

# 2 Peter 1

## There are some differences between 1-2 Peter

*1 Peter* – Peter was writing for Christians who were being persecuted - they were encouraged to remain faithful and keep up their hope in heaven

*2 Peter* – Peter was more warning against false teachers and saying that the only defense against false teachers is knowledge of the Word of God (so “knowledge” is used a lot in this book)

### **Does this theme still apply to us today?**

Some false doctrines Peter was fighting:

- Denial of the deity of Christ (2.1)
- Sinning in the name of the Christian faith (2.1-11)
- Doubting the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (3.1-10)

We have no details from the book about the place where it was written or the date of the writing

## 2 Peter 1.1-4

**V 1** – **How does the author identify himself?** Simon Peter, bond-servant, apostle of Jesus Christ

-**To whom was the letter written?** Those who had the same kind of faith that Peter had (by resurrection of our God and Savior Jesus)

-Notice that Jesus is referred to as God

**V 2** – Grace and Peace (Greek and Hebrew greeting)

-**How will grace and peace be multiplied?** In knowledge

-That is the theme of this letter: emphasis on knowing the truth

**V 3** – **What has God’s power granted to us?** Everything pertaining to life and godliness

-**What does this say about other “inspired” books (example: Book of Mormon, etc.)?** They are not necessary

*2 Timothy 3.16-17* – *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

-**How do we obtain this life and godliness?** Through a knowledge of him (and his Word)

-**What attracted us to Jesus Christ?** His glory and excellence (his behavior)

**V 4** – **By these?** By the glory and excellence of Jesus Christ

-**What have we been given?** His precious and magnificent promises

-Example: love of God, eternal life, providence of God in this life

-**What happens to us when we believe in the promises of God?** We become partakers of the divine nature

-**When did mankind lose the divine nature?** When the fall came and sin entered the human race

-**So what is the significance of our conversion to Jesus Christ?** These divine characteristics are restored, and we once again become formed in the image of God

-Peter is laying the foundation for the eight Christian graces

-When we are converted, we are to change and begin growing toward God

-**What have we escaped when we are converted?** The corruption of the world (which comes in the form of lust)

## **2 Peter 1.5-11** – The Christian graces

**V 5**– **What should be our basic attitude toward those eight qualities?** Diligence, hard work, effort

-**What is the first quality on the road to Christian maturity? 1. Faith**

-We place our faith in Jesus Christ, and we hand our lives over to him

-We trust him with our souls

-We believe what the Bible says, even though we were not there in person, but because of the evidence that we have seen

-Our goal in life is to please Jesus as our Savior

-**How was Christ a man of faith?** He perfectly obeyed the Father

-To have seen Him was to have seen the Father in heaven

-So we enter into the body of Christ by means of faith, and faith therefore is the foundation of growth as a Christian

-**What is the second quality of a mature Christian?** New American Standard Bible: **2. Moral excellence (other translations: virtue)**

-Virtue is the determination to do what is right

-We must make that promise that whatever it takes we will do what is right

-**The third quality? 3. Knowledge**

-**How was Jesus great in the area of knowledge?** He quoted the Old Testament in *Matthew 4* when he faced the temptations of Satan

-He was handed the Isaiah scroll in *Luke 4.16-17*, when he spoke at the temple at Nazareth

-He was able to quote freely from the Old Testament

-Without knowledge of the Word of God, we develop zeal without knowledge

*Romans 10.1-3 – Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.*

Review: We enter into the Kingdom of God by means of faith - then we determine to do what is right - then we study the Scriptures and gain knowledge

**V 6**– **What is the fourth quality of a mature Christian? 4. Self-control**

-Greek word means: To hold one's-self in discipline of self, self-government, the ability to control one's own life

-**How did Jesus Christ show us this quality?** He never lost his temper, but did get angry on several occasions

-He never went to excess in terms of eating, hobbies, etc.

-**What is the fifth quality of a mature Christian? 5. Perseverance**

-Other translations: endurance, not giving up in spite of difficulties – Example: Job

*Job 1.21-22 – And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.*

-**The sixth virtue? 6. Godliness** – Becoming more like God each day

**V 7** – **What is the seventh quality on the list? 7. Brotherly kindness** - Loving our brothers and

sisters in Christ

**-What does the Bible say about helping others in need?**

*Galatians 6.10 – So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

*1 John 3.16-17 – We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?*

**-What had Paul referred to in 1-2 Corinthians that showed brotherly kindness?** Taking up collections for poor Christians in Jerusalem

**-How did Jesus show us the way to brotherly kindness?** Went first with the gospel to the Jews

**-What is eighth quality on the list? 8. Christian love** (toward all people)

-Guy N. Woods has pointed out that #1 through 5 apply to the Christian himself and #6 through 8 apply to our relationship with others

**-If that is so, what is the significance of that order?** We start with ourselves first, and then work out from there

**V 8 – Do we reach a plateau on those eight things and then level off?** No, we should all be increasing in those eight areas all the time (we cannot sit still)

**-If those graces are increasing, then what is our value to Jesus Christ?** We are useful and fruitful

**-What is the ultimate goal?** Knowledge of Jesus Christ

**V 9 – Do Christians ever fall back from those eight things?** Yes, it can happen

**-Why does it sometimes happen?** Because some Christians have allowed themselves to become blind, short-sighted, cannot see far away

-They have forgotten their purification by Jesus Christ

**V 10 – What should each Christian be concerned about?** Making sure he or she is saved (not worrying about others, but about himself or herself first)

**-How will we be saved?** By practicing those things

**-What good does practicing do?** We get better at whatever we practice (piano, baseball, etc.)

**-What does this passage teach about Once Saved Always Saved?** False Doctrine - we can stumble and fall away

**V 11 – Explain “for in this way” in practicing these eight things?**

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