

www.InGodsImage.com

“Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus”

A Textual Study of 1-2 Peter and Jude

Week 1	1 Peter 1:1-12 - Born Again to a Living Hope
Week 2	1 Peter 1:13-2:12 - Called to be Holy
Week 3	1 Peter 2:13-25 - Submission to Authority
Week 4	1 Peter 3:1-7 - Grace and Knowledge at Home
Week 5	1 Peter 3:8-22 - Honoring Christ the Lord in Our Hearts
Week 6	1 Peter 4:1-11 - Serving as Stewards of God’s Varied Grace
Week 7	1 Peter 4:12-19 - Entrusting Our Souls to the Faithful Creator
Week 8	1 Peter 5:1-5 - The Shepherds and Sheep of the Chief Shepherd
Week 9	1 Peter 5:5-14 - Standing Firm in the True Grace of God
Week 10	2 Peter 1:1-15 - Making Our Calling and Election Sure
Week 11	2 Peter 1:16-21 - The Power of Scripture and the Glory of Christ
Week 12	2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-16 - Beware of False Teachers
Week 13	2 Peter 3:1-18 / Jude 17-25 - The Day of the Lord is Coming

- 1 Peter 1:1-12 - Born Again to a Living Hope

When you think of “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ” (1:1), what comes to your mind?

Peter invokes a powerful triad of ideas in 1:2. What is implied by:

- according to the foreknowledge of God the Father –
- in the sanctification of the Spirit –
- for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood –

What does it mean to be “born again” (1:3)?

What is the significance of hope that is “living” (1:3)?

Why is the Christian’s hope inseparably tied to “the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1:3)?

In what way are Christians “being guarded” by the power of God (1:5)?

Practically speaking, how do “various trials” test the “genuineness” of faith (1:6-7)?

How can genuine faith possibly be more precious than gold (1:7)?

What is “joy that is inexpressible” and where is it found (1:8)?

In your own words, how would you summarize what Peter is communicating in 1:10-12?

- 1 Peter 1:13-2:12 - Called to be Holy

In your own words, what does it mean to “be holy” (1:16)?

Why does God anchor his expectation for our holiness in the fact that he is holy (1:16)?

Why must our minds be “prepared for action” (1:13)?

What role does “sober-mindedness” play in a life of holiness (1:13)?

“Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:13). What does this mean and how do we go about doing it?

How would you describe what the Spirit has in mind when he leads Peter to refer to “the passions of your former ignorance” (1:14)?

Why is it wise to “conduct” ourselves “with fear throughout the time” of our “exile,” and what is this “exile” (1:17)?

How would you summarize what Peter is revealing in 1:18-25?

How does one come to “taste that the Lord is good” (2:1-3)?

Peter describes Christians in a variety of different ways: “living stones” (2:5), “a holy priesthood” (2:5), “a chosen race” (2:9), “a royal priesthood” (2:9), “a holy nation” (2:9), “a people for his own possession” (2:9), “God’s people” (2:10), “sojourners and exiles” (2:11). As you read those God-breathed phrases, what comes to your mind? How should they shape our new identities in Christ?

- 1 Peter 2:13-25 - Submission to Authority

In your own words, what does it mean to “be subject” to someone or something?

Why would the Spirit of God instruct Christians to “Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution” (2:13), especially when “the emperor” or the “governors” may stand in direct and active opposition to what our Lord taught, the reasons for which he died, and the groundbreaking nature of his resurrection from the dead?

In what way is “the ignorance of foolish people” put “to silence” by disciples of Christ “doing good” (2:15)?

“Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God” (2:16). What does this mean?

How would you rephrase the following instructions in everyday terms:

- Honor everyone –
- Love the brotherhood –
- Fear God –
- Honor the emperor –

Why would it be important for servants to “be subject” to their masters, “not only to the good and gentle but also to the just” (2:18), and in what way is this “a gracious thing” (2:19-20)?

Why does Peter, in the context of 2:13-25, point us to the example of Jesus in 2:21-24?

In your own words, how would you convey the truths revealed in 2:25?

- 1 Peter 3:1-7 - Grace and Knowledge at Home

In our last study we asked the question, “What does it mean to ‘be subject’ to someone or something?” In light of 3:1-2, how does the call to “be subject” apply to wives?

Is there any significance to the first word in 3:1—“Likewise”?

What does Peter mean when he describes the possibility of husbands being “won” by the conduct of their wives?

