

The Second Epistle General of Peter

The Argument

The effect of the Apostle here is to exhort them which have once professed the true faith of Christ, to stand to the same even to the last breath: also that God by his effectual grace towards men moveth them to holiness of life, in punishing the hypocrites which abuse his Name, & in increasing his gifts in the godly: wherefore by godly life he being now almost at death's door, exhorteth them to approve their vocation, not setting their affections on worldly things (as he had oft writ unto them) but lifting their eyes toward heaven, as they be taught by the Gospel, whereof he is a clear witness, chiefly in that he heard with his own ears that Christ was proclaimed from heaven to be the Son of God, as likewise the Prophets testified. And lest they should promise to themselves quietness by professing the Gospel, he warneth them both of troubles which they should sustain by the false teachers, and also by the mockers & contemners of religion, whose manner and trade he lively setteth forth as in a table: advertising the faithful not only to wait diligently for Christ, but also to behold presently the day of his coming, and to preserve themselves unspotted against the same.

Chapter 1

4 Forasmuch as the power of God hath given them all things pertaining unto life, he exhorteth them to flee the corruption of worldly lusts, 10 To make their calling sure with good works, and fruits of faith. 14 He made mention of his own death, 17 Declaring the Lord Jesus to be the true Son of God, as he himself had seen upon the mount.

Simon Peter a servant & an Apostle of JESUS CHRIST, to you which have obtained like precious faith with us by the ^arighteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you, by the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his ^bgodly power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto ^clife and godliness, ^dthrough the knowledge of him that hath called us ^eunto glory and virtue. 4 Whereby most great, and precious promises are given unto us, that by them ye should be partakers of the ^egodly nature, in that ye flee the corruption, which is in the world through lust. 5 Therefore given even all diligence thereunto: join moreover ^fvirtue with your faith: and with virtue, knowledge: 6 And with knowledge, temperance: and with temperance, patience: and with patience, godliness: 7 And with godliness, brotherly kindness: and with brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these things be among you, and abunde, they will make you that ye neither shalbe idle, nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he that hath not these things, is blind, and ^gcan not see far off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore, brethren, give rather diligence to make your calling and election ^hsure: for if ye do these things, ye shall

1 a In that he declared himself just and faithful in accomplishing his promise by Christ.

3 b He speaketh of Christ as he is God and Saviour.

3 c That is, salvation.

3 d The sum of our salvation and religion is to be led by Christ to the Father, who calleth us in the Son.

3 ^eOr, through his glory.

4 e We are made partakers of the divine nature, in that we flee the corruption of the world: or as Paul writeth, are dead to sin and are not in the flesh.

5 f Godly manners.

9 g The Greek word signifieth him, that naturally can not see, except he holdeth near his eyes. So Peter calleth such as can not see heavenly things which are far off, pure blind or sand-blind.

10 h Albeit it be sure in itself forasmuch as God can not change: yet we must confirm it in ourselves, by the fruits of the Spirit, knowing that the purpose of God electeth, calleth, sanctifieth, and justifieth us.

never ⁱfail.

11 For by this means an entering shalbe ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 Wherefore, I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though that ye have knowledge, and be stablished in the present truth.

13 For I think it mete as long as I am in this ^ktabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance.

14 Seeing I know that the time is at hand that I must lay down this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath ^lshewed me.

15 I will endeavor therefore always, that ye also may be able to have remembrance of these things after my departing.

16 For we followed not ^mdeceivable fables when we opened unto you the power, and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but with our eyes we saw his majesty:

17 For he received of God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, ⁿThis is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice we heard when it came from heaven, being with him in the ^oholy mount.

19 We have also a most sure ^pword of the Prophets, to the which ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the ^qday dawn, and the ^rday star arise in your hearts.

20 ^sSo that ye first know this, that no prophecy in the Scripture is of ^tany private ^umotion.

21 For the Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holie men of God spake as they were moved by the holie Ghost.

Chapter 2

He prophecietieth of false teachers, and shows their punishment.

