

LESSON 41
1st & 2nd Peter, Jude

LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

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Lesson 41: 1st & 2nd Peter, Jude

1st Peter

- 1st Peter was written by the Apostle Peter about 64AD near the beginning of Nero's persecution of Christians in Asia Minor (modern Turkey).
- The Apostle Peter was originally named Simon (Greek) or Simeon (Hebrew). Jesus gave him a new name (Matthew 16:18), Cephas (Aramaic), or Peter (Greek).
- Peter was the son of a Jew named John or Jonas. Andrew was his brother. They were fisherman who lived on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee in Bethsaida.
- Key passage. *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you"* (1 Peter 1:3-4).

OUTLINE

- Salutation (1). *"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance"* (vv. 1-2).
 - Peter identifies himself as the author of this letter and as, *...an apostle of Jesus Christ...* (v. 1)
 - The letter is written to *God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia...* (v. 1)
 - These early Christians were Jews and Gentiles scattered throughout Asia Minor because of Nero's persecution.
 - *...God's elect...* (v. 1)
 - *...exiles...* (v. 1)
 - *...chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood...* (v. 2)

- Living hope (1).
 - *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.* (vv. 3-5)
 - *In his great mercy - because, "God so loved the world..." (John 3:16) he has given us:*
 - ...new birth...
 - ...living hope...
 - ...an inheritance...
 - This inheritance can never *perish, spoil, or fade.*
 - *This inheritance is kept in heaven for you...*
 - ...God's power... that serves as our shield.
 - ...salvation...
 - This salvation is here now!
 - and it is coming... ready to be revealed in the last time.
 - All of this is accomplished through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...
 - *In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.* (vv. 6-7)
 - Because we have hope in the resurrection of Christ, we greatly rejoice...
 - We rejoice even though we *suffer grief and all kinds of trials...*
 - We know this suffering is only for *a little while.*
 - We know suffering comes in order to strengthen, refine, and prove *the genuineness of [our] faith...*
 - When Jesus Christ is revealed we will *praise, glory, and honor* him.

- *Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (vv. 8-9)*
 - We love and serve Jesus Christ (God Incarnate)... but, we have never seen him.
 - We *believe in him* and this fills us with *an inexpressible and glorious joy*...
 - Rest assured, our faith will be fulfilled, “*For we live by faith, not by sight*” (2 Corinthians 5:7). This is the *end result of [our] faith*...
- *Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. (vv. 10-12a)*
 - God has been ‘tipping his hand’ through the prophets and direct revelation since the Garden of Eden!
 - The ‘protoevangelium’ - “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel*” (Genesis 3:15).
 - “*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD — and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them... In that day the Root of Jesse*

will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him... In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people..." (Isaiah 11:1-11).

- *"...He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected... a man of suffering, and familiar with pain... he took up our pain and bore our suffering... But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth... he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death... it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer... After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied... For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53)*
- *"I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed" (Daniel 7:13-14).*
- *However, It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. (v. 12)*

- The prophets did not get to see their words fulfilled.
 - *Even angels long to look into these things.* (v. 12b)
- Be Holy (1-2).
 - *Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.* (v. 13)
 - *Therefore* (because of the living hope) *set your hope on the grace that is to come when Jesus Christ is revealed.*
 - This living hope is not simple optimism, thinking positive, or blind faith because we are to have *minds that are alert and fully sober...*
 - It is based on our faith in the resurrection of Jesus and his return.
 - Remember, “...*faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see...*” (Hebrews 11:1).
 - *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”* (vv. 14-15)
 - Because we have put our hope in the resurrection and return of Jesus Christ we are holy because he is holy.
 - Keep this in the right order! “*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast*” (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - Therefore, *do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.*
 - Followers of Christ are not ‘saved’ because they are holy - they are holy because they are ‘saved.’
 - *Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.* (v. 17)
 - Peter’s readers were literal foreigners, driven from their homes by Nero’s persecution.
 - We are metaphorical foreigners because we are not of this world - we are, “fellow citizens with God’s people” (Ephesians 2:8).
 - Jesus said it when he prayed, “*I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect*

them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it” (John 17:14-16).

