



# 2 Peter

## false teaching in the church

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### Author & Title

Peter claims to be the author, 1:1. The author claims to be an eyewitness to the transfiguration (1:16-18, cf. Mt17:1-9), and Peter was featured prominently in that event. Nevertheless, some scholars insist there was another author. It would have been a case of intentional deception, and writing in another person's name was condemned among early Christians (2 Th 2:2; 3:17). And there is no historical evidence to support another author. We will proceed with the belief that Peter is the author.



### Date

Probably written from Rome shortly before his death as a martyr, est. A.D. 64-67. Probably written during Christian persecution under Nero, who died in A.D. 68.

### Theme

Peter teaches that Christians can (must) live righteously even in the face of persecution and the influence of false teachers, because of God's grace which is available only through Christ. God's divine power produces virtuous qualities in us which result in fruitful lives.

### Key points

1. God through Christ has granted Christians the privilege of partaking in His divine nature.
2. God's grace results in godliness.
3. The revelation of truth in Christ is sure because it comes from God.
4. False teachers will be handed over to God for destruction.
5. False teachers are ethically deprived.
6. The Lord is patient and rescues the righteous.
7. Key words and phrases; Grace, virtue, character, effective, fruitful, and patience.



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### Outline

- I. Greeting (1:1-2)
- II. Godly living is possible because of God's grace through Christ (1:3-11)
  - a. God's power, vv. 3-4.
  - b. Live godly/virtuous lives, vv. 5-7.
  - c. Being effective and fruitful, vv. 8-11.
- III. Peter reminds Christians; (1:12-21)
  - a. To be holy, (vv. 12-15).
  - b. He (Peter) is authentic, because he was an eyewitness, (vv. 16-18).
  - c. Jesus Christ's validity is anchored in prophecy, (vv. 19-21).
- IV. Be aware of the false teachers (chapter 2)
  - a. Their influence, (vv. 1-3).
  - b. Judgment will come upon them, (vv. 4-10a).
  - c. Their character, (vv. 10b-16).
  - d. Their tactics, (vv. 17-22).
- V. Day of the Lord (3:1-13)
  - a. Scoffers, (vv. 1-7).
  - b. Lord's patience, (vv. 8-10).
  - c. So how should we live? (vv. 11-13).
- VI. Conclusion (14-18)
  - a. Be diligent, (vv. 14-16).
  - b. Respond properly to Peter's exhortation, (vv. 17-18).









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*Answer briefly in the space provided*

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### **Live godly/virtuous lives, (5-7)**

1. Define, describe or explain each of these. Differences in AD 60's and now?

a. Virtue

b. Knowledge

c. Self-control

d. Steadfastness

e. Godliness



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f. Brotherly affection

g. Love

### **Being Effective and Fruitful, (8-11)**

1. Explain why Peter says these qualities must be alive and “increasing.” 1:8  
What if they’re not?

2. Explain;

h. Diligent

i. Calling

j. Election



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- k. "...that you may never fall"
3. Verse 11 should be one of the most comforting passages in the NT, but also challenging. Why?

## PETER REMINDS CHRISTIANS 1:12-21

### **To Be Holy**, (12-15)

1. How is it that they are already established in the truth, in that he just told them to "add" and "increase." Doesn't that sound like they're not yet established? (hint, v. 9).
2. How did Peter stir them up?



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### **To Be Holy, (12-15) cont'd**

3. Explain v.14.
  
4. Explain v. 15.

### **He (Peter) is authentic because he was an eyewitness, (16-18)**

1. What were the cleverly devised myths Peter mentions?
  
2. What might they be today?





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3. Explain the events on the mount of transfiguration Peter references and why Peter would bring that up here. Cf. Mt 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-8; Lk 9:28-36b

### **Jesus Christ's validity is anchored in prophecy, (19-21)**

1. Explain vv.19-21 in today's terms. How should it be applied in 2017?



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## BE AWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS 2:1-22

### **Their Influence, (1-3)**

1. What destructive heresies is Peter referencing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why was an appeal to sensuality a strong distraction in AD 60's? How does it distract today? And where does greed fit in?

### **Judgment will come, (4-10a)**

1. Angels cast into hell? Explain.





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- c. Blaspheme
- d. Irrational animals
- e. Creatures of instinct
- f. Born to be caught and destroyed
- g. Suffer wrong as they do wrong
- h. Count it pleasure to revel
- i. Blots and blemishes



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- j. Eyes full of adultery
- k. Insatiable for sin
- l. Entice the unsteady
- m. Greedy
- n. Accursed children
- o. Following the way of Balaam
- p. Waterless springs



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### **Their tactics, (17-22)**

2. Explain each of these.
  - a. Speak loud boasts of folly
  
  - b. Entice by sensual passions
  
  - c. Promise freedom
  
3. How does Peter describe “escaping the defilements of the world”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How can they be entangled again? What does this imply about Calvinism (specifically, “once saved always saved”)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How could it be better to have never known the way of righteousness?



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## DAY OF THE LORD 3:1-13

### **Scoffers, (1-7)**

1. When do you think Peter's readers thought were the "last days"?
2. The false teachers are mocking, v.4. What would that sound like today?
3. What is the thrust of Peter's argument in vv. 4-7?



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### **Lord's patience, (8-10)**

1. God's time and man's time are not the same, neither are our levels of patience. Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Explain v. 10. Is there any other religious doctrine in disagreement with your understanding of Peter's description?

### **So how should we live? (11-13)**

1. Peter answers his own question in vv.12-13. Using today's language, what did he say?