10 i For God will ever uphold you.

13 k In this body, 2 Cor. 5:3

14 ^lJohn 21:19

16 ^m1 Cor. 1:17 and 2:1

16 ⁿOr, sophistical and crafty.

17 ^oMat. 17:5

18 i For by Christ's presence it was for the time holy.

19 m That is, the doctrine of the Prophets.

19 n A perfecter knowledge then under the Law.

19 o Meaning, Christ the sunne of justice, by his Gospel.

20 ^p2 Tim. 3:16

20 p Cometh not of men.

20 ^qOr, the interpretation.

But *there were false prophets also among the people, Even as there shalbe false teachers among you: which privately shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord, that hath bought them, and bring upon themselves swift damnation.

2 And many shall follow their ^damnable ways, by whom the way of truth shalbe evil spoken of,

3 And through covetousness shall they with fained words make ^amerchandise of you, whose judgment long ago is not far off, and their damnation slepeth not.

4 For if God spared not the *Angels, that had sinned, but cast them down into hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be kept unto damnation:

5 Neither hath spared the old world, but saved *Noe the eight *person* a preacher of righteousness, and brought in the flood upon the world of the ungodly,

6 And *turned the cities of Sodome and Gomorrhe into ashes, condemned them and overthrew them, and made them an example unto them that after should live ungodly,

7 *And delivered just Loth vexed with the uncleanly conversation of the wicked,

8 (For he being righteous, and dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.)

9 The Lord knoweth to deliver the godly out of tentation, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

10 And chiefly them that walk after the flesh, in the lust of uncleanness, and despise the government, *which are* presumptuous, and stand in their own conceit, and fear not to speak evil of them that are in dignity.

11 Where as the Angels which are greater both in power and might, *give not ^brailing judgment against them before the Lord.

12 But these as ^cbrute beasts, led with sensuality and made to be taken, and destroyed, speak evil of those things which they know not, and shall perish through their own corruption.

13 And shall receive the wages of unrighteousness, as they which count it pleasure to live deliciously for a season. Spots *they are* and blots, ^ddelighting themselves in their deceivings, in feasting with you,

14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that can not cease to sin, beguiling unstable souls: they have hearts exercised

with covetousness, cursed children,

15 Which forsaking the right way, have gone astray, following the way of *Balaam, *the son of Bosor*, which loved the wages of unrighteousness.

16 But he was rebuked for his iniquity: *for* the dumb ass speaking with man's voice, forbade the foolishness of the Prophet.

17 *These are wells without water, *and* ^eclouds carried about with a tempest, to whom the black darkness is reserved for ever.

18 For in speaking swelling words of vanity, they beguile with wantonness through the lusts of the flesh them that were clean escaped from them which are wrapped in error,

19 Promising unto them liberty, and are themselves the *servants of corruption: for of whomsoever a man is overcome, even unto the same is he in bondage.

20 *For if they, after they have escaped from the filthiness of the world, through the ^fknowledge of the Lord, and of the Saviour Jesus Christ, are yet tangled again therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them then the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them, not to have known the way of righteousness, then after they have known it, to turn from the holy ^commandment given unto them.

22 But it is come unto them, according to the true proverb, *The dog is returned to his own vomit: and, The sow that was washed, to the wallowing in the mire.

Chapter 3

3 He sheweth the impiety of them which mock at God's promises. 7 After what sort the end of the world shalbe. 8 That they prepare themselves thereunto. 16 Who they are which abuse the writings of St. Paul, and the rest of the Scriptures. 18 Concluding with eternal thanks to Christ Jesus.

This second Epistle I now write unto you, beloved, wherewith ^aI stirrup, and warn your pure minds,

2 To call to remembrance the words, which were told before of the holie Prophets, and also the commandment of us the Apostles of the Lord and Saviour.

