

2 Peter-by Tommy Lee

Chapter 1

As the *servant and apostle* of Christ, Peter writes to those who stand before God by the *righteousness* of Christ, that he might reveal to us how true grace and true peace may be found (vs.1,2). In doing so, he is calling us to spiritual growth, spiritual maturity, and spiritual progress. He teaches us that God himself has provided all the resources necessary to make such growth possible—his divine power and his precious and very great promises (vs.3,4). The aim of such growth is that we might become fruitful disciples, and in vs.5-9, Peter gives us a roadmap: faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, love. Peter urges us to "*make every effort*" (v.5) to mature in these directions, that we might be effective and fruitful in the knowledge of Christ (v.8). To ignore this urging is to become spiritually nearsighted, even blind (v.9). Reasons for this exhortation: assurance of salvation (vs.10,11), Peter's calling (vs.12-15), and a faithful response to Christ's work in history (vs.16-18)—which was the fulfillment of prophecy (vs.19-21).

Chapter 2

Having exhorted us to "*make every effort*" toward spiritual maturity, Peter now warns us against false teaching. In **vs.1-3** he stresses three dangers of false teachers: their methods are underhanded and shameful; their teaching is blasphemous and heretical; the outcome of their work is destruction for both them and their followers. In **vs.4-10a** he further develops the theme of their destructive work by drawing on Old Testament examples. Noah and Lot serve as examples of how God can yet rescue his people, even when they are surrounded by falsehood. The fallen angels, the people of Noah's generation, and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah point to how God will bring all of history to a day of final judgment. The three examples chosen highlight God's wrath against pride, disobedience, and immorality. Finally, **vs.10b-22** further reveals the true character and dangerous influence of false teachers. Much colorful description here, but note: no substance (v.17), the misuse of sensual pleasures (v.18), the promise of freedom but the reality of bondage (v.19).

Chapter 3

This epistle contains the final words of our Lord that come to us through his servant and friend, Peter. Chapter 1 was a rousing call to make every effort toward spiritual maturity. Chapter 2 was a strong warning to avoid the soul-destroying influences of false teachers. And now, chapter 3 is a bold reminder of the second coming of the Lord Jesus (vs.1-16) and a final call to "*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (vs.17,18). Concerning the second coming of Christ, **vs.1&2** is a call to remember the promise; **vs.3&4** is a warning to ignore the scoffers; **vs.5-7** is a big reason *not* to ignore this promise from the Lord; **vs.8&9** reveal two reasons why the Lord seems (to us) to be delaying his return; in **vs.10-13** Peter reaffirms the certainty of Christ's return and comments on what this will mean for the world and what it *should* mean in the life of the believer; and **vs.14-16** begins with "*therefore*"—reminding us that the promise of the Lord's return should have consequences for our lives. Interestingly, Paul gets a shout out from Peter.

-Reflecting on 2 Peter-

Before moving on to our next book of the Bible, take some time today to reflect on what we've read in 2 Peter. Perhaps re-visit a favorite chapter or an especially meaningful passage. Or

read the beginning chapter(s) again, now that you've read the whole. Or go back to a part of the book that struck you as curious and see if it makes more sense now. Or speed-read the whole thing again, seeking to reinforce its main themes. Or... perhaps you need a catch-up day to finish 2 Peter before we move forward?

"For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness." Psalm 33.4