

## 2nd Peter Review

### 2 Pet 1:1

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who were granted a faith of equal value as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

1. We were all born in slavery to sin as members of the Adamic race [Rom 6:20].
2. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, we are freed from the bondage of sin [Rom 8:2].
3. As believers we are still slaves, but we are now under a new Master, the Lord Jesus Christ [Eph 6:9] who purchased us [2 Pet 2:1] with the price of His blood (spiritual death on the cross) [Acts 20:28; Rev 5:9].
4. As slaves of Jesus Christ, we are useful to Him when we flee from sin and pursue righteousness [2 Tim 2:19-22].
5. The tenets of our faith are contained in the Scriptures which have been granted to us by God – all believers have access to the whole counsel of God [Acts 20:27].

### 2 Pet 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

6. We have always been under God's grace (Common Grace [Mt 5:45]), but as born again believers we now have a son-father relationship with God [Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6] and God extends even more of His grace to us.
7. This grace-upon-grace [John 1:16] is neither earned nor deserved (grace cannot be), but is based purely upon what God has done in uniting us with Christ [Gal 3:27] and imputing His righteousness to us [Rom 3:21-22].
8. In both his 1st and 2nd epistle to the people of Asia Minor, Peter expresses his desire that grace and peace be multiplied to these believers [1 Pet 1:2; 2 Pet 1:2].
9. In 2nd Peter we see that this multiplied grace and peace involves having full knowledge of the Father and Christ.
10. Full knowledge of God is a result of learning [Deut 17:18-20], believing [1 Thess 2:13], meditating upon [Ps 119:97-99] and applying [Ps 119:100; Jas 1:22] the word of God.

### 2 Pet 1:3-4

bearing in mind that His divine power has freely given to us everything necessary for *spiritual* life and reverent conduct, through the full knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence of character. Through these things He has freely given to us His precious and exceedingly magnificent promises, so that by means of them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the moral decay that is in the world by lust.

11. When we understand that the omnipotent power of God is the source of everything we need for our spiritual life, we will begin to live by His strength rather than our own.
12. When we attempt to carry out our work assignments in our own strength, we are operating in the power of the flesh and are unable to produce the results God intends.
13. Furthermore, we should only expect to achieve victory in the day-to-day battles of the Angelic Conflict when we are wielding God's strength against the enemy.
14. Likewise, if we understand that God is freely giving to us everything we need for our spiritual life and reverent conduct, we will begin to seek answers to our spiritual problems from God rather than in worldly solutions.
15. The solutions to our spiritual problems are all provided to us by God's grace...
  - a. If we are carnal, we receive forgiveness of sins by God's grace through confession of sin [1 John 1:9].
  - b. If we need wisdom for a particular situation we are facing, we receive wisdom from God [Pr 3:5-7a] by God's grace through prayer [James 1:5] and through the study of God's word [2 Tim 3:14-17].
16. As we increase in the knowledge of God we gain spiritual wisdom and understanding which enables us to know His will and results in a fruitful spiritual life [Col 3:9-10].
17. The more we know God, the more we know about all of the spiritual assets He has freely given to us as believers.
18. The more we know God, the more we are able to employ those spiritual assets in our daily lives.
19. In the working of God's plan for our lives which is rooted in growing up in all aspects into Christ [Eph 4:15], He has manifested His glory and excellence of character in giving us His magnificent promises.
20. These promises are contained in the Scriptures and are worth more than gold or silver or jewels [Pr 3:13-15].
  - a. God's promise that "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" [1 John 4:4] does us no good when we try to stand up to our spiritual adversaries in the power of our own strength.
  - b. God's promise that "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." [1 John 1:9] does us no good if we resist the convicting ministry of God the Holy Spirit and refuse to confess our sins.
  - c. God's promise that "if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." [Jas 1:5] does us no good if we fail to seek God's wisdom through prayer or doubt God's ability to fulfill His promises [Jas 1:6-7].
  - d. God's promise that "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU." [Heb 13:5] does us no good if we live as though God is not with us and doubt His ability to be the provider of all things we need [Phil 4:19].

21. It should be our goal, then, to search the Scriptures to learn more about the promises God has given to us and find opportunities to claim those promises knowing that God is faithful to deliver on those promises [Num 23:19; 1 Cor 10:13; 2 Cor 1:18-20; 1 Thess 5:24; 2 Thess 3:3].
22. By claiming God's promises, we grow to become "partners" with our new nature which was created in righteousness and holiness of the truth [Eph 4:24].
23. This developing partnership with the divine nature of our second birth necessarily requires that we sever the partnership with our old, corrupted sin nature [Eph 4:22].
24. The old nature is not eradicated at the moment of our salvation, nor is it reformed through the process of spiritual growth.
25. Our old nature is and always will be inherently given to evil practices [Col 3:5-9].
26. God, therefore, allows us to choose which nature we will be in cahoots with, so we are either becoming more Christ-like or we are becoming more like the world around us – there is no stagnancy in the spiritual life.
27. When we choose to partner with our new nature it is renewed to a *full* knowledge according to the image of Christ [Col 3:10] which results is a life characterized by reverent conduct [Col 3:12-17].
28. It is through our partnership with the new nature that we begin to be influenced by God's system of values.
29. The world is dominated by Satan's system of values which are to our sin nature like candy to a child - irresistible.
30. As we claim God's promises that we can live in Satan's world in God's strength, with access to God's wisdom, and under God's hand of protection, He disarms the effectiveness of the temptations of this world.
31. Summary...
  - a. Recognize that God is the source of everything necessary for our spiritual life and godly living.
  - b. Come to know God through His Word.
  - c. Learn God's promises and personally claim them.
  - d. Sever your relationship with your old self and partner with the new, divine nature God has given you.
  - e. Walk by the Spirit to avoid worldly influences and sin.

