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The Second Epistle Of  
**P E T E R**

- This second letter (epistle) of Peter was written shortly after his first one about A.D. 66. The little letter is virtually Peter's last will and testament, even as 2 Timothy was Paul's swan song.
- In this little book, Peter warns of coming apostasy (falling away from God and truth). He warns believers to guard against heresy (which usually begins as only a small cloud but quickly builds into storm clouds of destruction).

It is interesting to note that neither Paul nor Peter had negative thoughts about their coming martyrdoms:

Paul: 2 Tim. 4:6-8

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. [7] I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Peter: 2 Peter 1:13-14

Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle (his earthly body), to stir you

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- Peter warns here that the Church must be anchored on the Word of God and emphasizes our knowledge of Scriptures.

**O U T L I N E**

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- I. Christian Graces / Chapter 1:1-14**
  - II. Prophecy Attests to Scriptures Authenticity and Authority / Chapter 1:15-21**
  - III. The Dangers of Apostasy and False Teachers / Chapter 2**
  - IV. The Return of the Lord and Our Response To It / Chapter 3:1-4**
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**CHAPTER ONE**

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## CHRISTIAN GRACES

### 2 Peter 1:2-3

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [3] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

1. Christian Graces come from knowing Christ - not just knowing "about" Him.
2. Christ's nature comes into us - the saving life of Christ.

### 2 Peter 1:5-7

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; [6] And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; [7] And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. (Love)

1. Just as you take care of your body so must you care for your soul. It is an "on purpose" act.
2. There must be GROWTH in our Christian maturity.

### 2 Peter 1:10

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

I know that I am married - nearly 50 years now - in another 20 days. But to make that marriage meaningful, both Darlene and I have had to work at it.

### NOW PETER TALKS OF HIS COMING DEATH:

Remember that Jesus had told him how he would die:

### John 21:18-19

The truth is, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked and go wherever you wanted to. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will direct you and take you where you don't want to go." [19] Jesus said this to let him know what kind of death he would die to glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me."

1 2 Peter 1:14 (New Living Translation)

2 **But the Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that my days here on earth are**  
3 **numbered and I am soon to die.**

4  
5 1. I wonder how content I could be knowing that my death would be by cruel  
6 crucifixion. It was Peter's knowledge of what awaited him that made it possible to be  
7 calm and content about it.

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9 SCRIPTURE IS AUTHORITATIVE BECAUSE OF FULFILLED PROPHECIES

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11 2 Peter 1:16-19

12 **For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the power of**  
13 **our Lord Jesus Christ and his coming again. We have seen his majestic splendor**  
14 **with our own eyes. [17] And he received honor and glory from God the Father when**  
15 **God's glorious, majestic voice called down from heaven, "This is my beloved Son; I**  
16 **am fully pleased with him." [18] We ourselves heard the voice when we were there**  
17 **with him on the holy mountain.**

18 **[19] Because of that, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed**  
19 **by the prophets. Pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a**  
20 **light shining in a dark place—until the day Christ appears and his brilliant light**  
1 **shines in your hearts.**

22  
23 Peter tells us that we cannot just interpret Scripture in any old way we personally want  
24 nor did the writers of it just put pen to their whims and fancies:

25  
26 2 Peter 1:20-21

27 **Above all, you must understand that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the**  
28 **prophets themselves [21] or because they wanted to prophesy. It was the Holy Spirit**  
29 **who moved the prophets to speak from God.**

30  
31 CHAPTER TWO

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33 APOSTASIES

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35 (Apostasy = "The renunciation or abandonment of one's religious faith")

36  
37 2 Peter 2:1

38 **But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers**  
39 **among you. They will cleverly teach their destructive heresies about God and even**  
40 **turn against their Master who bought them. Theirs will be a swift and terrible end.**

1 **2 Peter 2:1** [The Message]

2 **But there were also lying prophets among the people then, just as there will be**  
3 **lying religious teachers among you. They'll smuggle in destructive divisions, pitting**  
4 **you against each other—biting the hand of the One who gave them a chance to have**  
5 **their lives back! They've put themselves on a fast downhill slide to destruction,**

6  
7 Jesus warned us in His Mt. Olivet prophetic discourse that deception would be a pivotal  
8 sign of the end of time:

9  
10 **Matthew 24:4-5**

11 **And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. [5]**  
12 **For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**

13 **Matthew 24:11**

14 **And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.**  
15

The danger of false teachers and teachings is that they all come with “some truth” in what they say. Unless you really know the Word, you can be taken in quickly.

16 **WHY DO PEOPLE GIVE FALSE TEACHINGS?**  
17

18 **2 Peter 2:2-3**

19 **Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of**  
20 **them, Christ and his true way will be slandered. [3] In their greed they will make up**  
21 **clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their**  
22 **destruction is on the way.**

- 23  
24 1. Ignorance  
25 2. Money or personal gain  
26 3. Pressure from others  
27

28 1. Peter then takes a number of verses to say that God will harshly judge false prophets:  
29

30 **2 Peter 2:4-14**

31 **For God did not spare even the angels when they sinned; he threw them into hell,**  
32 **in gloomy caves and darkness until the judgment day. [5] And God did not spare the**  
33 **ancient world—except for Noah and his family of seven. Noah warned the world of**  
34 **God's righteous judgment. Then God destroyed the whole world of ungodly people**  
35 **with a vast flood. [6] Later, he turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into heaps**  
36 **of ashes and swept them off the face of the earth. He made them an example of what**  
37 **will happen to ungodly people. [7] But at the same time, God rescued Lot out of**

1 Sodom because he was a good man who was sick of all the immorality and  
2 wickedness around him. [8] Yes, he was a righteous man who was distressed by the  
3 wickedness he saw and heard day after day.

4 [9] So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even  
5 while punishing the wicked right up until the day of judgment. [10] He is especially  
6 hard on those who follow their own evil, lustful desires and who despise authority.  
7 These people are proud and arrogant, daring even to scoff at the glorious ones  
8 without so much as trembling. [11] But the angels, even though they are far greater  
9 in power and strength than these false teachers, never speak out disrespectfully  
10 against the glorious ones.

11 [12] These false teachers are like unthinking animals, creatures of instinct, who  
12 are born to be caught and killed. They laugh at the terrifying powers they know so  
13 little about, and they will be destroyed along with them. [13] Their destruction is  
14 their reward for the harm they have done. They love to indulge in evil pleasures in  
15 broad daylight. They are a disgrace and a stain among you. They revel in  
16 deceitfulness while they feast with you. [14] They commit adultery with their eyes,  
17 and their lust is never satisfied. They make a game of luring unstable people into sin.  
18 They train themselves to be greedy; they are doomed and cursed.

### 19 20 CHAPTER THREE 1 THE RETURN OF THE LORD

#### 22 23 2 Peter 3:1-13

24 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your  
25 pure minds by way of remembrance: [2] That ye may be mindful of the words which  
26 were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the  
27 apostles of the Lord and Saviour: [3] Knowing this first, that there shall come in the  
28 last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, [4] And saying, Where is the  
29 promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they  
30 were from the beginning of the creation. [5] For this they willingly are ignorant of,  
31 that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the  
32 water and in the water: [6] Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with  
33 water, perished: [7] But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same  
34 word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition  
35 of ungodly men. [8] But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is  
36 with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord is  
37 not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering  
38 to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to  
39 repentance. [10] But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the  
40 which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt

with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. [11] Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, [12] Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? [13] Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

1. Scoffers. "Where is the promise of His coming? We've heard this story for years."

2. A sense of Christ's return puts urgency in our lives.

3. Peter deals here with three tenses: past, present and future:

PAST - Verses 5-6 – a pre-creation destroyed by God

**Isaiah 14:12-14**

**How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! [13] For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.**

PRESENT: Scoffers and mockers....and a very dead church world

FUTURE: Christ will return and eventually destroy this earth and build a new one

4. Therefore, what manner of persons should we be?

**2 Peter 3:14**

**Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**

**2 Peter 3:18**

**But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**