

Bible Thoughts

with
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2nd letter of Peter

The thoughts and note material given on these pages are only a possible suggestion of the meaning, they must not be taken as inspired, however they are prayerfully prepared and compared with other similar material. There are many ways in which God's Word can be analyzed and none must be taken in place of the Word of God itself.

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Introduction

2 Peter

WRITER. Apostle Peter

Reason. As the church is growing, dangerous people and doctrine are appearing, The letters of Peter, John and Jude were written to help the church recognise the false doctrines and teachings. The problem still exists today and we need to take in the warnings given in these books. Peter's message in this letter is to know and have a knowledge of God, Peter is not referring to just an intellectual understanding of the truth, though this is needed as well, Peter wants the reader to have a life in Christ as Jesus prayed in [John 17:3](#), to "Know the true God , and Jesus Christ"

The letter is broken up as follows:

Knowledge of Christ

The gift of knowledge 2 Peter 1:1-4

The growth in knowledge 2 Peter 1:5-11

The ground of knowledge - Wake up 2 Peter 1:12-21

Look at the false teachers

Lookout for false teachers 2 Peter 2:1-9

What to look for 2 Peter 2:10-16

A false freedom 2 Peter 2:17-22

The second coming 2 Peter 3:1-18

Chapter 1

The church is being attacked by wrong doctrine and teaching, Peter has written this letter to warn of the danger and how to overcome the problem. The emphasis is on having a full understanding and knowledge of God, living in the truth.

Peter starts his letter with a short description of what it means to live the life of a Christian and then moves onto describing the false teachers. The best way to be able to recognize false teaching is to have a good understanding of the truth.

v1-4 Christian life involves faith.

v1 The writer clearly sets out his authority, Apostle and servant of Christ.

Peter tells the reader that they have a "precious faith" through the righteousness of Jesus. This faith has not changed since the days of Peter because it is in the Son of God. Peter states the deity of Jesus from the first in this letter and then emphasis the title of Jesus, in [2 Peter 1:11](#); Jesus is God and Saviour, Lord and Saviour in [2 Peter 2:20](#), [2 Peter 3:2](#) and [2 Peter 3:18](#). Our standing with Christ today is exactly the same as it was for the disciples, our righteousness comes from God, [2 Cor 5:21](#); [Titus 3:5-7](#).

When we trust Jesus as our Saviour we also obtain our righteousness, not earned in anyway but given by the grace of God, a free gift from God to us undeserving believers. [1 Peter 5:10](#).

Because of this believers now all have peace with God, [Rom 5:1](#) and the peace of God [Phil 4:6-7](#).

v3 Our salvation starts with faith in Jesus but as we gain knowledge in Jesus then we feel and experience the power of God, note we cannot grow with our own power, we must use the power of God.

Before we knew Christ as our Saviour we were dead, [Eph 2:1-9](#), it is only through the power of Christ we can be raised to life. [John 5:24](#).

Now we are in the family of God through faith in Jesus and all our needs are there for us to take, we are "complete in Him," [Col 2:10](#). Later Peter warns that the "False Doctrine teachers" try to add to this.

v4 This faith depends upon the promises of God, not only has He given us all the power we need He has also given us His Word with His "great and precious promises" written down for us to take in and claim.

Our Nature shows us what we need to eat, if we have the nature of God

in us then we should desire the food of His Word. Consider [2 Cor 6:14-18](#). Because we have this divine nature then we are removed from the corruption of the world and the lusts it has. But, unfortunately, we do still have our old nature, the "flesh," and each believer can make provision for the flesh, [Rom 13:14](#); [2 Peter 1:9](#).

v5-7 **Spiritual growth.**

None of us remains as a baby, we all grow, mature, so to our 'new birth' is just the beginning. Spiritual growth is not automatic, it requires a true relationship with God. It also requires a believer applying themselves to growth, [Phil 2:12-13](#).

v5-7 Peter lists seven characteristics of a believers life, they are not levels of growth though each will have some effect on the next condition, like a tree the branch depends upon the trunk and roots. Compare [Gal 5:22-23](#) the fruit of the Spirit.

v5 "Virtue," a good personal quality, honest, honour, rightness, excellence. A Christian gives glory to God because they have God's nature in them, become more Christ like.