3 *This first understand, that there shall come in the last days, mockers, which will walk after their lusts,

4 And say, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers died, all things continue a like from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they ^bwilling know not, that the heavens were of old, and the earth that was of the water and by the water,

15 *Num. 22.23, Jude 11

17 *Jude 12

17 e They have some appearance outward, but within they are dry and barren, or at most they cause but a tempest.

19 *John 8.34, Rom. 6.20

20 *Mat. 12.45, Ebr. 6.4, and 10.26

20 f Which commeth by hearing the Gospel preached.

21 ^Or, doctrine

22 *Prov. 26.11

Chapter 3

1 a For we fall quickly asleep and forget that which we are taught.

3 *1 Tim. 4.1, 2 Tim. 3.1, Jude 18

5 b He meaneth them which had once professed Christian religion, but became afterward contemners and mockers, as Epicureans and atheists.

1 *Act. 20.29, 1 Tim. 4.2, Jude 11

2 ^Or, insolent and wanton.

3 a This is evidently seen in the Pope and his Priests, which by lies and flatteries sell men's souls, so that it is certain that he is not the successor of Simeon Peter, but of Simon Magus.

4 *Job 4.18, Jude 6

5 *Gen. 7.2

6 *Gen 19.24

7 *Gen. 19.16

11 *1 King. 22.22, Job 1.12

11 b Albeit the Angels condemn the vices and iniquity of wicked magistrates, yet they blame not the authority and power which is given them of God.

12 c As beasts without reason or wit follow whether nature leadeth them: so these wicked men destitute of the Spirit of God, only seek to fulfill their sensuality, and as they are vessels made to destruction, and appointed to this judgment, so they fall into the snares of Satan to their destruction.

13 d For in your holy feasts they sit as members of the Church where as in deed they be but spots, and so deceive you, read Jude 12.

by the word of God.

6 Wherefore the ^cworld that then was, perished, overflowed with the water.

7 But the heavens and earth, which are now, are kept by the same word in store, and reserved unto fire against the day of judgement, and of the destruction of ungodly men.

8 Dearly beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord, ^{*}as an thousand years, and a thousand year, as one day,

9 The Lord is not slack concerning *his* promise (as some men count slackness) but is patient toward us, and ^{*}would have no man to perish, but would all men to come to repentance.

10 ^{*}But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall pass away with a noise, and the elements shall melt with heat, and the earth with the works, that are therein, shalbe burnt up.

11 Seeing therefore that all these things must be dissolved, what manner persons ought ye to be in holie conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for, and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, by the which the heavens being on fire, shalbe

6 c As touching the beauty thereof, and things which were therein, except them which were in the ark.

8 ^{*}Psal. 90.4

9 ^{*}Eze.,33.30, 1 Tim. 2.4

9 d He speaketh not here of the secret and eternal counsel of God, whereby he electeth whom it pleaseth him, but of the preaching of the Gospel whereby all are called and bidden to the banquet.

10 ^{*}Mat. 24.44, 1 Thess. 5.2, Rev. 3.3, and 16.15

dissolved, and the elements shall melt with heat?

13 But we look for ^{*}new heavens, and a new earth, according to his promise, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in ^epeace, without spot and blameless.

15 ^{*}And suppose that the long suffering of our Lord is salvation, even as our beloved brother Paul according to the wisdom given unto him wrote to ^fyou,

16 As one, that in all *his* Epistles speaketh of these things: among the which some things are ^ghard to be understand, which they that are unlearned and unstable, [^]pervert, as they *do* also other Scriptures unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware, lest ye be also plucked away with the error of the wicked, and fall from your own steadfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: to him *be* glory both now and for evermore. Amen

13 ^{*}Isa. 65.17, and 66.22, Rev. 21.1

14 e In quite conscience.

15 ^{*}Rom. 2.4

15 f Albeit his epistles were writ to peculiar Churches, yet they contain a general doctrine appertaining to all men.

16 g As no man condemneth the brightness of the sun because his eye is not able to sustain the clearness thereof: so the hardness which we can not some time compass or perfectly understand in the Scriptures, ought not to take away from us the use of the Scriptures.

16 [^]Or, wrest.