

2 Peter 1:1-4

God's Gracious Gift of Knowing Him

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Introduction To 2 Peter

Author: Peter

Date: 64-67 A.D.

Audience: Church in Asia Minor

Occasion: Refutation of false teachers

1. Accused apostles of writing "myths"
2. Denied future coming of Christ
3. Lived a licentious lifestyle
4. Abused Paul's writings to prove antinomian viewpoint

Outline of 2 Peter

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| I. Greeting | 1:1-2 |
| II. God's grace: Our source for godliness | 1:3-11 |
| III. Peter's Apostolic reminder | 1:12-21 |
| IV. Evaluation of false teachers | 2:1-22 |
| V. The day of the Lord will come | 3:1-18 |

Verses 1:3-11 Outline

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| 1. Divine Provision | 1:3-4 |
| 2. Pursue a godly life | 1:5-7 |
| 3. The necessity of godly virtues | 1:8-11 |

Peter Greet's Fellow Saints

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and **apostle** of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of the God of ours and our Savior, Jesus Christ. (personal trans.)

Granville Sharp's rule (ASKS): When two personal, singular nouns, which are not proper nouns, fall under the same article, they refer to the same entity.

Peter Greet's Fellow Saints

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you **in the knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Verse 1: Jesus is God

Verse 2: Jesus is not the Father

God's Grace Leads To Our Godliness

2 Peter 1:3 As His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, **through the true knowledge** of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

We Are Partakers of The Divine Nature

2 Peter 1:4 (Through these) He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

2 Peter 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Partakers of The Divine Nature

1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He is.

Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

Application

1. We must remember that God's kindness and mercy are not signs that God is pleased with all people, but are designed to move people to repentance.

1 Peter 1:4 (Through these) He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises...

Romans 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Application

2. We can learn from 2nd Peter that the battle for truth has not changed. False teachers always reject Apostolic teaching, and often replace the concern for future judgment with concerns for "here and now."

False teachers in Peter's day:

1. Claimed apostles were teaching "myths."
2. Claimed a "mystical" knowledge that led them to blaspheme angelic beings. They probably did this to make their lives better "here and now."

2. False Teachers Concerned For Today

2 Peter 2:10b Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties...

2 Peter 2:12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

2 Peter 3:3-4a ...scoffers will come in the last days scoffing... "Where is the promise of His coming?"

2. The Battle Hasn't Changed

False teachers in our day:

1. Theological liberals claimed apostles were teaching "myths."
2. Postmodernists claim mysticism will make lives better "here and now."

"An eschatology of abandonment, which is how I would characterize certain streams of the left-behind approach, has disastrous social consequences. Ecology is marginalized - something we can't afford to do in an age of global warming..." (Brian McLaren)

2. How Did We Get Here?

1. Rationalists (Gottfried Leibniz 1646-1716)
2. Empiricists (David Hume 1711-1776)
3. Synthesis (Immanuel Kant 1724-1804)
4. Fideism (Soren Kierkegaard 1813-1855)
5. Postmodernism (1945- Europe/USA)

2. Can We Know Anything?

How do "I" know the Bible is always right? And if "I" am sophisticated enough to realize that I know nothing of the Bible without my own involvement via interpretation, I'll also ask how I know which school, method, or technique of biblical interpretation is right. (Brian McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, p.133)

2 The Apostle Peter's Response

- 2 Peter 1:2 ...grace and peace multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus...
- 2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted us all things...through the knowledge of Him...
- 2 Peter 1:5 ...supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge.
- 2 Peter 1:8 ...they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...
- 2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you...