### 2 Pet 1:5-7

Now for this very reason also, having applied all diligence, in your faith provide for excellence of character, and in *your* excellence of character, knowledge, and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, patient endurance, and in *your* patient endurance, reverent conduct, and in *your* reverent conduct, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, sacrificial love.

32. First comes our position in Christ and then our responsibility based upon that position follows.
  - a. God first saves us by grace.
  - b. Having received the gift of eternal life, we must choose to live accordingly.
33. If we choose to live as people possessing eternal life, then it is necessary for us to apply diligence in allowing God to transform our lives.
34. In our diligent pursuit of spiritual growth we should develop Christ-like virtues in our walk of faith...
  - a. excellence of character.
  - b. knowledge.
  - c. self-control.
  - d. patient endurance.
  - e. reverent conduct.
  - f. brotherly kindness.
  - g. sacrificial love.
35. God is the one who provides the growth and builds the edifice in our soul, but it is our responsibility to seek after these qualities as each one builds upon the others.
36. Our excellence of character is not a thing to be hidden – it should be apparent in all of our words and actions and is one of the ways we proclaim the character of God to this lost and dying world [1 Pet 2:9].
37. In order for spiritual growth to occur in our lives we must pursue knowledge of God’s word [Col 1:10].
38. This knowledge should progress into full knowledge as we accumulate more and more of God’s word and unite our understanding with faith [Heb 4:2].
39. This full knowledge should then develop into wisdom as it becomes part of our norms and standards and is actively applied to our experience [Heb 5:12-14].
40. As we grow in our faith we should begin to gain mastery over our passions so that we begin to have self-control over our words and actions.
41. No degree of spiritual maturity will result in such self-control apart from the filling of the Spirit [Gal 5:16-24].
42. Our flesh opposes the Spirit [Gal 5:17], so it is necessary for us to use the strength which God supplies to exercise self-control in disciplining our bodies [1 Cor 9:24-27].
43. God uses testing to develop our patience and endurance [Rom 5:3-5; 15:4; Jas 1:3] so that when we find ourselves under persecution, we can persevere [2 Thess 1:4].
44. When patient endurance is fully developed in us, the result will be a high level of spiritual maturity [Jas 1:4].
45. When faith is accompanied by excellence of character, knowledge of God’s word, self-discipline and patient endurance, we possess the building blocks for a life characterized by reverent conduct.
46. All of these characteristics of a mature believer result in an outward expression of love.

47. The ultimate goal of spiritual maturity is that a believer is able to love with a sacrificial, integrity-based love.
48. This is how God loved us even while we were yet sinners and sent His Son to die for us [John 3:16; Rom 5:8; Eph 2:4-5; 1 John 3:16].
49. This type of love can be extended to carnal believers and unbelievers because it does not depend in any way upon the merits of the object.
50. As we see in Peter's list, unconditional, sacrificial love is based upon all of the other virtues which are developed in us as we mature in the faith [1 Cor 13:4-8a].
51. We should examine ourselves to see if we lack in any of the qualities in this list and should be diligent to seek to add these things to our walk of faith as needed.

## 2 Pet 1:8-10

For these *qualities* truly existing and abounding in you, cause you to be neither idle nor unproductive in the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who does not have these *qualities* at his disposal is *spiritually* blind (near-sighted), having forgotten the cleansing of his past sins. For this reason, brethren, apply an even more diligent effort to make your calling and choosing have an abiding effect; because while you are putting these *qualities* into use, you will definitely never stumble *into sin*;

52. The qualities we learned about in verses 5 through 7 will not truly exist in us apart from a full knowledge of Jesus Christ which comes as God's word (which we learn through the diligent study of the Scriptures under the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit) dwells richly in our souls [2 Tim 2:15; Col 3:16].
53. Believers who do not come to a full knowledge of Christ and do not increase in these character traits will find themselves either on the sidelines (idle) or totally unproductive (unfruitful) in their spiritual lives.
54. There are many ways we can inhibit the amount of spiritual fruit we produce...
  - a. Carnality [1 John 1:6-10]
  - b. Lack of spiritual preparation [Heb 5:12-6:2]
  - c. Forsaking our assembling together [Heb 10:25]
  - d. Neglecting our spiritual gift(s) [1 Tim 4:4]
  - e. Subjective choice of ministries [Acts 15:38]
  - f. Being in the wrong physical location [Acts 16:6-8]
55. Many believers are spiritual infants who are myopic (near-sighted) and can only focus on their current circumstances and conditions.
56. However, we are not to remain spiritual children but should grow up in all aspects into Christ [Eph 4:14].
57. When believers add to their faith [v .5] by growing in respect to their salvation [1 Pet 2:1-2] they will gain the objectivity needed to avoid spiritual myopia.

