

Book: 2 Peter
Series: *True Faith vs. False Teaching:
Add To Your Faith, Knowledge*
Lesson 1: *An Overview*
Text: 2 Peter
Date: Sunday, August 26, 2012

INTRODUCTION

“Second Peter was written for the purpose of exposing, thwarting, and defeating the invasion of false teachers into the church.”² In fact, it is the most graphic and comprehensive warning on this issue in the whole of Scripture.

Peter himself had faced his share of ups and downs in relation to truth. Yet, here, at the end of his life, Peter digs in his heels and sounds a battle cry for true faith versus false teaching. Indeed, just before his death, Peter, like a consumer protection advocate, stands between true faith and false teaching, boldly warning the church against error and convincingly calling us to us “grow in...the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (3:18).

THE OUTLINE OF 2 PETER

- **Part 1 – True Faith**
 - 2 Peter 1:1-4 – *Our Precious Faith*
 - 2 Peter 1:5-11 – *Our Productive Faith*
 - 2 Peter 1:12-15 – *Our Remembered Faith*
 - 2 Peter 1:16-21 – *Our Reliable Faith*
- **Part 2 – False Teaching**
 - 2 Peter 2:1-3 – *General Description of False Teachers*
 - 2 Peter 2:4-10a – *Great Destruction of False Teachers*
 - 2 Peter 2:10b-22 – *Grim Details of False Teachers*
- **Part 3 – A Case Study: Future Events**
 - 2 Peter 3:1-10 – *Future Events and False Teaching*
 - 2 Peter 3:11-18 – *Future Events and True Faith*

² *The MacArthur Study Bible*, ed. John MacArthur, Jr., electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997).

THE THEME OF 2 PETER

1. True Faith

a. Faith is foundational.

Notice what Paul says about a believer's faith:

- True faith is _____ by God (1:1).
- True faith is _____ for salvation and godliness (1:2-4).
- True faith is _____ (1:5-7).
- True faith is _____ (1:8-11).
- True faith is _____ (1:12-15).
- True faith is _____ (1:16-21).

b. Knowledge is key.

Knowledge is truth _____. Truth is static; knowledge is effective. It should go without saying that truth alone is not enough to confront and defeat error. Otherwise, truth would have already won. Truth must be _____.

For example, it is the knowledge of key truths that helps the believer avoid false teaching and living:

- The knowledge of _____ (1:1-4)
- The knowledge of _____ (1:5-11)
- The knowledge of _____ (1:16-21)
- The knowledge of the _____ (2:1-22)
- The knowledge of the _____ (3:1-18)
- In summary, the revealed knowledge of _____ (1:2; 3:18)

Throughout this epistle, Peter demonstrates the practical importance of knowledge:

- Knowledge must be rehearsed (1:12-15).
- Knowledge begins in the head and affects the hand.
- Knowledge will result in stability (1:8, 10; 3:17).

2. False Teaching

3. The Case Study

Application:

CONCLUSION

We must stand for truth, and we must protect our faith, and we must do so by “adding to our faith, knowledge.” “Unlearned and ignorant men”—like Peter (Acts 4:13)—can make a powerful impact for true faith when they “have been with Jesus” and the knowledge that He gives.