



2 PETER

A STABLE FAITH IN A
SENSUAL WORLD





LIVING HOPE

baptist church

*Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to
His abundant mercy
has begotten us again to a
Living Hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead.*

1 Peter 1:3

Community Group Purpose Statement

We, as smaller gatherings of one family, will practice with our lives the gospel truths that we confess with our mouths. Together, we will allow our lives to be challenged by the gospel and one another; we will live lives of boldness and purpose. As we walk in the light of the gospel, we will point to the grace of God and its power to set lives free from sin and death. We will continue praying, teaching, making disciples, and bearing one another's burdens. Following the pattern set before us by Jesus, we will bring joy to our family (the church) and glory to his name.

What is a Community Group?

Community groups are small gatherings of people that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community groups are an essential expression of the mission of Living Hope Baptist Church. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life that God intends for us.

Each community group is unique, shaped by its neighborhood and the people who attend. However, you can expect a weekly gathering in a residence that involves food, conversation, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and service in the neighborhood. At the heart of each community group is the desire to see an authentic community marked by love for Jesus, one another, and the neighborhood.

Why Should I Join a Community Group?

The God of the Bible is a Trinitarian God who is one and three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. God has made us in his image, which means we are made for community and friendship. And when we are not living in community we suffer because life in a sinful world is too complex and tempting to journey alone. Therefore, community groups are a place where we can live in relationship with one another through the ups and downs of life.

2 PETER

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Introduction

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2 Peter

A Stable Faith in a Sensual World

INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Peter wrote this second epistle from Rome as he awaited his soon martyrdom. His first letter focused on the trials the church would go through from outside of the church and now he turns his attention to the trials that will come from within. Peter is deeply burdened that after his death false teachers will come in an attempt to draw many away from the faith by their appeals to the flesh which is directly opposed to the message of Jesus which is to put to death the flesh. Peter's desire is for true believers to grow in the faith and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus therefore protecting themselves from the false teachers and their destructive effects. It is also clear from this letter that Peter is also concerned that those who claim to Jesus truly belong to Jesus. His message can be summed up in 3:17; *"You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your stability."* Peter was deeply concerned that his readers not depart from being established in the truth (1:12). True stability only comes from Jesus and His gospel.

Lesson 1



Calling to Mind Who You Are

2 Peter 1:1-4

SUMMARY

Peter is concerned that false teachers will draw believers away from Jesus. Throughout this letter he exposes who these false teachers really are. However, he begins his letter by reminding his readers who they are in Christ, and how they received all they have in Christ. It is a great place to start, for when one truly embraces these truths by faith, they will realize there is no other person than Jesus who is worthy of their life and devotion.

Peter packs in some amazing truths in these first four verses but he also emphasizes a personal and intimate growing relationship with the living Lord. When truth is combined with a vibrant relationship with the author of that truth, there will be protection from being drawn away by false teachers.

(The message that goes along with this lesson, and those that follow, can be heard in its entirety on our website which is www.lhbcevv.org.)

QUESTIONS

1. How does Peter describe himself in **verse 1**?
2. What name does Peter emphasize over and over in these 4 verses?
3. For what reason might Peter had in referring to his readers as those “who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours?”

4. What do you see in these first four verses that would show that what believers have is all of grace and not anything they have earned on their own?
5. When you read that Peter said he desired grace and peace to be multiplied, what was his hope for his readers? **(verse 2)**
6. Did God leave anything out of our salvation when He called us to Himself? Explain **(verse 3)**
7. Who is the source of our spiritual life and what does every believer possess? **(verse 4)**
8. The world is full of corruption but what is the source of that corruption? **(verse 4)**

APPLICATION

1. Peter had denied knowing Jesus 3 times (**Mark 14:66-72**). Now, in the beginning of this letter he emphasizes the importance of knowing Jesus fully and experientially. What is the difference between knowing the facts of Jesus and knowing Him intimately? What would both of those descriptions look like?

2. Peter is concerned that his readers grow in their faith, specifically that grace and peace be multiplied to them. Since you were first saved, how would you describe how you have experienced “spiritual multiplication” in your life? (How is it different now than when you first were saved?)

3. God’s power has saved us and given us everything we need to grow to be like Him. Do you struggle with trying to “earn” favor from God by what you do or do you do spiritual things because of what God has done for you? What is the difference in the two?

4. Would you consider yourself at times, to be a “weakling” in your faith? Where does your life falter in living as having God’s divine nature within you? **(verse 4)** If there is an area, what relation would God’s promises have to do with your faltering?

PRAYER

Lesson 2



Confirming Who You Are

2 Peter 1:5-15

SUMMARY

Peter is deeply concerned that his readers are who they say they are in Christ and that they are assured of that because they can see evidence in their lives. Peter gives 7 qualities that are characteristic of a person who has the righteousness of Christ indwelling within. A person who is diligently pursuing these qualities is confirming that they indeed have been chosen by God and called by God to salvation. These qualities do not earn salvation but rather are evidence that spiritual life from God has been granted in Christ. There is always a danger for a person to be deceived thinking they are God's child when they are not. That is why Peter urges his readers to look at their lives and see if they are consistent with the qualities he mentions. He wants them to confirm their calling and election which results in a fruitful and growing life along with the assurance of being ushered in to God's eternal kingdom.

QUESTIONS

1. What is Peter referring to in **verse 5** when he says, "For this very reason"?

2. What seven qualities does Peter mention in **verses 5-7**?

3. When Peter informs his readers to make every effort to diligently practice these qualities, what type of person is Peter envisioning?
4. How does **verse 8** let us know we are not to be satisfied with our current spiritual dedication?
5. How does **verse 8** show us that we truly belong to Christ?
6. **Read verse 9.** Is it possible for someone to claim they have been forgiven but have truly never been forgiven? What would prove this to be true? (May also see the Parable of the Sower in **Mark 4:1-20**)
7. What is Peter burdened about in **verse 10 & 11**? Does he seem to be concerned about believers entering heaven with no rewards or people who claim to be believers not entering heaven at all?

APPLICATION

1. Based on this passage, why is it a must to base the proof of your salvation on how you are living rather than on a “decision” made in the past?

2. Peter emphasizes to his readers the need for a diligent and tireless effort in the Christian walk. This effort does not save us, but it confirms our calling that we truly belong to Christ.

Answer the following questions:

a. Do genuine Christians struggle with these seven qualities? (**See Romans 7:15-25**)

b. How is the Gospel still active in a genuine Christian’s life in these struggles?

c. Though no Christian will ever reach perfection in these qualities, they should be evaluating their effort. As you think about a diligent and energetic effort in living for the Savior who gave you life:

1. How are you convicted?

2. How are you challenged?

3. How are you concerned?

PRAYER

Lesson 3



The Source Makes All the Difference

2 Peter 1:16-21

SUMMARY

Peter is conveying to his readers the importance of going to the true source for truth. He informs them that he and the other apostles did not follow man-made myths when they preached concerning the return of Jesus. His own eyewitness account shows the Father's approval of His Son and what the Father already declared about His Son as revealed to the prophets of old. Peter then shows his readers that the written word of Scripture is even a much more firm guarantee of truth than the experience he had on the holy mountain. He is not discrediting that experience but rather is saying that the experience just confirmed what was already written. Peter urges his readers to pay attention to the light of the Scriptures because they live in a very dark world and also that they are to continue to do so until Jesus returns. He closes the passage by affirming the fact that the source of Scripture is not man, but God! Knowing this truth will also protect them from false teachers who always promote "myths" that will pull people away from Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. As you compare **verse 16** with **verse 21**, what is the source of myths and what is the source of truth?
2. How did God's approval of His Son as recorded by Peter in **verses 17 & 18** show God was verifying what He already wrote about His Son through the prophets?

3. As you compare **verse 19** with the experience Peter had on the holy mountain (**verses 16-18**), which one does he urge his readers to devote themselves to?

4. What illustration does Peter use to describe the Scriptures in the times that he lived? (**verse 19**)

5. How are we ensured that when men wrote the Scriptures, it is not their ideas, but God's? (**verse 21**)

APPLICATION

1. Why do you think people come up with myths rather than submitting to God's written word? What are some "religious myths?"

2. Peter confirms that this world is a dark place running away from God as fast as it can. He urges his readers to constantly devote themselves to the Scriptures because they are like a light. In what ways can you apply the following verse to your life – in what you are going through right now? ***Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.***

3. In what ways do you struggle in understanding the Bible?

4. In what ways do you struggle in disciplining yourself to read the Bible? If you had to pinpoint the problem, what would it be?

5. Why does Peter urge his readers, and us by application, to pay attention to the Word because we are in a dark place. What is the danger he is concerned about? How can this danger affect you and your family?