58. This objectivity comes as we continually keep in mind the forgiveness of sins we received at the moment of salvation as well as the ongoing forgiveness we receive when we confess our sins as believers.
59. This perspective allows us to see beyond our immediate situation and grasp the big picture of God's grace working in our lives which gives us an eternal focus [2 Co 4:17-18].
60. Our salvation is the beginning of our eternal life and the remaining duration of our life on this earth ought to be lived with an eternal perspective [2 Pet 3:13].
61. This eternal perspective motivates us to glorify God with our lives which we will do when we put aside the characteristics of our old nature and put into use the qualities which God is instilling in us [Eph 4:22-24].
62. When our actions reflect the renewing of our minds [Rom 12:2], we are walking by means of the Spirit and will never stumble [v. 10] because we will not carry out the desires of the flesh [Gal 5:16].
63. This constant walk in the Light, abiding in Christ, is what God intends to be normal for His children.
64. We must always be mindful that it is the power of God that keeps us from stumbling [Jude 24-25].
65. We go from the Light into darkness when...
  - a. Something (including ourselves) distracts us from our focus of the Lord [Heb 12:1-2].
  - b. Once we take our eyes off of God, we stop walking by means of the Holy Spirit.
  - c. At this point, we become susceptible to temptation.
  - d. The temptation itself is not a sin, but once we "impregnate" the temptation as our negative volition is carried away, it gives birth to sin [Jas 1:13-15].

## 2 Pet 1:11

because in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided to you.

66. All Church Age believers will return with Christ at the Second Advent and will enter with Him into His earthly kingdom [1 Thess 4:17].
67. However, believers whose lives are characterized by walking in a worthy manner [Eph 4:1; Col 1:10; 1 Th 2:12] will enjoy a grand entrance into the kingdom with Christ.
68. Believers who continue in the deeds which God prepared beforehand [Eph 2:10] until the end will receive a reward of authority in the kingdom above and beyond that which every believer receives through faith in Christ [Rev 2:26].
69. 2 Tim 2:12 also speaks of a reign with Christ that is reserved for those who endure.
70. These rewards (like all others) are provided to believers on the basis of God's grace – they are undeserved even though they are qualified by obedience.
71. Our motivation for following the will of God and living a life that is pleasing in His eyes should come from our love for Him [John 14:15], not from trying to "earn" rewards.

## 2 Pet 1:12-15

Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know *them*, and have been stabilized by the truth which is at your disposal. I consider it right, as long as I am in this bodily habitation, to wake you up by way of reminder, having come to know that the disposal of my bodily habitation is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has clearly revealed to me. And I will also make a diligent effort so that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

72. Believers need to be frequently reminded of what they already know in order to prevent dullness of thinking or, even worse, forgetting that which they have learned.
73. In the process of review, many believers will be learning doctrinal tenets or principles of application for the very first time.
74. This process of learning/reminder puts God's word at the forefront of the believers' thinking so that it is at their disposal and readily applied to the exigencies of life.
75. Stability = Learning + Reminders + Application
76. When God's word is firmly implanted/ingrained in our souls, it becomes the "shock absorbers" for our spiritual life as we are able to handle whatever speed bumps or potholes we might encounter in our daily walk.
77. Many pastors are drawn to attempt to teach something sensational and spectacular in order to attract followers, but a good servant of Christ will teach the fundamental, sound doctrines of the faith [1 Tim 4:6].
78. This may seem boring to some, but if believers actually listen to these reminders of the fundamental truths of the faith, they will often be awakened from a spiritual slumber they didn't even realize they had drifted into.

## 2 Pet 1:16-19

For we did not accept cleverly concocted myths as our authority when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but instead we were made eyewitnesses of His magnificent glory. For after He received honor and glory from God the Father, such a unique declaration as this was proclaimed to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My Son, my beloved with whom I Myself am well-pleased"—and while we were with Him on the holy mountain we ourselves heard this declaration proclaimed from heaven. In addition, we have the more reliable prophetic word. You are doing well by paying close attention to it as *you would* to a lamp shining in a dark and gloomy place, until the day shines through and the light-giver ascends in your hearts.

