1:1-11 Introductory appeal to growth
• 1:12-2:22 The importance of knowledge of God
  • 1:12-18 Remember the truth of the Gospel
  • 1:19-2:22 Because there will be false prophets among the church
    • 1:19-2:9 Relating to God’s word and the consequences
    • 1:19-21 Prophecy and its interpretation are from God
Introductory appeal to growth
2 Peter 1:1-4

1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

• The preciousness of our own salvation should help us honor other believers
• Jesus is God
• Grace and peace increase through knowledge
Introductory appeal to growth
2 Peter 1:5-9

5Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

• Not necessarily sequential, but each helping increase the others
• A good list for self evaluation along with the fruit of the Spirit
• We are not to be unfruitful as Christians
• Remembering our former sins should draw us to diligently pursue these things
The importance of knowledge of God

2 Peter 1:10-15

10**Therefore,** brethren, be all the more **diligent** to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; **11**for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

12**Therefore,** I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you **already** know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. **13**I consider it right, as long as I am in this **earthly** dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, **14**knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. **15**And I will also be **diligent** that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

• The Christian life requires diligence
• Being reminded is an important part of the Christian life
• Peter left a record for us in this letter and perhaps in helping with the gospel of Mark
The importance of knowledge of God
2 Peter 1:16-18

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

• Two items the apostles emphasized
  • The power of the Lord Jesus Christ
  • The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

• On earth Christ received from God
  • Honor
  • Glory
The importance of knowledge of God
2 Peter 1:19-21

19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

• Scripture has more authority than experience
• Scripture will be needed until the Last Day
• The interpretation of Scripture is tied to the source, not the receiver
Summary

• We need to view other believers as precious since they share the same salvation.
• True knowledge of God gives us everything we need for life and godliness through His power.
• Through the promise of God we may become partakers of the divine nature.
• We are not to be unfruitful as Christians.
• The Christian life requires diligence.
• It is important to be reminded of what we already know.
• The gospel testimony is based on eyewitnesses.
• Scripture has more authority than experience.
• The interpretation of Scripture must correspond with the meaning God intended.