Our "faith" will help us develop "virtue," and from virtue we are helped in developing knowledge, a growing knowledge, a practical knowledge not just a spiritual knowledge. Consider [John 7:17](#).

v6 "Temperance," self control, self-discipline. Consider some examples of self-discipline given by Paul, [1 Cor 9:24-27](#); [Phil 3:12-16](#).

v6 "Patience," long-suffering, self-control, able to handle the pleasures, pressures and problems of life. Patience does not develop automatically, it needs us to work on it. Consider [James 1:2-8](#).

v6 "Godliness," this means God-like, the original Greek also translated as 'to worship well,' have the right relationship with God and His people, a reverence attitude is part of this, seeking to do the Will of God.

v7 "Brotherly Kindness," translated from the Greek 'philadelphia.' If we love the Lord then we must also love other believers, [1 Peter 1:22](#); [Rom 12:10](#); [1 John 5:1-2](#).

v7 "Brotherly Love (charity)," This is not normal love but agape love, a love which God shows to the sinner. Look at [1 Cor 13:1ff](#); [Rom 5:5](#); [Gal 5:22](#).

v8 Our human nature cannot produce these special Christian features, they must come from God through His Holy Spirits action on a believers life, as we become more like Christ we give glory to God.

We must make sure today that our nature is from God and not a copy of a preacher, church leader or a famous Christian, a common problem today.

v8-11 **Spiritual Growth.**

v8 **Producing fruit.**

As we become more like Christ, then the Holy Spirit can use us to the glory for the Father, a better witness and service is possible. This fruitfulness only requires submission to God, no special gifts, just faith, anything needed will come from God.

v9 Knowing what to eat allows our body to be healthy, we can even lose our sight if we eat the wrong things. The unbeliever is in the dark, Satan having blinded the person spiritually, [2 Cor 4:3-4](#). A lack of knowledge and commitment to Christ may also allow the believer to become blind spiritually, open to Satan, being led back to their old nature. A 'blind' believer cannot see the power and service of God, [John 4:35](#). Consider the members of the Laodicea church in [Rev 3:14-19](#), be warned.

v10,11 Peter is saying that if we walk about with our eyes closed then we must eventually fall over something. However, a believer who is growing and becoming Christ like knows where the power, the guidance and the help is found, they know they are safe in Christ. Note, a person who claims salvation but shows little Christ like characteristics could be deceiving themselves and on the way to judgement.

"Calling and election," [2 Thess 2:13-15](#). We do not preach "election," we preach the Gospel and call to repentance, but as God knows all things He also knows who will accept before they are offered salvation. Election is not an excuse for not growing in faith and knowledge, God can do anything, but He gave each of us a free will and we can reject Him. Consider [Phil 2:12-15](#); [1 Cor 3:12-15](#).

A believer starts with faith but that faith must develop growth or it is a 'dead faith.' and will be open to false teaching.

v12-21 **Remember and open your eye's - wake up!**

False teaching finds an open mind in a believer who has not studied the Word of God, these people are often open to the 'experience doctrines,'

v12-15 The foundation of the Gospel and the Church is Jesus, it was men and women who spread the Gospel message but we all die, leave our 'tabernacle' [1 Cor 3:11](#); [Eph 2:20](#). **The Church** and each local church must be built upon the foundation of Jesus, the Son of God.

Peter had been told by Jesus when and how he would die, [John 21:18](#), This could explain why Peter could sleep in the prison after his arrest soon after Pentecost, he trusted in the words of Jesus, Herod would not kill him, [Acts 12:1ff](#). God was to decide when Peter's work was finished. Jesus had told Peter he had a special task, to "strengthen your brethren," [Luke 22:32](#), one of the reasons for this letter was obedience to this command.

As he wrote this letter Peter knows that he will soon die, so he wants to make sure the Word of God teaching will be circulated. "Remembrance" of these things being the key word. [John 14:26](#).