79. The apostles' teaching was based upon the authority of God's word which is confirmed by historical facts.

80. The Bible itself is the most trustworthy collection of writings that has ever been preserved.
81. Our faith is based upon the truth of God's word which has been delivered to us by God's prophets and apostles and faithfully preserved for us in the Bible.
82. Peter walked side-by-side with Jesus during the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent and witnessed the transfiguration which gave him a glimpse of the glorious and powerful return of Christ at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent.
83. While personal experience never takes precedence over God's word, the things to which Peter was an eyewitness were perfectly consistent with biblical prophecy and serve to lend credibility to him as a teacher.
84. The word of God is the measuring stick by which we must measure our lives, including our personal experience.
85. As with any measuring tool (ruler, micrometer, etc.) it is important to know how to use it.
86. First, the word of God must be properly understood through a literal, grammatical, historical hermeneutic.
87. Then, the word of God must be rightly divided so we know what applies to us today.
88. Next, the word of God must be developed into categories of doctrine and principles of application in our thinking.
89. Finally, the word of God must be objectively applied to the experiences of our lives.
90. Each of these steps requires faith and humility as we must yield to the ministry of God the Holy Spirit.
91. The Light of Christ (the light-giver) will shine through the darkness of the Tribulation when He returns to establish His kingdom on earth.
92. In the meantime, God shines His Light into our hearts day-by-day through the truth of His word [Ps 19:8; 36:9; 119:105; Pr 6:23].

### 2 Pet 1:20-21

Knowing this above all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes into being from *the prophet's* own imagination, for no prophecy was ever produced by an act of human will, but instead when they were moved by the Holy Spirit, men spoke from God.

93. It is imperative for us to understand that Scripture is not the product of human creativity or imagination.
94. Bible haters will deny the divine origin of Scripture, but Peter makes it clear that these writings came from God.
95. God spoke much of His word through the Old Testament prophets.
96. God also spoke His word through the New Testament apostles.
97. It is important for us to learn the whole counsel of God [Acts 20:27] so that we do not make the mistake of deriving a distorted meaning from any isolated passage of Scripture.
98. There are some passages of Scripture which are less clear to us today, but we can always use the crystal-clear passages to help us understand those that are less clear.
99. Lesson: Always compare Scripture with Scripture.

100. The Holy Spirit spoke through the men who wrote the Scripture and He must help us interpret what He wrote.
101. There is only one proper interpretation of each passage (the one that the author – God Himself – intended), but there will be many applications of the doctrines we learn.
102. God chose the men who would write His word and the Holy Spirit “moved” them to write exactly what He wanted, but He did so without thwarting their intelligence, personality, vocabulary, or literary style.
103. Such a process could only be supernatural as the Holy Spirit superintended the writing of Scripture.
104. It was through this process of verbal inspiration that God was able to record Scripture with perfect accuracy.
105. The Bible is the only such divinely inspired book on earth.
106. Other writings may be inspirational or contain forms of wisdom, but we should always look to the Bible as our only valid source for God’s wisdom and His instruction for how to live our lives.
107. This is based on our faith in God who told us that His almighty power has freely given us everything we need for life and godliness [2 Pet 1:3].

### 2 Pet 2:1-3a

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive doctrines, even disowning the Master who bought them, bringing rapid destruction upon themselves. A large number of people will accept their sensuality as an example, and because of them the way of the truth will be reviled; and in *their* insatiable greed they will take advantage of you with deceptive words;

108. Just as false prophets arose among the people of Israel [Jer 5:31; 6:13; 14:14; 23:25; 27:15; Lam 2:14; Ezek 13:9; 22:28] there will also be false teachers among us today [Acts 20:29-30; 1 John 2:18-19].
109. These false teachers use clever deception and disguise to infiltrate churches [2 Cor 11:14].
110. They do not position themselves as opponents of Christianity, but instead distort the truth of the Bible.
111. These false teachers will manipulate people into believing lies such as, “We get to heaven by trusting in Christ and doing His works here on earth.” or “If you don’t persist in the faith until the end of your life then you were never a believer to begin with.”
112. Believers, if not grounded in Scripture, can easily be seduced into believing these false teachers because they come across as so sincere, their presentation style is so appealing, or they are such nice people.
113. These false teachers are unbelievers who were bought by Christ giving proof of unlimited atonement [1 Tim 2:6; Heb 2:9; 1 John 2:2].

114. One tactic of these false teachers is to provide people with worldly “solutions” to the problems they face in everyday life.
115. The teaching seems to provide a temporal benefit, so it is easily misunderstood as legitimate.
116. Because the messages make people “feel good” they conclude that the teacher must be teaching the truth and, in doing so, abandon the truth of God’s word.
117. People want their ears to be tickled [2 Tim 4:3].
118. Because people are so entranced by the seductive messages of these false teachers, they become utterly devoted to them and will follow them no matter what.
119. These false teachers have an insatiable greed for money, power, etc. to feed the lusts of their sin natures.
120. They will say whatever they need to, no matter how deceptive and dishonest, in order to captivate their target audience.
121. To these false teachers, the congregation is nothing more than a bunch of lemmings they can manipulate as needed to take advantage of them for their own gain.

### 2 Pet 2:3b-10a

their judgment from eternity past has not become idle, and their destruction is not sluggish. For since God did not spare *fallen* angels who sinned, but instead, after placing them in captivity in Tartarus in pits of gloom, handed them over to judgment, *for which* they are being held; and did not spare the antediluvian world, but did protect Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a cataclysmic flood upon the world of the ungodly; and *since* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having appointed them *to be* an example of things coming to ungodly people; and *since* He delivered righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual way of life of lawless men (for while residing among them day after day *that* righteous man was tormenting *his* righteous soul by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds), *then* the Lord certainly knows how to deliver the godly from a trial, and to hold the unrighteous under continual punishment until the day of judgment, and most assuredly those who follow after the flesh in *its* defiling lusts and have contempt for lordship.