6. Are you a person who seeks experience, events, signs, and miraculous occurrences more than you do reading the Scriptures? Which one seems more spiritual? Which one does Peter direct us to? Would a “sign” or “experience” ever contradict God’s Word based on this passage?

7. How does knowing the source of Scripture challenge you to read and obey?

PRAYER

Lesson 4



Be Alert, Your Life Depends On It

Part 1

2 Peter 2:1,2

SUMMARY

Peter begins chapter 2 with the intention of exposing the false teachers who are attempting to draw people away from the truth and the gospel. Peter informs his readers that these false teachers will be a part of their life and they act in secret ways preying upon the sensual desires of people in order to lead them astray. His concern is that his readers not follow so as not to become a part of the way of truth being spoken evil of. These false teachers are a direct contrast from the great truths he wrote in chapter 1:16-21.

QUESTIONS

1. What reality does Peter speak of in **2:1**?
2. In what way do these false teachers function in order to reach people? **(verse 1)**
3. What word does Peter use to describe the heresy they teach and also what will happen to those who teach it? **(verse 1)**
4. What is the tragic result that Peter tells his readers in **verse 2**?

5. What is the appealing point the false teachers use? (**verse 2**)

6. What is Peter concerned about in **verse 2** that will be spoken evil of?

7. What did Jesus use in his encounter with Satan? **See Matthew 4: 1-9.**

APPLICATION

1. *“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.”* **2 Tim. 4:3.**

Do you view yourself as being “exempt” from this? Explain your answer.

Even if you are committed to the Word of God and the Gospel, is it still possible to fight against some truth in the Scriptures? What truths might we struggle with?

2. In what ways can you protect yourself against false teachers?

3. How do you think “sensuality” plays a part in religious or church appeals to you and to our society today?

4. In what ways can your life speak evil about the way of truth as your family, your coworkers, your friends, and the world in general is watching you?

5. What concerns should we have about the secret and stealthy influences that our children and grandchildren face daily? What can you do to present the way of truth to them on a daily basis?

PRAYER

Lesson 5



Be Alert, Your Life Depends On It

Part 2

2 Peter 2:3-22

SUMMARY

Peter is continuing his to warn the church concerning false teachers. Peter's main thought in these verses is that God knows how to judge the ungodly having proved that in that past and He knows how to deliver the righteous. After establishing this truth he proceeds to describe these false teachers in great detail. They are described as leaving the way of truth and following after the way of Balaam – a false prophet who loved personal gain from wrong doing. Peter alerts the church that these false teachers come from within the church – professors of the faith but not possessors. Their end will be judgment from God. The church must be alert to the secret plans of the wicked to infiltrate the church to draw people away from the Gospel and to live lives of evil sensuality.

QUESTIONS

1. According to **verse 3a**, how can you detect a false prophet?
2. What three examples does Peter give to show the church that God knows how to judge the ungodly? (**verses 4, 5 & 6**)
3. What two examples are given to show that God knows how to deliver the righteous? (**verses 5 & 7**)

4. Even though the wicked seem to prosper and flourish for a time, what day is coming for them? (**verse 9**)

5. If someone wrote today in the same way Peter wrote about these false teachers, how would the one who exposed them be perceived? How would even many in the “church” perceive this person? What’s the reason for this kind of a response?

APPLICATION

1. Read **Matthew 7:15-20**. Answer the following questions:

a. What is the command of Jesus? (**verse 15**)

b. How does Jesus describe these people? (**verse 15**)

c. How does the church recognize them? (**verse 16-20**)

d. What is our responsibility as the Lord’s church related to these verses towards our teaching elder, our elders, and those who are a part of Living Hope?

2. Why does it seem so easy for false teachers to prey on the church as they come from within? How can we assure that we are not easy targets? (2 Peter 2:14 *"They entice unsteady souls."*)

3. As you walk in the "right way" (**verse 15**), and the "way of truth" (**verse 2**), and the "way of righteousness" (**verse 21**), what things can you naturally expect in this fallen world? What are you doing to strengthen yourself in such a hard and difficult place?

4. As you read **verse 18**, can people be associated with the church, and the gospel, and the Word, and even be favorable to it, but not be saved? What can we do as a church to be used of God in defeating Satan from snatching the seed?

5. In what ways can we as a church speak truth that opposes lies and error and false teaching even within the “church” community? What can we do and what should we avoid?