A man may die but God's Word will continue.

v16-18 Peter was one of the witnesses of the life of Jesus, he was one of the apostles who saw the "Excellent Glory" at the transfiguration, heard the Father speak of His Son, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

v16 Peter said that they were not telling "fables," or myths, stories with no truth, their message does not rob believers of the truth. One of the false teachings was that the "Kingdom of Christ" will never come. See [2 Tim 4:1-5](#); [Titus 1:10-16](#).

v19-21 Compared with the times of Peter the world has improved, better medical, better communication as examples, yet the world is even more full of sin, the world is in darkness, but in this darkness God's Word is able to shine, but so also is false teaching, [Matt 7:15-23](#); [Acts 20:28-35](#); [1 John 2:18-29](#).

As the world deteriorates God's Word is sure, *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path*. Psalm 119:105; [Matt 4:16](#). v20,21 This does not prevent each of us studying the Word of God, Peter is talking about the interpretation of scripture, it must come from the Holy Spirit, not the church leader. If a church leader gives a teaching which does not agree with other scripture, beware, all scripture must agree as it comes from the Holy Spirit. Especially watch for someone who produces a doctrine on just one or two isolated, separated verses, false teacher will often use this method to prove their teaching.

The writer of the Word is the same as the voice Peter heard from heaven, down through the ages this voice has spoken through the mouths of His chosen holy men and women.

Men will die but God's Word lives for ever. The experience of men fades away, but God's Word stands. Wake up and remember!!!!

Chapter 2

v1-9 The False Teachers.

Counterfeits or fakes are very common today, but we must not think this is a new activity, Satan has always been the "imitator," [2 Cor 11:13-15](#), from the Garden of Eden onwards. One day he will provide a false Christ [2 Thess 2:1ff](#). It is therefore certain to happen that Satan will create numerous false or fake Christians who were and still are teaching false doctrine, they will place it next to the true teaching of Jesus but with just sufficient change to make it appear more attractive.

v1-3 Description of false teachers.

See also [Jude](#).

The messages these people bring are just "damnable heresies," teaching leading to destruction only, unfortunately they can soon collect a group of weak believers who have not bothered to learn all the true teaching of Jesus and know no better.

See [Acts 20:28-31](#); [1 Tim 4:1-7](#); [2 Tim 3:1-9](#); [1 John 2:18-20](#); [Jude 3ff](#).

These false teachers give the appearance of being true believers, having "feigned (fake, pretend, plastic) words," teaching "their pernicious (harmful, destroying) ways." The false teachers use the Bible words like 'salvation' but have a different meaning. They use the Bible to deceive, just as Satan did with Eve, they question the Word of God, then say "did God really mean that?" They especially try to remove the deity of Christ, "he was a special man, not God." Compare [Rom 8:5-11](#).

It is important to note that these false teachers are not saved, [Rom 8:9](#) have not the Spirit, not a child of God. But be warned, they may even be able to become leaders or officers of the church.

v1 They deny the Lord, even though He died for all on the cross, He has paid the price of their sin, but they chose to ignore the offer and are now heading for destruction.

v3 Peter also points out that they may only be interested in money or gain, "make merchandise of you," used as a religious cloak for their desires, [1 Thess 2:5](#). Compare [2 Cor 4:2](#).

v3-6 False teachers destroy.

v3 Peter could only see punishment for those who were false teachers, it may not yet have happened but it will, "their damnation slumbereth

not." He now goes on to show how judgement will happen.

v4 Angels who have sinned. We do not know very much about the creation of the angels and why Satan and his followers chose to turn away from God, [Isaiah 14:12-15](#) may be the answer, also consider [Ezekiel 28:12-19](#). Lucifer (Satan) was God's deputy but became full of pride, wanting the throne of God. From [Rev 12:4](#) it appears that a third of the angels followed Lucifer.

Where are these angels today? Satan has access to the world, [1 Peter 5:8](#), he also has an army of demons who work with him, as we see in the various Gospels and letters, but v4 tells us that some angels were sent to hell by God to await judgement.

v5 If God judges the angels He will not spare mankind, He has already done it once at the flood, the world had become so full of sin God only saved Noah's family. No one believed the message of warning given through Noah, He waited 120 years before judgement. The world today is full of wickedness, is just as bad.

v6-8 Sodom and Gomorrah. Genesis 18-19, these cities were wicked and ungodly. Compare [Rom 1:24-27](#); [1 Cor 6:9,10](#); [Leviticus 18:22](#). Despite Abraham's prayers and Lot's messages, God wiped them off the earth.

v9-16 God has also reserved judgement for the false teachers. Peter now considers the characteristics of false teachers.

v10-12 Peter describes them as full of pride, building up their position, being prepared to attack and spread lies against others to help their position, even those in power.