122. Some falsely believe that God dealt with the human race with judgment in the O.T. and now grace in the N.T.
  - a. God does not change – He has always been merciful and gracious and, likewise, has always been just.
  - b. The judgment that these false teachers will face has been established by God from eternity past.
  - c. God is not slow in carrying out these judgments – He allows the false teachers time to repent [2 Pet 3:9].

123. God's character and essence are immutable and all aspects of God's character and essence are always involved in everything He does.
  - a. Most unbelievers and many Christians emphasize only one aspect of God's essence – His love.
  - b. God is: Righteous, Just, Sovereign, Eternal, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Truth, Immutable, Love, Gracious, Merciful, Longsuffering, Jealous, etc.
124. God's perfect justice is applied to all His creatures including those of the angelic realm.
125. God's perfect justice is also applied to nations, societies, cultures, etc. – Israel: Ezekiel chapters 4-24, Gentile Nations: Ezekiel chapters 25-32, Sodom and Gomorrah: Gen 19:23-29, The Ante-Diluvian World: Gen 6:5-13.
126. Being the object of God's justice should not be viewed as a bad thing – this entails cursing for unrighteousness, but just as significantly it entails blessing for righteousness [Pr 3:33; Lev 26:3-18; Deut 28:1-20].
127. We know that God is faithful [Deut 7:9; 32:4; Isa 25:1; 1 Cor 1:9; 10:13; 2 Cor 1:18], so we can count on the fact that He will punish those who oppose Him and provide deliverance for those who follow Him.
128. Sodom and Gomorrah serve as an example of what God will do in dealing with ungodly places and cultures.
  - a. Sexual perversion, including rampant homosexuality, had become commonplace in these cities.
  - b. He will deal likewise with corrupt cultures of today.
129. Those who indulge the flesh and reject the authority of God and His word have absolutely nothing to guide them toward righteous conduct in their lives.
130. America has cut off its moorings for truth by removing God's word from our schools and promoting ungodly lifestyles in the name of political correctness.
131. We have failed as a people to pass on the lessons of Scripture to our children and, as a result, have spawned generations that despise the authority of the home, work, government, etc.
132. The idea of someone being Lord over us is a concept that is viewed with great contempt today.
133. Our souls may be tormented as we observe the lawless deeds of the increasingly godless world we live in, but we must always remember...
  - a. In this world we have tribulation, but Christ has overcome the world [John 16:33].
  - b. We are still in this world, but we are not of this world [John 15:19; 17:14-16; Phil 3:20].
  - c. Anxiety is not God's plan for us [Phil 4:6; 1 Pet 5:6-7].

### 2 Pet 2:10b-12

Recklessly bold, obstinate, they do not tremble in awe when they revile *fallen* angels, whereas angels who are greater in strength and power do not present a reviling accusation

against them before the Lord. But these people, like irrational creatures – having been born of nature to be captured and killed – are reviling those they do not understand, and they will be destroyed in the destruction of *those angels*,

134. The lack of respect these false teachers have for all authority and lordship reveals itself in their attitude toward the angelic realm.
135. Angels are part of a realm of creation that is higher than the Adamic race [Heb 2:7, 9].
136. This distinction includes the 1/3 of all angels that are fallen angels, even though they have rebelled against God by following Satan.
137. If these false teachers had an ounce of humility they would have respect for all members of the angelic realm and tremble at the thought of reviling them.
138. Even though the holy angels are greater in strength and power, they do not take it upon themselves to speak against these fallen angels, but prefer to let the Lord deal with them [Jude 9].
139. We should take the same approach as the holy angels.
140. Just like animals that are born to be captured and killed, these false teachers will eventually meet their demise.
141. All unregenerate humans who have not placed their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior will face the second death by being thrown into the Lake of Fire [Matt 25:41; Rev 20:14-15].

## 2 Pet 2:13-16

receiving the compensation of doing wrong. They consider it a pleasure to indulge *themselves* in the *middle of the day*. They are stains and blemishes, indulging in their deceitfulness, as they feast together with you, having eyes full of adultery and never ceasing from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in insatiable greed, accursed children; rejecting the right way, they have been misled, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he received a strong rebuke for his own lawlessness: A donkey that could not talk, speaking in a human voice, restrained the irrationality of the prophet.

142. False teachers love the money they rake in as a result of their con games, but the true “wages” they will actually receive will be their just desserts [Gal 6:7].
143. Many people (believers and unbelievers) are susceptible to the lies of these false teachers because they are looking for someone who will justify their sinful lifestyles.
144. These false teachers can read people and know exactly what kind of bait to use as a lure to entice anyone who has not been stabilized in his own soul through the truth of God’s word [Eph 4:14; 2 Pet 1:12; 3:16; James 1:6-8].
145. These false teachers have been “exercising” their greedy ways for a long, long time and have become experts in this area of lust [Eph 4:17-19].

