

# Seven Bible Studies 2017

## Epistles

### November 19: 2 Peter 1-3 (Ryan Ingle)

Sunday, November 19 ~ 2 Peter 1 - 3

My apologies in this being posted so late. I hope it didn't cause you to miss your reading today!

Peter knows his time is very short now on earth as Nero was close to executing him. He wants to remind believers in Christ of his first hand experience of being with Christ. Many false teachers were trying to spread doubt that Christ would ever return since His coming had not taken place yet.

#### CH 1

Peter starts by reminding them how great of gift we received through Christ. We have the knowledge of knowing how to please God as a result of His son. We have escaped the evil of this world through Christ, he is our salvation!!

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.” 5-7 Peter makes it clear it is critical to keep these qualities in your life, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of Christ. Without them, you will forget the cleansing of your sins. Do these things and you will never stumble. Peter knew his time was short. He really wanted to drill the message into them and remind them before he no longer could.

Peter affirms his time with Christ and that the message he has spoken is true. He confirms he was there on the mountain when God spoke of Christ.

Peter goes on in reminding them all of what happened was foretold in prophecy. Keep focused on the prophesy as it is the light that helps you overcome the darkness. “For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Peter 1:21

#### CH 2

Peter warns them of false teachers that were present during earlier times as well as now. They will try to cause divisions among you - but know their destruction will be swift!! Unfortunately, they will take followers with them into their destruction as they will not be able to determine right from wrong.

Peter is the example of the angels who rebelled in heaven being casted into hell. He also used the example of Noah and saving his family during much darkness in the world as to God's ability to save those who were righteous. Peter continues by showing how God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah by burning the cities to Ash and yet saving Lot from the destruction as

another example of God saving righteous people. God is able to separate the righteous from the wicked - keep this in your memory, never forget even when I, Peter, am no longer. Be careful of these powerful false teachers and others who wish to mislead you. They act all powerful and flaunt the strength and wealth around. Yet angels who are much more powerful would never consider such behavior. Remember, they will receive their reward from God! They have no shame! They are like wild animals who carouse around in broad daylight. They don't sorry about their sin as they are so entrenched in it.

There's a special place reserved for these individuals, the darkest of darkness in hell. These evil individuals lurk around for the weak. They promise freedom but yet are slaves to sin.

"If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."” 2 Peter 2:20-22

Peter clearly has issue with these false teachers who were leading people away from Christ's message of salvation. He truly shows his love for these people in this letter. He is concerned how things will go with them when Peter is no longer with them.

### CH 3

Peter continues in warning them to stand guard against these individuals who would try to lead them away by saying where is this coming? They make light of it to cast doubt in the believers. However, they forget the creation. They forget the power of God! The God who created the earth, then destroyed it with the flood, and in the end through fire.

Peter assures them by saying, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:8-9

God is a merciful judge who wishes no one to perish. In His time all things will come to an end. The end will come like a thief in the night. The elements will be destroyed by fire.

Keep yourselves pure. Keep yourselves holy. Live godly lives as you look for God's return. Your reward has been promised with a new heaven and Earth. Keep yourself spotless and pure, blameless! Remember, Christ's patience brings more people to salvation. Peter refers to Paul's writings here. He makes note that some unwise, ignorant individuals try to understand his writings but distort his message.

### **Comment:**

Butch O'Neal:  
Thank you, Ryan!

### **Comment:**

Ginger Hermon:  
Thanks, Ryan! What an encouragement this book is. Timeless as well! The Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials. The Lord is not slack concerning His promises. He is patient; not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance. Therefore make every effort... 1:5-10!