Note that in [Rom 13:1ff](#) we are told that God has arranged governments and we could be fighting God. Employers, parents all have authority over others and their children, we should show respect for them.

See [Eph 6:1-4](#); [Eph 6:5-8](#); [1 Tim 2:1-4](#); [1 Peter 2:11-17](#); [Heb 13:7](#); [1 Peter 5:1-6](#). [Titus 3:1-2](#)

Why are these false teachers doing this? v10 "They walk after the flesh," all for self pleasure, "they are selfwilled," outwardly they appear to be so God centered, but in truth it is all for self, position and power.

v11 Peter said that even angels, with more power, do not behave like these people, they know of the danger of objecting to God's authority, the angels leave all judgement to God.

v12 Peter compares these teachers with animals who are waiting to be

destroyed, they rundown things which they do not understand, teach and talk about with 'great words.' As they try to destroy the Church of God, they are destroying themselves.

v13,14 Peter is here suggesting that these people love to live in luxury, always calling for more support for their 'ministries,' so opposite to Jesus who gave up heaven to become a man for us. They are not only deceiving others but also are deceiving themselves, so use to their message they believe it themselves, use scripture to make it say what they want it to say, [2 Peter 3:16,17](#). False doctrine leads to a false living which develops further false doctrine.

v14 Always out to satisfy their own desires and capture converts (followers of teaching) to their teaching, "they cannot cease from sin," [2 Peter 2:18-19](#), their hearts always wanting more personal gain.

v15,16 These people know the right way to God, but have chosen to follow the wrong way just like Balaam.

"Following the way of Balaam." See Numbers 22-25. Balaam was a Gentile prophet who tried to curse the Jews at the request of Balak, the king of the Moabites. The prophet knew it was wrong to do this but he wanted the money and the honour offered by Balak. He deliberately, consciously tried to curse the Jews. From the beginning God had told him not to help Balak, but more money and rewards made him go his own way. God permitted Balaam to follow his desires but then used a donkey to give Balaam the final warning message from God.

Though Balaam was not allowed to curse Israel, however God allowed him to tell Balak how to defeat Israel, to make friends and encourage them to live like the Moabites. Israel turned away from the right way of God and followed the Moabite way of life. God had to punish Israel. It is the attitude of Balaam which Peter is highlighting, all he wanted was money, desired position, then led Israel, God's people away from God, even though he knew it was wrong. These false teachers are already marked for destruction by God, do not join them.

v17-22 A freedom which is false.

Peter continues to describe the false preachers, the sad fact that many of these were once members of churches, saying they believed in the Christian message of salvation. Now they think they have found the 'true message,' but all they are "dry wells," useless!!! Peter used a word which meant 'a spring of water,' a dry spring just does not exist, even a

dry well still is a hole which can be used. Compare [John 4:13-14](#).

"Clouds that are carried by a tempest," clouds normally warn of coming rain. These clouds are just mist, nice to look at but useless, offer nothing.

"Mist of darkness," the word translated 'mist' suggests blackness, so these people are blacker than black, they seem to offer 'light' but actually offer blackness.

v18,19 They speak many words, playing on the lusts of the flesh, the desires of people for freedom and peace but all they end up with is listed in [Gal 5:19-21](#). Offer 'freedom' which is really making the person a slave. Compare [John 17:17-22](#)

v20-22 These teachers have learnt the truth of Salvation through Jesus, but by changing the truth are even more tied up with sins of the world. It would have been better to have never heard of the true way to God, to getting right, but they have turned back to their original sickness like a dog or a pig washed clean soon becomes very dirty because they like it. These false teachers may have had a 'religious experience,' of some sort which they claim gives them fellowship with Christ, yet there is no indication of true salvation, they are like dogs or pigs.

Consider:

1)The Spirit lives in us from the moment we believe and accept that we are sinners and that Jesus died for us. This means our body is the temple of the [Holy Spirit](#). [1 Cor 6:19-20](#).

2)The Spirit baptized us into the Body of Christ. [1 Cor 12:13](#).