146. We, as believers, should not join the rest of society on the treadmill of covetousness and greed attempting to gain more status and/or money [Luke 12:15].
147. Instead, we should flee from such things and pursue spiritual riches [1 Tim 6:6-11; 2 Tim 2:22].
148. These false teachers had followed the pattern of Balaam who was driven by an irrational lust for money.
149. God used a donkey that Balaam had mistreated to rebuke him and get his attention so God could teach Balaam a lesson [Num 22:21-35].
150. If the people these false teachers were enticing with their “bait” understood this lesson from Scripture, they might not have been lured in by their deceptions.
151. This is a reminder that all lessons from Scripture are important for us to learn [2 Tim 3:16-17; Acts 20:20, 27; Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:6].

## 2 Pet 2:17-19

These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the gloomy darkness has been reserved. For speaking out arrogant *and* empty *words* they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who just barely escape from the ones who continually live in error, promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of moral decay; for by what someone has been overpowered, by this he has been enslaved.

152. False teachers are unable to offer spiritual refreshment because, as unbelievers, their spiritual well is empty.
153. They are like clouds that seem to promise of refreshing showers, but are blown by the stormy winds and yield nothing but fine mists.
154. Those who are seduced by the boastful promises made by these false teachers will, in the end, find nothing but disappointment.
155. These false teachers speak boldly and make high sounding claims that are without substance.
156. The only power these empty claims possess is as bait that draws people in to the false teachers’ systems of lies.
157. In contrast, the truth of God’s word is inherently powerful [Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 1:18, 24; Heb 4:12].
158. Many false teachers today are denying the teaching of the Bible regarding the sinfulness of the homosexual lifestyle [Rom 1:26-27; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Tim 1:8-11] and are seducing many believers into voluntarily enslaving themselves to their own sexual lusts.
159. The believers that are susceptible to the deception of the false teachers are typically infants in Christ who have only barely escaped from the life they had as an unbeliever.
160. These people are saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but they have never grown up in the faith and are not grounded in the truth [Eph 4:14-15].

161. If they understood the principle that anything that overpowers them will enslave them, perhaps they would not willingly give in to the power of the flesh, but would instead yield to the power of God the Holy Spirit and grow to be bond-servants of Christ.

## 2 Pet 2:20-22

For if, after they have escaped the defiling influences of the world by the full knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are once again entangled in them and are subsequently overpowered, the last state has become more severe for them than the first. For it would be preferable for them not to have fully known the way of righteousness, than having fully known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed down to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, 'A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,' and, 'A sow, after washing, *returns* to rolling around in the filthy mud.'

162. When you place your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God the Father rescues you from the domain of darkness and transfers you to the kingdom of His Son [Col 1:13].
163. God does not immediately remove the newborn believer from the world, but does provide him with the ability to escape from the defiling influences of the world [John 17:15; 1 Cor 10:13; 2 Cor 7:1; 2 Pet 2:9].
164. If a believer does not avail himself of God's perfect provision and continues along the path of sin, he will gradually become less and less able to say no to temptation in the power of the flesh.
165. Such a carnal believer will eventually find himself overpowered by the defilements of the world.
166. God does not discipline unbelievers, but will deliver increasing discipline to the carnal believer [Heb 12:6-8].
167. If a believer persists in a pattern of continual sin for long enough, God may remove him from the world through the sin unto death [1 John 5:16-17].
168. Even so, God is faithful to restore such a believer if he humbles himself, repents (changes his mind) and confesses/forsakes his sin [Prov 28:13; 1 John 1:9].
169. Our sin nature has been crucified with Christ, so it makes no sense to return to wallow in our sins [Rom 6:6-7].
170. Believers have been freed from sin and should no longer present themselves as slaves of sin [Rom 6:16-20].
171. We should now consider ourselves as dead to the sin in which we one walked [Col 3:5-8].
172. The foolishness we knew as unbelievers should be set aside now that God has saved us by grace [Titus 3:3-7].

## 2 Pet 3:1-2

This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your unhindered understanding by way of reminder, so that you recall the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.

173. The truth we learn from Scripture is so vitally important that we need reminders to stir up our memory.
174. It is as we cycle the truth of God's word through our conscious thoughts that it is able to transform us when united by faith [Col 3:16; Heb 4:2; Rom 12:2; Eph 4:23].
175. Mediating upon the word of God [Josh 1:8] will allow our thoughts to be unhindered by sin [Ps 119:11] and uncluttered by false teaching [Ps 119:78].
176. We are able to comprehend the reality of the world we live in only when we thoughtfully evaluate it on the basis of the objective truth found in God's word.
177. Satan and his world system try to numb our minds through inane influences like TV and pop culture.
178. We need to have God's word at the forefront of our thinking at all times in order to be alert and ready to defend ourselves in the spiritual battles of the angelic conflict [1 Pet 5:8].
179. One way to keep the word of God resonating in your soul is to memorize Scripture, keeping in mind the meaning of the words, not simply utilizing rote memorization.
180. Just as we carefully choose the right furniture to place in the rooms of our homes, we must carefully choose the right thoughts to place in the "rooms" of our souls.

