



2 Peter 1:19-2:3

2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,**

- We are called to God's glory through studying His Word

2 Peter 1:4 - by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, **so that through them** you may become **partakers of the divine nature,...**

- His Word contains these precious and very great promises that show us how to become part of the love that The Father has for The Son (before the beginning of the world)

2 Peter 1:5-7 - **For this very reason, make every effort** to add to your faith excellence, to excellence, knowledge; 6 to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness; 7 to godliness, brotherly affection; to brotherly affection, unselfish love. (NET)

- Because we desire to be partakers of the divine nature, the qualities of **V. 5-7** need to be increasing in our lives

2 Peter 1:10 - Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, **for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.**

- By **practicing the qualities of V. 5-7**, Peter states we can enjoy the assurance of salvation
- Peter wants us to be so firmly established in God that we cannot be shaken by any temptation or false teaching
- We need to be so strong that we **“will never fall”**

2 Peter 1:1-19

- The most important thing Peter needed to tell other people before he died was to remind them to be established in the Word so that they would also partake of the divine nature (V.1-11)
- Because eventually a believer will either:
 1. Die and be present with the Lord (V.12-15) or
 2. Live to see the Second Coming (V.16-19)
- Peter is saying, one of these will happen to you
- Peter, as a good shepherd, is reminding you to be established in the Word so that you're prepared to meet God face to face no matter which event happens to you

2 Peter 1:20 - knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own **interpretation**.

- As you establish yourself in God's Word, this verse is saying that there is only ONE true meaning of that Word
- It's a warning to not take scripture and the interpretation of it lightly
- We can't just make it mean whatever we want
- It has one true meaning and it's up to us to diligently (make every effort) to understand what it means, like Peter has been reminding us

2 Peter 1:21 - For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by **the Holy Spirit**.

- The reason we can't make scripture mean whatever we want is because it came from God and we must discern God's meaning, not ours
- True Biblical interpretation can only be achieved through the ministry of the Holy Spirit because He wrote it

- **Chapter 1** is all about encouragement to the believer
- We can assure ourselves of “an entrance into the eternal kingdom” (**V. 11**) through God's power, by understanding His Word and leading lives of godliness and love
- We can trust what the says Bible because it was written by God
- We can understand it’s true meaning if we diligently apply ourselves to it because God lives inside us, helping us understand
- Peter’s goal in **Chapter 1** is to make us firm and stable and unshakable in our faith by drawing closer to God through understanding His Word
- That’s great, but why is it so important that Peter would use his last words before he dies to communicate this?

2 Peter 2:1 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

- It's so important to be firm and stable and unshakable in our faith because, although Peter will die and be present with the Lord, those that are still on Earth will be attacked by false teachers
- So you better be ready!
- The people Peter is talking to (**1 Peter 1:1...To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours...**) are entering a war that's been going on since the beginning of time, and their about to lose their leader

John 8:44-45 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and **has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.** 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

- There is nothing more offensive to God than the distortion of His Word
- Peter wants you to know God's Word because it is truth (**John 17:17**)
- **John 18:37-38**

John 18:37-38 - For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.
38 Pilate said to him, What is truth?

John 8:44-45 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning,** and **has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him.** **When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.** 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

- There is nothing more offensive to God than the distortion of His Word
- Peter wants you to know God's Word because it is truth (**John 17:17**)
- **John 18:37-38**
- The real battle is between the truth and lies and knowing which is which
- The devil **“has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him.”**
- As the father of lies, Satan is constantly attacking the church using false teachers to infiltrate the flock and spread false doctrine
- **“When he lies, he speaks out of his own character,”** (from his desires, not God's)
- The devil twists the truth to his lie
- This war has been going on throughout redemptive history

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 - If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, **Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them,** 3 **you shall not listen to the words of that prophet** or that dreamer of dreams. **For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.** 4 **You shall walk after the Lord your God** and fear him and **keep his commandments** and **obey** his voice, and you shall **serve him** and **hold fast to him.** 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

- This war started when Satan tried to deceive Eve in the garden
- It runs throughout the OT and continued even during Jesus' ministry

2 Peter 2:1a. - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you,

Matthew 7:15 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

- Sometimes attacks are from the outside, but Satan likes to destroy God's people from inside the flock
- That's why his servants are like wolves in sheep's clothing
- They do their best to infect the flock from inside, picking off those that are weaker, those that are not as discerning and easily swayed

1 Timothy 4:1 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times **some will depart from the faith** by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

2 Peter 2:1a. - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you,

- Just as in Jesus' day, Peter understood that false teachers would attack the church
- Jesus even predicted it

Matthew 24:4-5 - And Jesus answered them, See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray.

