

Studies in 2 Peter

Introduction

Introducing 2 Peter

- 2 Peter is totally different from 1 Peter in many ways.

We will approach this study with conviction that it IS the word of God and needs to be studied as with the rest of scripture.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

want to “sweep it under the carpet”
(TT)

Background of 2 Peter

- Written by Peter (**1:1**)
- **To whom? We are not told**
 - > A “general epistle”
 - > Possibly same audience as 1 Peter (**3:1**) – pilgrims of the dispersion
 - > It is plausible written to a different, possibly Jewish audience (**cf. Colossians 4:16, 1 Cor. 5:9**).
- **Regardless, it is of relevance today**

Background of 2 Peter

- When was it written?
- If the same audience as 1 Peter, it is likely later (~66-68 AD) (**2 Peter 1:13-14**).

If a different audience, unknown timing – could be early.

Background of 2 Peter

- What is its purpose?
- Peter is concerned with false teaching entering the church
 - Addressed throughout the NT
 - The specific false doctrine is not stated, but it could relate to the second coming (**2 Peter 3, esp. vs. 3**).

Background of 2 Peter

- **What is its purpose?**
- 2 Peter is very similar to Jude prompting some to believe one copied from the other.

While possible (and even if so), all inspired writings come from the same source (**2 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17**) – the Holy Spirit.

Background of 2 Peter

- What is its purpose?
- **2 Peter 3**, as noted addresses the return of the Lord and why He has delayed His return (**2 Peter 3:9-10**).

The admonition is to always be prepared and live anticipating His return.

Background of 2 Peter

- What is its purpose?
- **2 Peter 3:17-18**, *You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, **beware** lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; **but grow** in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

Background of 2 Peter

- **Brief outline:**
- **1:1-4** – introduction
- **1:5-21** – grow in knowledge
- **2:1-22** – beware of false teachers
- **3:1-18** – prepare for the Lord's return, the timing of which is unknown

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ*
 - Author identified
 - Simon Peter – a typical designation by Jesus (25x in NT) – **Matthew 4:18, 10:2, 16:16, Mark 3:16**, *“Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter”*
- NOTE: Different from **1 Peter 1:1**

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ*
- He is an apostle
- A bondservant of Jesus Christ (similar to Paul – **Romans 1:1, etc.**). It is possible Peter is a prisoner as he writes.
- **1:13-14**, He will “shortly” put off his tent (**cf. John 21:18-19**)

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ*
- **1:16-18**, he makes reference to the transfiguration (**Matthew 17:1**)

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ*
- Because of differences in style, some believe it was written by someone else, BUT:
 - The above points are clear
 - Different style because of different subject
 - 1st epistle is universally accepted as by Peter. Consider **2 Peter 3:1**
 - While “slow” it WAS accepted
 - Consider everything one must challenge to reject Peter as author

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *to those who have obtained like precious faith with us...*
- Only description of the audience. We assume that audience of his first letter is, at the least, included
- “Like precious faith”, NASB – “*a faith of the same kind*”, ESV – “*a faith of equal standing*”.
The faith of His audience was of the same quality as that of Peter

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *to those who have obtained like precious faith with us...*
- God shows no partiality – **Acts 10:34-35 (cf. vs. 26)**
While apostles were divinely appointed with authority, concerning salvation we are all equal – **cf. 1 Corinthians 3:5-6**

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *to those who have obtained like precious faith with us...*
- Some in the religious world make a distinction between “clergy” and “laity”. The Bible does NOT!

Galatians 3:27-28.

Yes, elders and preachers have authority (**1 Peter 5:1-4, Titus 2:15**), but they still lead by example and serving

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *to those who have obtained like precious faith with us...*
 - Could be objective or subjective
 - **Objective** – our system of belief from the gospel – **Galatians 1:23, Jude 3.**
- In this letter Peter will deal with knowledge to protect them and keep them in agreement – **1 Corinthians 1:10, John 17:20-21, 1 Peter 3:8, Philippians 2:1-2, etc.**

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *to those who have obtained like precious faith with us...*
- Could be objective or subjective
 - **Subjective** – a faith with which we build to perfection – **2 Peter 1:5ff**
 - In **1 Peter**, he opened with this faith we are
 - Kept by the power of God – **1:5**
 - A genuine and precious faith – **1:7**
 - Resulting in salvation – **1:9**
- **Hebrews 11** describes this faith

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *to those who have obtained like precious **faith** with us...*
- God's word produces our faith - **Romans 1:16-17**, from faith (**objective**) to faith (**subjective**)
- Certainly, if we are striving together for the same goal, then our faith is going to be "like precious" or "of the same kind". **Our faith unites us!**

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ*
- A text that is describing Jesus as God (deity)
 - **John 1:1-3**, “the Word was God”
 - **Colossians 2:9** – all the fullness of the Godhead bodily
 - **Romans 9:5** – the eternally blessed God

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ*
- A text that is describing Jesus as God (deity)
Titus 2:12-13, our great God and Savior Jesus Christ
Hebrews 1:3, Philippians 2:6
cf. John 14:8-10

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ*
- He does that which is right!
God defines what is right and how we can be right(eous)
 - Jesus lived a righteous life – He never sinned – **Hebrews 4:15 (7:25-26ff, 2 Corinthians 5:21)**
 - **Romans 5:18** – by His “righteous act” mankind can be saved
 - **1 Corinthians 1:30**

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:1**, *by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ*
- Consider also the impartiality of our God and our Savior –
Romans 2:11, 5:8, etc.
- It is because of God's grace, love, mercy and righteousness that we share a "like precious faith"

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:2**, *Grace and peace be multiplied to you...*
- A typical greeting, similar to **1 Peter 1:2**, but expanded
- May grace and peace be multiplied – ever increasing.

As we mature, we more greatly appreciate God's grace and our peace grows as well, in every way.

Greetings - 1:1-4

- **2 Peter 1:2**, *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*
- Why do we hope? Because He has revealed to us, “all things that pertain to life and godliness”. Knowledge is an intensive word indicating greater understanding and depth. **Colossians 1:9-10**

Do you find grace
and peace in Him?

Let us pray!