## 2 Pet 3:3-7

Knowing this above all, that in the last days belligerent mockers will come, conducting their lives in accordance with their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue on in the way *they have been* from the beginning of creation." For when they assert this, they are oblivious *of the fact* that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was razed, being flooded with water. But by His word the current heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, preserved for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

181. We should be aware that there will be people who mock our faith in the promises of the Bible and the attacks will come from believers and unbelievers alike.
182. These mockers are living according to the flesh and their views are colored by their own subjectivity.
183. Because they are fleshly, these mockers are often very belligerent and seek to impose their worldly viewpoint upon Bible-believing Christians.

184. One area of Scripture that will be mocked is eschatology because unbelievers and untaught believers do not have a thorough, literal understanding of God's grace eternal plan for the ages.
185. These mockers question our faith in the promise of the return of Jesus Christ (Rapture and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent) and base their disbelief on the erroneous assertion that everything in the universe continues on as it always has.
186. Peter slams the mockers' belief in the constant universe by pointing out the events of creation and the flood and that a day will come when God is going to completely destroy this universe.
187. In describing this, Peter makes two important points...
  - a. The destruction of this universe has been part of God's plan from the very beginning.
  - b. God will Himself preserve and protect this universe until it is time for Him to vaporize it.
188. Peter's response to the mockers gives us a great example of how knowledge of the Bible is a critical weapon against the attacks of the adversary.
189. Jesus showed us the importance of this when He cited Scripture in response to every temptation of the devil [Luke 4:1-13].
190. The armor of God passage in Eph 6 tells us that the word of God is the sword of the Spirit [Eph 6:17].

## 2 Pet 3:8-9

But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord of the promise is not delaying, as some people evaluate delay, but instead is patient toward you, not desiring for any to perish but for all to arrive at repentance.

191. Believers who do not know the essence and character of God need to study the Bible (preferably under the shepherding care of a pastor-teacher) in order to come to know who God really is.
192. Believers who know the essence and character of God should be careful to keep those things in mind when evaluating the world around them, especially when confronted with mockers.
193. Knowing God's essence and character as well as the doctrines and principles of the Bible is essential in the process of applying truth to our experiences.
  - a. It is important to be a diligent student of the Bible so truth can be understood categorically which is essential for proper application of truth in our lives [2 Tim 2:15].
  - b. Note that the proper way to live as a Christian is to apply God's absolute truth to our experiences, not to allow our experiences to shape our understanding of what is true.
194. God is infinite and has an infinite view of time from A to  $\Omega$ , so nothing is ever early or late as we might understand things from our finite view.

195. The Bible gives us prophecy about future events in God's plan and those events will take place at the perfect time according to God's perfect plan and purpose.
196. We should not allow the mockers to disturb our faith in God's promises.
197. The return of our Lord Jesus Christ was imminent almost 2,000 years ago when the N.T. Scriptures were written and it remains imminent today.
198. What we view as a "delay" in Christ's return is actually evidence of God's amazing grace as He provides more time for people to be saved [Rom 2:4; 1 Tim 2:4].
199. The moment will surely come when the body of Christ will be complete and God the Father will send His Son to claim His bride [Acts 1:7; 1 Thess 4:16].

### 2 Pet 3:10-12

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will disappear with a roar and the elements will be obliterated, being consumed by fire, and the earth and the works *that are* in it will be laid bare. Since all these things are to be obliterated in this way, what sort of people is it necessary to be in holy conduct and reverent behavior, expecting and anticipating the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be obliterated by being burned up, and the elements will dissolve away being consumed by fire!

200. The Day of the Lord refers to the period which comes after the Rapture, beginning with the Tribulation and extending through the destruction of this universe.
201. As with the Rapture, the Day of the Lord will come when no one is expecting it [1 Thess 5:1-2; Rev 16:15].
202. At the end of the Millennium, this universe will be obliterated into nonexistence [Rev 20:11].
203. Just as God brought the heavens and earth into existence from nothing (ex nihilo), He will render the heavens and earth into nothing (in nihilum).
204. This event is so complete that every single element that makes up this world we live in will be dissolved away into nothing.
205. This will remove all traces of the corruption that came upon the universe during the falls of Satan and Adam.
206. The eternal state cannot come until this universe and all the works in it are obliterated.
207. Given that this event is sure to occur, it is necessary for us to be people who...
  - a. Live sanctified lives, distinct from that of unbelievers.
  - b. Exhibit reverent conduct with our focus upon God.
  - c. Expect and anticipate the eternal state in which righteousness dwells [v. 13].

### 2 Pet 3:13

But according to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells *forever*.