PRAYER

Lesson 6



It Will Be Ended - Who You Ought to Be

2 Peter 3:1-13

SUMMARY

The false teachers were denying the teachings of the apostles concerning the return of Jesus. They were teaching that all things have stayed the same and they will continue to stay the same. In doing this, they are clearly denying the evidence of creation itself and also of the world-wide flood. The heart motive of this false teaching is so that they can follow their sinful sensual desires. If Jesus is not returning and there is no resurrection, then you can live like you desire without any consequences. Peter informs the church that what may seem like a delay to the church is not at all a delay by God. God is purposeful in his timing of His return and also merciful in giving his sheep time and an opportunity to repent and turn to Him. A day of judgment is indeed coming when God will judge the ungodly and even destroy and renew His creation. In light of this fact, Peter challenges the church to be the sort of people that they ought to be (11).

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Peter write this second letter? (**verse 1,2**)
2. Why do scoffers scoff? (**verse 3**)
3. What is the main subject these false teachers were promoting? (**verse 4**)

4. What two pieces of evidence does Peter give that proves that the world has not stayed the same? (**verse 4,5,6**)

5. What awaits the heavens and the earth? (**verse 7**)

6. What reason does Peter give for the reason Jesus has not returned yet? (**verse 9**)

7. What contrast do you see in **verse 10**?

APPLICATION

1. As you look at **verses 1 & 2**, how should you keep yourself stirred up? Why do you need stirred up? What should you do if you are not stirred up?

2. How does being warned as in **verse 3**, help you in your Christian walk?

3. **Read verse 7.** Do you really believe this? If we truly believed this, how would it be seen in our actions? (See also **verse 12**)

Are you satisfied with your burden for the perishing? If it is not where it should be, what can you do to “stir” that up?

4. Peter does not emphasize the “when” of Jesus return nor does he command the church to try and figure it out. Peter states that the evidence of your life will show to others if you are expecting Jesus to return. In what ways can your life show to others that you are actively waiting for Jesus to return?

5. Jesus has not returned in order to give his sheep time to repent. Someone once said, “God loves saving people.” Knowing this, what should your thoughts be drawn to when you become discouraged about the wicked world that God has placed us in?

PRAYER

Lesson 7



Diligence While Waiting

2 Peter 3:14-18

SUMMARY

Peter's final words to the church are words of encouragement and warning. Peter urges the church to be diligent in their Christian walk while waiting for Jesus to return and to protect themselves from being carried away by false teachers and error. Peter uses four commands in this last section to make his point. (1) While waiting, be diligent to not be marked by sin. (2) While waiting, count or consider that God's patience is for the salvation of others and the church is to be involved in that. (3) While waiting, be on your guard or take care that false teachers don't lead you astray. (4) While waiting, you are to be growing spiritually, never being satisfied to stay the same. Peter's desire is that the church brings glory to God now and always. This is truly a stable faith!

QUESTIONS

1. How does **verse 14** prove this statement wrong? "I just go to church on Sunday, that's enough."
2. What does **verse 15** tell you about the heart of God for those rejecting Him?
3. Looking at **verse 15 & 16**, should we expect that the Bible contains some hard things to grasp? What kind of diligence is required to understand them? Do the unstable just twist the hard things or even the "easier" things? What's the result of such self-centered use of the Scriptures?

4. As you look at **verse 17**, is there any excuse that a person who claims to be a believer or even a true believer is carried away into error? Why or why not? What's the protection?

5. What is the believer to be doing while waiting for Jesus to return? (**verse 18**)

APPLICATION

1. As God looks at you, what would He discover about you? (**verse 14**)

a. What spots and blemishes would He observe?

b. Where would He be pleased (though none of us have arrived or ever will)?

2. How can diligence play a significant part in removing the spots and blemishes you observed in your life?

3. Are you at “peace” (**verse 14**) as you live in this wicked world, and Jesus hasn’t stopped it yet? How can you have “peace”?

4. How does knowing God’s patience as salvation: (**verse 15**)

a. Encourage you concerning those who are not yet saved, especially those you are praying for?

b. Challenge you in what you should be active in doing?

5. Stability clearly comes from the Scriptures and from not twisting them to meet our selfish desires. As you evaluate yourself in relation to “diligence” with the Scriptures, what would God “discover” about your efforts, desires, and commitment to His Words? (**verse 17**)

6. Describe what it means to grow spiritually. (**verse 18**) If there was one area that stands out to you where you need to grow, what would that be?

PRAYER

PRAYER NEEDS

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