- Paul warned Timothy

2 Timothy 2:2-4 - preach the word...3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and **will turn away from listening to the truth** and wander off into myths.

2 Peter 2:1b. – But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will **secretly** bring in destructive heresies,

- False teachers act in secret

Jude 4 - For certain people **have crept in unnoticed** who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

- Russian invasion of Ukraine

2 Peter 2:1b. – who will secretly bring in **destructive** heresies,

- **Destructive** means “utter ruin”
- It describing the final and eternal condemnation of the wicked
- It has disastrous eternal consequences for them and those that follow
- **Matthew 7:13** - Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to **destruction**,
- **John 17:12** - While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of **destruction**, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. (Judas)
- **2 Thessalonians 2:3** - Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of **destruction**, (Antichrist)
- **2 Peter 3:7** - But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and **destruction** of the ungodly.

2 Peter 2:1b. – who will secretly bring in destructive **heresies**,

- **Heresies** means “a belief or opinion” that’s contrary to what’s expected
- When Satan lied, it was out of his own character
- False teachers will secretly bring beliefs that are contrary to what is true and if you follow them, they will lead you to eternal destruction
- It’s interesting that it can also mean “an act of taking, capture: example - storming a city”
- The NET Bible translates it - “These false teachers will **infiltrate** your midst with destructive **heresies**,”
- The reason it was so important to Peter to get you to make sure your faith is firm is because you are at war
- Your leader is now gone and the enemy is infiltrating your midst
- If you aren’t strong enough to withstand the destructive heresies, you may be lead astray, to eternal destruction

2 Peter 2:1c. – But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even **denying the Master who bought them**, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

- **To deny the Master** is to deny Jesus as being your Lord
- **To deny the Master that bought you** is the analogy of a slave who refuses to become a servant under his new Master's authority
- False teachers act like they belong to God, but they refuse to make Jesus Lord
- The false teacher may outwardly profess Jesus as Lord, but inwardly they deny it
- **Luke 11:39-52**

Luke 11:39-52 – And the Lord said to him, Now you Pharisees **cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.** 40 You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? 41 But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. 42 But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others... 52 Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. **You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.**

2 Peter 2:1c. – even **denying the Master who bought them**, bringing upon themselves **swift destruction**.

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- The false teacher may outwardly profess Jesus as Lord, but inwardly they deny it
- **Luke 11:39-52**
- False teachers bring upon themselves **swift destruction** (eternal damnation) as opposed to the believer that Peter wants us to be who is assured of an abundant entrance into heaven at death or when Christ returns

2 Peter 2:2 – And **many will follow** their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.

- How sad it is that **many will follow** the false teachers leading?
- Peter, with his dying words, is encouraging everyone to make sure of your salvation
- But it doesn't matter
- Few will find the narrow way, most will follow the broad path to destruction
- It gets even worse when the pressure is at its highest in the tribulation

Matthew 24:9-12 - Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then **many will fall away** and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And **many** false prophets will arise and **lead many astray**. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, **the love of many will grow cold**.

2 Peter 2:2 – And many will follow **their sensuality**, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.

- Sensuality here means “unbridled lust”
- It’s compared to Sodom and Gomorrah

Jude 4; 7 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, **who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality** and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ...⁷ **just as Sodom and Gomorrah** and the surrounding cities, **which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire**, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

- People leave the truth and follow false teachings, eventually becoming so corrupt that they are compared to the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah

2 Peter 2:2 – And many will follow their sensuality, and **because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.**

- The way of truth refers to right doctrine and an accurate proclamation of the gospel
- Because of false teachers, the gospel is maligned or slandered
- To counter these attacks by the enemy, we must be like Peter and constantly stir you up by reminding you of the truth

2 Peter 1:12-13 - 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,

2 Peter 2:3 – And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

- People can follow the path of destruction and not be teachers
- False teachers are special in that they actively seek out people to bring with them in destruction
- Their condemnation was determined long ago and God is not asleep concerning their judgement
- Our job is to be on guard so that we aren't exploited by their false words

