

The Epistle of 2 Peter

- ▶ This letter is written to teach Christians that we must grow in order to make our calling and election sure. This will guard against false teaching that is so prevalent.

Review Questions

- ▶ How is the faith of Christians described in verse 1?
- ▶ Verse 3: God's power has given us what, and through what?
- ▶ Verse 4: What else has been given to us? Name some.
- ▶ Verse 4: Christians can be partakers of the divine nature, having done what?
- ▶ We are to give all _____ in growing spiritually.
- ▶ What is the foundation or starting point of adding these qualities to our character, v.5?
- ▶ Verse 8: If we add these qualities and abound in them, we will be what?
- ▶ Is it possible then for a Christian to have knowledge and yet be unfruitful?
- ▶ Verse 9: If we lack adding these qualities into our life, how are we described?

1:10-11 A call to action

“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

- ▶ What things do we need to do that we might not stumble?
 - ▶ The things in verses 5-7
 - ▶ Stumble – fall into misery, become wretched, ruined, lost = loss of salvation
- ▶ If we have responded to the call of the gospel and therefore are elect in Christ, are we guaranteed an entrance into heaven?
 - ▶ No, we need to be even more diligent to make our calling and election sure and do these things so that we will not stumble (ruined, lost)

1:12-15 We need to be reminded

“For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

{13} Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

{14} knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

{15} Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.”

- ▶ These things were written to stir up by what?
 - ▶ “reminding you”
- ▶ Where can we find the reminders that the apostles wanted saints to have?
 - ▶ In the Scriptures
 - ▶ Then what do we need to do with the Scriptures?

1:16-18 What Peter is teaching is truth from an eyewitness

“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

{17} For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’

{18} And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”

- ▶ Who were eyewitnesses of the majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ as described in verses 17-18
 - ▶ Peter, James, and John
- ▶ Were all the apostles eyewitnesses?
 - ▶ Yes, Acts 1:21-22

1:19-21 The more sure prophetic word

“And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

{20} But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone’s own interpretation,

{21} for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (NASB)

- ▶ No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of what?
 - ▶ “someone’s own interpretation”
 - ▶ Not of private or personal human origin
 - ▶ “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”

2:1-3 There will be false teachers among you

“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

{2} And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

{3} By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”

- ▶ Where will these false teachers be?
 - ▶ “among you”
- ▶ What is their mode of operation?
 - ▶ “secretly bring in”
- ▶ What will they bring in?
 - ▶ “destructive heresies”

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▶ Heresy

- ▶ Opinion, dogma; opinion opposed to the revelation in the gospel
 - ▶ Contrast to prophets in chapter 1 who “spoke from God”

▶ How far will they go?

- ▶ “even denying the Lord who bought them”

▶ How can we deny the Lord who bought us?

- ▶ Deny – contradict what the Lord said

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- ▶ What will these false teachers reap?
 - ▶ “swift destruction”
- ▶ Will anyone listen to and follow them?
 - ▶ Yes, “many”
- ▶ What’s the result when saints follow the false teachers?
 - ▶ “the way of truth is blasphemed”

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- ▶ What is the motive of these false teachers?
 - ▶ “covetousness”
- ▶ Are their words plainly error?
 - ▶ “deceptive words”
- ▶ What are they doing with saints?
 - ▶ “exploit” – make merchandise of
- ▶ Will they get their just reward?
 - ▶ Yes, “for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber”