

Second Peter Lesson #1

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How important is truth
today to:

Our culture?


To organized religion?

To us individually?





Peter, the Man

- Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." 33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." NIV
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Peter, the Man

- John 21:17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. 18 I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." NIV






2 Peter Background

- The letter has a lot in common with 2nd Timothy:
 - Authors waiting martyrdom
 - Both have a joyful tone
 - Both are concerned with false teachers





2 Peter Background

- This is the amazing power of the gospel. Even when we are awaiting death we can be joyful.
 - One of his concerns about false teachers was that he didn't want others to be robbed of joy when it is their turn to face death.
 - We need to be protectors of the truth even when the culture is ambivalent towards it.
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2nd Peter 1:1-2

- 2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. NIV






2nd Peter 1:1-2

- It was the common practice of the day for the author of a letter to begin by identifying himself.
 - Peter opens the letter with two separate descriptions of himself – servant and apostle.
 - While the two do compliment one another our present experience would probably see them as being at odds with one another.
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2nd Peter 1:1-2

- How so? – How many self proclaimed ‘apostles’ do we see behaving as though they are servants?
 - I am not convinced there are any apostles today – the traditional requirement for the title is that of being directly commissioned by the risen Lord to a ministry.
 - We have an ‘apostolic’ age for a reason.
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2nd Peter 1:1-2

- Peter speaks of a ‘faith as precious as ours’.
 - In Christ there are no classes of people – once you are born into the family you have all of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a full fledged family member.
 - We may receive different rewards for faithfulness in the family, but saving faith works the same for all who exercise it.
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2nd Peter 1:1-2

- Here is an apostle writing to ordinary 'Joe' Christians and affirming them as spiritual equals.
 - When others look up to you try to have them look you in the eye as an equal.
 - If I think I am on an even plane with the Apostle Peter I will try to live like I belong.
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2nd Peter 1:1-2

- Peter writes ‘Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord’.
 - We read the same words ‘grace and peace’ used together (17) times in the New Testament.
 - Practical translation - “I wish you well through God’s influence.”
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Strong's Definitions – Grace & Peace

- NT5485 charis (khar'-ece); from NT:5463; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; ***especially the divine influence upon the heart***, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude)
- NT:1515 eirene (i-ray'-nay); probably from a primary verb eiro (to join); peace (literally or figuratively); ***by implication, prosperity:***






2nd Peter 1:1-2

- Peter goes on to wish his readers “grace and peace in abundance through the knowledge of God and Jesus our lord.”
 - The way to the abundant life is through the knowledge of God and His Son.
 - I think there is a somewhat logical progression to the abundant life.
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2nd Peter 1:1-2

- Knowing of Jesus is the 1st step towards knowing Him.
 - Once we know Him he supplies an “in house” tutor for us. (the Holy Spirit)
 - The Spirit teaches us the word of God so we can make good decisions.
 - Our outcomes in life are often the direct results of our decisions.
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2nd Peter 1:1-2

- I do not wish to over simplify the abundant life, but maybe it is as simple as the progression I laid out.
- To a large extent our lives are the sum total of the decisions we make.
- You want a better life? Make better decisions.





Questions / Comments