

"Growing Up"

2 Peter 1:1-11

Introduction: Last week we looked at an introduction to Second Peter and in that introduction, we looked at where this letter was written, and we looked at why the letter was written. This letter was written in Babylon, and it was written for the purpose of warning the believers about a false teaching that was fast approaching.

2 Peter 2:1-3

*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as **there shall be** false teachers among you, who privily **shall** bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

² *And many **shall** follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

³ *And through covetousness **shall** they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

Now Jude wrote several years later, and he wrote for almost the same reason.

Jude 1:3-4

³ *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you **that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.***

⁴ *For **there are certain men crept in unawares,** who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Peter said the false teachers were coming and Jude says they are already here. Let us now get to the letter.

I. The Introduction

Notice 2 Peter 2:1

We see two points in this verse.

1. The writer.

Peter is definitely the writer as we looked at last week. We need to look at how he identifies himself here as he opens this letter.

a. A servant

This is a reference to a common slave. Peter has come a long way in his spiritual walk. There was a time when he thought very highly of himself but now as he writes this letter that has all changed. Let me show you what had happened about thirty years earlier in his life that actually brought him to see himself as a common slave.

John 13:

Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

² And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

³ Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

⁴ He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

⁵ After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

⁶ Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

⁷ Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

⁸ Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

⁹ Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Jesus had sent the example for His disciples to follow. He had taken the place of a servant and the disciples were to do the very same thing. As we come to 2 Peter which is thirty years later, Peter now understands this. He now sees himself as a slave and a servant to others just as Jesus was.

b. An Apostle

Peter was in no way boasting about his position when he mentioned his apostleship. He simply stated this to show his credibility for writing this letter. Let us remember that the New Testament Bible was not complete, so the church had to rely upon the teaching of the Apostles.

Acts 2:42

⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2. The recipients.

Notice 2 Peter 2:1 again.

The letter is addressed to those who have obtained like precious faith. I need to take a few minutes and comment on the faith mentioned here. Those who are Calvinists will point to this and teach that the faith spoken of here is saving faith and that saving faith is a gift from God. They say this because they teach that man in his lost condition is unable to exercise faith in Christ so God must regenerate him or her before they can ever believe. So based upon their teaching a sinner must be saved before he or she can exercise faith. There is another verse that they will use.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The hyper-Calvinist will teach that the gift in Ephesians 2:8 is faith. But we understand the gift to be eternal life/salvation.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Man is spiritually dead, but he still has the ability to exercise faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Let us keep in mind that death means "separation." To be spiritually dead is to be separated from God. The unsaved can exercise faith in their own works so why could they not exercise faith in Jesus Christ?

So what is the faith that Peter is speaking of here? It is most likely faith in the Truth of the Word of God. It is objective faith meaning that it is faith in the revealed facts of God's Truth.

So, what Peter is saying to these people is that we all have the same faith. We have the same relationship with God. God is no respecter of persons and so we have the same faith. Peter was saying there was nothing special about him. We are all believers, and we are all people of faith and so the relationship that Peter had was also available to his audience.

Acts 10:34

³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, *Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:*

Romans 2:11

¹¹ For *there is no respect of persons with God.*

Notice 2 Peter 1:2

Here is a very important verse for our lives today. Grace and peace are what is needed in the day in which we live in. The peace spoken of here can refer to two kinds of peace. Peace with God and the peace of God. Both pertain to the believer. Before we were saved, we were enemies of God, and we were at war with Him.

Romans 5:8-10

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Now that we are saved, we have peace with God. That is positional peace. But there is also experiential peace.

Mark 4:36-39

³⁶ *And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.*

³⁷ *And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.*

³⁸ *And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?*

³⁹ *And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*

Here is a picture of the two kinds of peace that God provides for His children. Let us see the ship as our lives. Jesus calmed the external storm (peace with God) then calmed the internal storm (the peace of God).

Notice 2 Peter 1:2 again.

Notice how this peace and grace are attained. Through the knowledge of God the Father and His Son. In other words it is Knowledge of the Truth. This is more than filling our minds with the Knowledge of the Word of God. Knowledge in the Bible is meant to be relational. In other words Knowledge is to draw us into a deeper walk with our Lord. Many people go off to Bible College and fill their minds with Knowledge, but God does not just desire for us to know facts, but He desires that through getting Knowledge we will draw nearer and closer to Him. This Knowledge and close walk are made available for each of us. Let us notice something that Jesus said to His disciples.

John 16:6-7, 13-15

⁶ *But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.*

⁷ *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

¹³ *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

¹⁴ *He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

¹⁵ *All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

The word "expedient" here means "profitable." What is Jesus saying? He is telling them and us that it is to our advantage for Him to go to the Father because when He did, He would send the Comforter/Holy Spirit and He now dwells in each one of us. This means that now each and every believer has the opportunity to walk close in their relationship with the Lord. Before Jesus death, burial and resurrection it was Peter, James, and John who enjoyed that very close relationship but now it attainable for each of us.

Why does Peter comment on this in verse two? Because if you remember the Gnostics believed that you had to come over to their camp in order to have their "higher knowledge." Peter is countering their teaching here by letting his readers know that True Knowledge is available to all who know the Lord and a close intimate walk is available for all who know the Lord. It is not limited to a certain camp or group. We that are saved all have the same Spirit and can walk as close as we choose to walk with our Lord.

II. You Need to Grow
2 Peter 1:3-11
Part 1

In the verses that we are going to get into when we come back next week, we are going to see how Peter encourages growth in these believers. Why is this so important?

2 Peter 2:14

¹⁴ *Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:*

The false teachers prey upon those who are unlearned.

Conclusion:

I cannot emphasize enough the need to be in a church where the Bible is taught. We live in a very dangerous time and if you think you already know enough to stand in the onslaught of false teachers you are deceived.

1 Corinthians 10:12

¹² *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

God has ordained the church as a place to learn the Word of God so that you will be equipped. We are not to come here to be entertained or to socialize. We are to come here to be taught the entire counsel of God.