

# 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

<sup>1</sup>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: <sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord; <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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

<sup>5</sup>Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup>and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly *kindness*, love. <sup>8</sup>For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For 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

<sup>10</sup>**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; <sup>11</sup>for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

<sup>12</sup>**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*. <sup>13</sup>I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, <sup>14</sup>knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. <sup>15</sup>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

<sup>16</sup>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**. <sup>17</sup>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” — <sup>18</sup>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

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>But know this first of all, that no **prophecy** of Scripture is a *matter* of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>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