208. God has promised us that a day will come when He will create a brand new universe from scratch.
209. The promise of this new universe was given in the O.T. [Isa 65:17; 66:22] as well as elsewhere in the N.T. [Rev 21:1-4].
210. This new universe will not be created until after the current universe has been obliterated out of existence.
211. The new universe will be free from all unrighteousness.
  - a. There will be no need to lock things up for fear of theft or vandalism.
  - b. There will be no need for police or armed forces.
  - c. There will be no nuclear arms race, terrorism, etc.
  - d. There will be no lying, conniving politicians.
  - e. There will be no gossip, jealousy, slander, etc.
  - f. There will be no self-pity.
  - g. There will be no worry.
  - h. There will be no anxiety.
  - i. There will be no fear.
  - j. There will be no guilt.
  - k. There will be no unhappiness of any kind.
  - l. There will be no murder, adultery, etc.
  - m. There will be no false religions or idolatry.
  - n. There will be no disrespectful behavior.
  - o. There will be no road rage or grouchy customer service representatives.
  - p. There will be nothing sinful of any kind.
212. Everyone in the new universe will be free from their sin natures and unable to fall from righteousness as Satan and Adam had done.
213. The righteousness that will dwell forever in the new universe corresponds to God's perfect righteousness.
214. We, as believers, should live in expectant anticipation of the life we will live in this perfect universe... forever.

### 2 Pet 3:14

Therefore, beloved, since you expect these things, make a diligent effort to be found by Him in peace, unstained *by sin* and blameless,

215. If we do indeed confidently anticipate the new universe, then we ought to make every effort to live a life that is pleasing in God's sight [Phil 2:12-16].
216. We also ought to understand that this current universe is not even close to a perfect environment and we should set our expectations accordingly.
217. We should seize the opportunity to have peace in the midst of a world of turmoil.

218. This opportunity for peace began the moment we were eternally reconciled to God through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ [Rom 5:10; Col 1:21-23].
219. This peace does not come about through the absence of problems, but rather the absence of anxiety and fear that results from a believer living in harmony with God.
220. To make progress toward this goal, a believer must live a life that is characterized by being unstained by sin.
221. This requires the believer to rely upon the sustaining ministry of God the Holy Spirit and the word of God resident in the soul in order to avoid sin [Psalm 119:11; Gal 5:16; Jas 1:27; 1 John 1:7].
222. If the believer stumbles, he must be quick to recognize this and confess the sins immediately [1 John 1:9].
223. Complacency or laziness can cause a once-diligent believer to lead an undisciplined spiritual life.

## 2 Pet 3:15-16

and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, speaking also of these things in all *his* letters. Some things in these letters are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

224. Although our minds should be focused on things eternal, we should not become impatient – God’s timeline allows for more people to come to Christ before the Rapture.
225. Peter was not alone in teaching these things – Paul also wrote about having an eternal focus [2 Cor 4:17-18] and about the Lord’s patience toward those who would eventually believe in Him [Rom 2:4; 1 Tim 1:15-16].
226. Peter recognized that Paul’s letters were part of the Scriptures which God had delivered to the Church.
227. This is important for a couple of reasons...
  - a. The acknowledgement that Paul’s letters were Scripture confirms their proper place in the Bible.
  - b. This also tells us that believers in the 1st century were concerned about canonicity.
228. Some of the things Paul writes about in his letters are deep theological issues which can be hard to understand.
229. It is through a lifetime of study with the help of God the Holy Spirit that we are able to gain a grasp the depths of Paul’s writings.
230. Some people (believers and unbelievers) will distort what Paul teaches for their own personal gain.

## 2 Pet 3:17-18a

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, protect yourself so that you are not caught up in and carried away by the error of lawless men and drift away from your own solid grounding *in the truth*, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

231. We should be well aware that there are many people out in the world who twist the meaning of the Scriptures.
232. If we have been forewarned about these people then we ought to be forearmed with the spiritual wisdom we need to protect our souls from their harmful distortions of the truth of God's word.
233. The only way to recognize and stand firm against false doctrine is to be grounded in sound doctrine.
234. When we allow ourselves to get caught up in false teaching for whatever reason (emotion, approbation lust, frantic search for happiness, etc.) we are in danger.
235. When we choose to expose ourselves to distortions of God's word, it does not take very long before we begin to drift away from the solid grounding in the truth that gives us stability within our souls.
236. Once we have gotten a firm hold on the truth of God's word, we should not let go [Col 2:5; 1 Pet 5:9].
237. All of God's word is spiritually profitable [2 Tim 3:16] and gives us knowledge of God [Pr 2:5; Rom 11:33; 2 Cor 10:5; Col 1:10].
238. However, it should be a particular focus of ours to come to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [2 Cor 2:14; Eph 1:17; 4:13; Col 2:2; 2 Pet 1:2, 8; 2:20].
239. We came to know Him as our Savior when we believed in Him and were born-again and we spend the rest of our lives coming to know Him as our Lord.

## 2 Pet 3:18b

To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

240. It is our blessing as born-again believers to praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, recognizing and proclaiming His glory.
241. We have that blessing now, in these fallen bodies and in this fallen world.
242. We will also have that blessing in His very presence for all of eternity [Heb 13:21; 1 Pet 4:11; Rev 5:13].
243. It is our blessing as born-again believers to praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, recognizing and proclaiming His glory.
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