3)He sealed us and will never leave us. [Eph 1:13-14](#); [John 14:16](#).

Chapter 3

v1-10 The Scoffers

Talking about someone in a laughing, poking fun way.

Peter has told us how to identify the false teachers, now he examines their false teaching.

One of the doctrines was questioning the return of Jesus, His judgement of the world and the creation of the new glorious kingdom. We must remember that God always keeps His promises.

v1-4 God's Word.

God's Word will never fail, He may be delaying the return of Christ, according to our thinking, but it will happen, it is very close now.

Though out the Bible God promised through His messengers, the proph-

ets and then disciples that The Day of the Lord will happen. [Isaiah 2:5-22](#); [Isaiah 13:6-16](#); [Dan 12:1](#).

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. Jeremiah 30:7.

The disciples asked Jesus about it, [Matt 24-25](#); Paul talks about it [1 thess 5:1ff](#); [2 Thess 1-2](#); and John in [Rev 6-19](#).

This false doctrine was also prophesied [Acts 20:28-31](#); [1 Tim 4:1,2](#); [2 Tim 3:1ff](#).

v4 What is the scoffers argument? "Nothing has happened like it before." "Nothing has changed since the beginning of time." They give a answer based on science, yet we do not know all the answers about the universe yet.

v5-7 Peter's answer to the scoffers.

Peter just reminds the reader what has already happened, what God has done, evidence ignored by these scoffers. Peter points out two major events, creation, v5 and Noah's flood, v6. By the Word of God, earth was created, "God said" [Genesis 1:1ff](#). Noah's flood was due to the judgement by God. It had never rained before, then there was an believable storm.

God promised never to use water as a punishment, next time it would be fire [Gen 9:8-17](#), "reserved unto fire against the Day of Judgment."

v7 God is fully in control of the laws of Nature, He can send rain or fire when and how He wants. The Word that created the world and still keeps it operating is at the moment keeping it for a future destruction by fire at the Day of Judgement.

v8-10 God has mercy.

The scoffers are also looking at God like themselves, as if He has the same abilities as man. To start with time is very different, Peter suggests that as God has always existed and always will, a time of a day means very little to Him, just like "a thousand years as one day."

God can carry out a task what can take a million years or one day, just as He chooses, He is not limited by time like we are. God works in time but is not controlled by it.

Nether can the scoffers see that by the delay God is giving men and women more chance of turning to Him and accept salvation through Jesus. "God is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish,"

"Not willing that any should perish," shows that He is working to a plan, because He is God He knows who will seek and accept salvation through Jesus. The Love of God is so great that He wants "all should come to repentance." Consider [Rom 11:30-36](#); [1 Tim 2:3-6](#). God even waited and made Noah preach as he built the ark before the flood, to give time for Man to turn to Him, [1 Peter 3:20](#).

v10-13 Therefore, when will God carry out His plan? No one knows except God the Father, but it will come without any warning, like a thief breaking into a house. We do not know, but the Bible text tells us what will happen, The heavens, will be dissolved by fire, elements will melt with a great heat. [Matt 24:35](#); [Rev 21:1ff](#).

v14 Are you ready? Make sure your at peace with God through the sacrifice of His Son. Decide today.

v11-18 How we should be prepared.

We know that one day Christ will return, could be today, or one hundred years from now. When ever it is we must be prepared and ready for the return. If we stop being prepared then we could become like the scoffers, "it never will happen," [Titus 2:11-15](#) [Luke 12:35-40](#). v11 Peter asks "what manner of persons ought you to be?" We have escaped the coming Judgement by God so we must live a life which is different to the world, we have a home in heaven, not here on earth. We should be preparing always for that new heaven and earth.

v14 We must be always prepared, "found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless," [1 Peter 1:14-16](#).

v15,16 Peter also reminds the readers that Paul and others have written "to be prepared," we should also take the advantage of the delay by God to spread the Gospel at every opportunity.

Other writers who are waiting for the Lord's return.

[Rom 13:11-14](#); [2 Cor 5:1-11](#); [Phil 3:13-21](#); [1 Thess 5:1-11](#); [Titus 2:11-15](#); [2 Tim 4:6-8](#); [1 John 2:28 to 3:3](#).

v17 Peter finished with a final warning and blessing from our Lord.