Practically speaking, how can the “respectful and pure conduct” (3:2) of a wife factor in this winning of her husband, even “without a word”?

In your own words, what is the Spirit of God prescribing in 3:3-4?

Why bring up “the holy women” of the past who “hoped in God” (3:5)?

In what way could a contemporary Christian woman be a daughter of Sarah (3:6), and what does that even mean?

Why encourage Christian women not to “fear anything that is frightening” (3:6)?

Is there any significance to the first word in 3:7—“Likewise”?

In everyday terms, what does it mean for husbands to “live with [their] wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with [them] of the grace of life, so that [their] prayers may not be hindered” (3:7)?

- 1 Peter 3:8-22 -

Honoring Christ the Lord in Our Hearts

Is there any significance to the first word in 3:8—“Finally”?

Why is it vital that disciples of Christ have (3:8):

- Unity of mind?
- Sympathy?
- Brotherly love?
- Tender hearts?
- Humility of mind?

What difference does it make if I “repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling” (3:9)?

Why, in contrast, is the choice to “bless” always the better choice?

In 3:10-12, Peter cites Psalm 34:12-16. In your own words, what is being communicated in those ancient poetic phrases?

Why would the Holy Spirit find it important to encourage Christians not to be afraid in 3:13-14?

In everyday terms, what practical impact does honoring “Christ the Lord as holy” have (3:15)?

Why is it important for disciples of Christ to “always” be “prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks [us] for a reason for the hope that is in [us]” (3:15-17)?

In your own words, how would you convey the truths revealed in 3:18-22?

- 1 Peter 4:1-11 -

Serving as Stewards of God's Varied Grace

What significance should be attached to Peter's transitional phrase at the beginning of 4:1—"Since therefore"?

In what practical ways does the fact that Christ "suffered in the flesh" help or motivate Christians to "arm [themselves] with the same way of thinking" (4:1)?

"For whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God" (4:1-2). What does this mean?

In your own words, how would you describe what the Spirit of God (through Peter) is describing and warning against in 4:3-6?

"The end of all things is at hand" (4:7). In what way?

Why is it important for disciples of Christ to "be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of [their] prayers" (4:7)?

Why would the imperative to "keep loving one another earnestly" be qualified with a phrase like "above all" (4:8)?

"Love covers a multitude of sins" (4:8). How, practically speaking?

How would you summarize what God is prescribing for his children in 4:10-11? And why? Why would he encourage us to actively devote ourselves to such things? What difference will they make in our lives and the lives of others?

- 1 Peter 4:12-19 - Entrusting Our Souls to the Faithful Creator

What is being communicated by Peter's use of the term "Beloved" at the beginning of 4:12?

Why would the Spirit of God encourage Christians not to be "surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon [them]" (4:12)?

In what ways do such trials "test" disciples of Christ?

How can real-life men and women possibly come to "rejoice" in the midst of trials (4:13)?

"Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed" (4:13). What does this mean?

In your own words, how would you communicate what God is communicating in 4:14?

Why include the prohibitive note of 4:15?

Why is it important that Christians "not be ashamed" in the face of suffering "as" Christians (4:16)?

Practically speaking, what does it mean to "glorify God" in the midst of suffering (4:16)?

How would you encapsulate the points being revealed through Peter in 4:17-19? What does God want us to remember and keep in perspective? And why? What difference will these truths make in everyday life? Finally, what very real dangers are posed if we forget or neglect these truths?

- 1 Peter 5:1-5 -

The Shepherds and Sheep of the Chief Shepherd

When a New Testament writer “exhorts” (5:1) someone, what is he doing?

“So I exhort the elders among you” (5:1a). Who were these elders and what can we know about them?

What can we learn from the ways Peter describes himself in 5:1b:

- A fellow elder –
- A witness of the sufferings of Christ –
- A partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed –

When the Spirit of God encourages elders through Peter to “shepherd the flock of God that is among [them], exercising oversight” (5:2a), what is he communicating?

The shepherding efforts of elders are elaborated upon in 5:2b-3. What do these mean?

- Not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you –
- Not for shameful gain, but eagerly –
- Not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock –

“And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory” (5:4). What can we learn from this inspired statement?

Why would Peter “likewise” encourage those “who are younger, be subject to the elders” (5:5a)?

- 1 Peter 5:5-14 - Standing Firm in the True Grace of God

“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another” (5:5b). Practically speaking, what does this mean and how do we go about doing it?

