

Survey of 2 Peter

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1. Same audience as 1 Peter (1Pet. 1:1 & 2Pet. 3:1). Purpose: 2Pet. 3:17-18.
2. One of the primary themes of 2Peter is to prepare us for difficulties ahead (1:12-13; 3:1).
3. 2Peter shows us how easy it is for us to stray from the faith if we are not diligent in pursuing holiness, understanding heresy and resting in the hope of Christ's sovereignty and return for his people.

Outline

Cultivating Christian Character--Holiness (1:1-21)
Condemning Counterfeit Communicators--Heresy (2:1-22)
Confidence in Christ's Coming--Hope (3:1-18)

Main Points and Application

1. Peter seeks to stir us up (1:13). In what ways? Consider also Heb. 10:24-25.
2. What do we have to do to gain greater assurance of the fact that we have been called by God and chosen by God to be one of his own precious heaven-bound children (1:4-11)?
3. Consider the process that produces a balanced Christian life in 1:5-7. In order to have this kind of Christian life, what must we do?
4. What is practically meant by the phrase in 1:20, "know this first of all ..."? How does this affect us?
5. What do we know of condemning counterfeit communicators (2:1-3)? Do we know anyone who is good at this?
6. What is the right response to false teachers once we detect them (2Tim.3:5; Titus 3:10)? How do we test for them?
 - a) The purchase test (2:1)
 - b) The popularity test (2:2)
 - c) The profanity test (2:3)

7. The primary motive behind the false teacher's heresy (see 2Pet.2:2, 18; 3:3). What should be our driving force?

8. How is confidence in Christ's coming a help or strength for our future living (2Pet. 3:8-11)?

9. The remedy to falling away from Christ is growing in Christ. What must we be doing to press on in Christian living? How important is assurance of the future for Christian growth (2Pet.3)?

10. To sum up 2 Peter, remember three words: **holiness**, we are so far from it; **heresy**, we seldom recognize it; and **hope**, we so easily give up and forget God's sovereign plan and control. In order to grow up into Christ, we must be cultivating holiness (2Pet.1). We must be condemning heresy (2Pet.2) and we must be maintaining our hope in Christ (2Pet.3). Without an understanding of holiness, heresy, and hope it will be impossible for us to develop the diligence necessary for the difficulties we will face.