

2 Peter

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have
obtained a faith of equal standing with ours in the righteousness of our God
and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the
knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to
5 us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him
who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to
us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape
from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become
partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason make every effort to
10 supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge
with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with
godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with
love. For if these things are yours and abound, they keep you from being
ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For
15 whoever lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten that he
was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be the more zealous to
confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so
there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore I intend always to remind you
20 of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that

you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by
way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon,
as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my
departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. For we did not
5 follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice
was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with
whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we
10 were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made
more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in
a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a
matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the
15 impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. But
false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false
teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even
denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift
destruction. And many will follow their licentiousness, and because of them
20 the way of truth will be reviled. And in their greed they will exploit you

with false words; from of old their condemnation has not been idle, and their
destruction has not been asleep. For if God did not spare the angels when
they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of nether
gloom to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world,
5 but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven other persons,
when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the
cities of Sodom and Gomor'rah to ashes he condemned them to extinction
and made them an example to those who were to be ungodly; and if he
rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the licentiousness of the wicked
10 (for by what that righteous man saw and heard as he lived among them, he
was vexed in his righteous soul day after day with their lawless deeds), then
the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trial, and to keep the
unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those
who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and
15 wilful, they are not afraid to revile the glorious ones, whereas angels, though
greater in might and power, do not pronounce a reviling judgment upon them
before the Lord. But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born
to be caught and killed, reviling in matters of which they are ignorant, will
be destroyed in the same destruction with them, suffering wrong for their
20 wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots

and blemishes, reveling in their dissipation, carousing with you. They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way they have gone astray; they have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Be'or, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a dumb ass spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm; for them the nether gloom of darkness has been reserved. For, uttering loud boasts of folly, they entice with licentious passions of the flesh men who have barely escaped from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for whatever overcomes a man, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overpowered, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, The dog turns back to his own vomit, and the sow is washed only to wallow in the mire. This is now the second letter that I have written to you, beloved, and in both of them I have aroused your sincere mind by

way of reminder; that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles. First of all you must understand this, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own passions and saying, "Where is the

5 promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation." They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago, and an earth formed out of water and by means of water, through which the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same

10 word the heavens and earth that now exist have been stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not

15 wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of

20 holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of

God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or
5 blemish, and at peace. And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation.

So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. You therefore, beloved,
10 knowing this beforehand, beware lest you be carried away with the error of lawless men and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. *

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