Why do you think Peter includes, “for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble’” (5:5c) in his instructions about humility?

In everyday terms, what does it mean to “humble” oneself (5:6a)? Why is it important for every disciple of Christ to answer this call?

Why would the command to “humble [ourselves]” be attached to “under the mighty hand of God” (5:6)? “So that at the proper time he may exalt you” (5:6b). What does this mean? And what can we learn from 5:7?

Why, in this context, would Peter sound the warning of 5:8-9?

In your own words, how would you rephrase the glorious truths of 5:10-11?

What should we take away from Peter’s assurance that “this is the true grace of God” (5:12a)?

In practical terms, what does it mean to “stand firm in” the “true grace of God,” and how do we go about fulfilling that commission?

Is there anything we can learn from 5:13-14?

- 2 Peter 1:1-15 -

Making Our Calling and Election Sure

What should we make of Peter's greeting: "To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ" (1:1)?

"May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord" (1:2). What does this mean?

In what way has "divine power... granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (1:3)?

Practically speaking, how do we "become partakers of the divine nature" through the "precious and very great promises" of God (1:4)?

In your own words, how would you describe "the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire" (1:4b). In what way has the Christian "escaped" that corruption?

Why is it vital for disciples of Christ to supplement their faith with (1:5-7):

- Virtue –
- Knowledge –
- Self-control –
- Steadfastness –
- Godliness –
- Brotherly affection –
- Love –

How would you summarize Peter's point in 1:8-9?

In everyday terms, how do we go about making our "calling and election sure" (1:10)?

- 2 Peter 1:16-21 -

The Power of Scripture and the Glory of Christ

Why would Peter feel the need to point out, “For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1:16)?

What scenes from the Gospels come to your mind as you read Peter’s assertion: “We were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (1:16b)?

What sort of words, phrases, or ideas come to your mind when you read of God the Father described as “the Majestic Glory” (1:17)?

What significance is attached to God the Father saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (1:17b)?

What specific scene is Peter referencing in 1:16-18?

“And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention” (1:19). In your own words, what point is Peter making?

In what way is “the prophetic word” comparable “to a lamp shining in a dark place” (1:19b)?

“Until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (1:19c). What does this mean?

How would you describe to someone else the profound point that the Spirit of God is making through Peter in 1:20-21?

- 2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-16 - Beware of False Teachers

When a New Testament writer warns Christians about “false prophets” or “false teachers,” who is he warning us about? On what basis can these men or women be characterized as “false”?

Throughout these sections of Scripture, both Peter (2 Pet 2:1-22) and Jude (1-16) provide several details about the motivations, actions, and aims of false teachers. How would you capture the essence of these details in your own words?

Several Old Testament examples are invoked by Peter and Jude. What stands out to you about:

- Angels who sinned (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6) –
- The ancient world of Noah’s day (2 Pet 2:5) –
- The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot’s day (2 Pet 2:6-8; Jude 7) –
- The way of Cain (Jude 11) –
- The way of Balaam, the son of Beor (2 Pet 2:15-16; Jude 11) –
- Korah’s rebellion (Jude 11) –

In what way “would it have been better” for one who has “escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” never to have known the way of righteousness than, “after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them” (2 Pet 2:20-22)?

Practically speaking, when Jude appeals to Christians to “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3), what is he encouraging us to do?

- 2 Peter 3:1-18 / Jude 17-25 - The Day of the Lord is Coming

In what way are “sincere minds” stirred up “by way of reminder” through the reading of inspired New Testament letters (2 Pet 3:1)?

Why is it absolutely vital for Christians to “remember the predictions of the holy prophets” (2 Pet 3:2-4) and “the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 17)?

In your own words, what is a “scoffer” (2 Pet 3:3; Jude 18)?

Using 2 Peter 3:1-18 and Jude 17-25, how would you summarize what those who “scoff” at the second coming of Jesus “deliberately overlook”? Why do they do so?

Why is 2 Peter 3:9 such profoundly good news?

If you were going to explain 2 Peter 3:11-13 to someone else, how would you go about doing it?

Is there anything we can learn from Peter’s reference to the writings of Paul (2 Pet 3:15-16)?

Practically speaking, what does it mean to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 3:18) and “build [ourselves] up in [our] most holy faith” (Jude 20)?

Why should we never overlook or forget the admonition contained in Jude 22-23?

Jude describes God as “him who is able to keep you from stumbling” (Jude 24). In everyday terms, how does God accomplish this?