

Sunday November 21st 2010
The Second of Peter
Part One
Study Questions

1). 2Pe 3:1 ¶ *Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,*

- a). To whom is Peter writing and why is this significant?
- b). What is he wanting to remind them of? And why would this be significant?

2). 1Pe 1:9*receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.*

- a). What is the subject of 1 Peter?
- b). In what 2 ways is this same subject approached in 2 Peter?
- c). Putting these 2 letters together, what pattern is set for us here?
- d). How is this same pattern seen in the NT epistles as a whole?
- e). How is this pattern repeated in the letters of 2 Peter and Jude themselves?
- e). What then is the concluding focus of 2 Peter and Jude and the NT as a whole?

f). What scripture would we see in the gospels that would show the inevitability of this focus?

g). How seriously do we need to take this? And what might cause us to be complacent about it?

h). 1Co 15:33 *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."*
34 *Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.* [knowledge = Greek – ‘agnosia’ = ignorance]

i). What insight into the potential dangers for us does this scripture from 1 Corinthians give us?

3). 2Pe 1:2 *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,* [lit. ‘of God, even Jesus our Lord’]

a). According to our scripture, how are grace and peace increased in the life of a believer?

b). What kind of knowledge are we talking about?

4). 2Pe 1:3 *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to glory and virtue,*

a). How are we given all things that pertain to life and godliness?

b). What kind of knowledge are we talking about?

5). *2Pe 1:3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

- a). How are we given the exceedingly great and precious promises?
- b). What kind of knowledge are we talking about?
- c). What do the exceedingly great and precious promises make possible for us?
- d). Again, what is it that makes all of this possible?

6). *2Pe 1:8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- a). What is in view in this verse?
- b). What is at the heart of producing fruit?
- c). What kind of knowledge are we talking about?
- d). Taking all these into consideration how important do you think it is for us to have a mature, ‘epignosis’ knowledge?

7). Col 2:2 *that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge [epignosis] of the mystery of God, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

a). What does this scripture teach us about mature, ‘epignosis’ knowledge?

b). Eph 3:8 *To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,*

c). So, to what does ‘epignosis’ refer?

d). How is ‘epignosis’ linked to the growth to spiritual maturity?

e). Describe how the process to spiritual maturity takes place.

8). What would be the result if we were to reject ‘epignosis’ and what scriptures did we look at in connection with this?

a). What is the scriptural way in which we are to receive the word that leads to ‘epignosis’?

b). What would this look like in practice?

c). What is the result of not receiving the word according to the way described in the scripture?

9). Col 2:8 *Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.*

a). What is the warning in this scripture?

b). How easy would this be?

c). Any final thoughts or comments?