- In just a few verses Peter called us, *“foreigners and exiles”* (1 Peter 2:11).
- We do not belong here - we are not supposed to!
- We live here in reverent fear.
- *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. (vv. 18-21)*
 - Our salvation is not free - it cost Jesus everything.
 - The cost was not paid with perishable things such as silver or gold...
 - It was paid in the precious blood of Christ.
 - This has always been God’s plan!
 - *Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. (v. 21)*
- *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you. (vv. 22-25)*
 - We are *purified* in Christ and we purify ourselves through obedience.
 - Jesus taught, *“If you love me, keep my commands... Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching”* (John 14:15, 23).
 - We show we are *purified* (holy) by how we live, *“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead... You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and*

shudder... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead” (James 2:14, 19, 26).

- We show Christ has made us holy - that we *have been born again... by obeying the truth so that you have a sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.*
- The *living and enduring word of God* confirms the definition and presence of holiness in the short earthly life of those who follow Jesus - *the word of the Lord endures forever.*
- *Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (2:1-2)*
 - *Therefore* - because we are holy in Christ:
 - *...rid yourselves of all:*
 - *...malice...*
 - *...deceit...*
 - *...hypocrisy...*
 - *...envy...*
 - *...slander...*
 - *...crave pure spiritual milk...*
 - *...grow up in your salvation...*
- Jesus the cornerstone (2).
 - *As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him — you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” (vv. 4-6)*
 - Peter quoted Isaiah 28:16, a prophecy regarding Jesus as the cornerstone of our faith.
 - As cornerstone, Jesus is the standard, the template, the guide who established his church (Matthew 16:18) as *a spiritual house... a holy priesthood [who offers] spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.*
 - *Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message — which is also what they were destined for. (vv. 7-8)*

- There will always be those who reject the *cornerstone* - Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus - who he is, how he lived, what he taught, and what he did - becomes a stumbling block for those who reject him.
- *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (vv. 9-10)*
 - Followers of Jesus are:
 - *a chosen people*
 - *a royal priesthood*
 - *a holy nation*
 - *God's special possession*
 - Followers of Jesus declare his praises because we have *received mercy* and get to be *the people of God*.
- Living as exiles (2-3)
 - *Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. (v. 11)*
 - *Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (v. 12)*
 - Obey the law. *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. (vv. 13-15)*
 - Protect our witness. *Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. (v. 16)*
 - We should be characterized by:
 - Respect. *Show proper respect to everyone... (v. 17a)*
 - Love. *...love the family of believers... (v. 17b)*
 - Faith. *...fear God... (v. 17c)*
 - Citizenship. *...honor the emperor. (v. 17d)*
 - *Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it?*

But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (vv. 18-25)

- This in no way justifies the horrors of slavery!
- The slaves Peter wrote about were mostly indentured servants - debtors working off their debts.
- A modern application might be the relationship between employees and employers.
- *Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (3:1-7)*
 - This is not justification for complementarianism or male authority!
 - However, there are some guidelines to be considered:
 - A wife's witness for Christ is a powerful thing.
 - A woman's inner beauty through purity, reverence, and gentleness is a great witness.
 - Husbands are to be considerate of their wives - of course they are!
- Suffering for doing good (3-4)
 - *Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil*

with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (vv. 8-12)

- Followers of Jesus are to be:
 - cooperative
 - sympathetic
 - loving
 - compassionate
 - humble
 - forgiving
- Even if we are treated badly we are to respond with blessing - that is what Jesus did.
- Guard your tongue!
- *Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” (v. 13-14)*
 - It makes no sense to harm someone who is doing good, but sometimes people still do.
 - Suffering for what is right is a blessing so do not be afraid.
- *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits — to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water; and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also — not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. (vv. 15-22)*

- ...revere Christ as Lord.
 - *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*
 - *But do this with gentleness and respect...*
 - *[keep] a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*
- Jesus Christ is Lord... no matter what.
- *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. (4:12-19)*
 - Do not be surprised by trials - that's life.
 - *rejoice*
 - *you are blessed*
 - *do not be ashamed*
 - When we suffer, keep the faith.
- Living in Christ (4).
 - *Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. (vv. 1-2)*
 - Do not live for evil human desires...
 - Live for the will of God.
 - *For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do — living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (vv. 3-5)*

- Almost everyone has a past and regrets because of that past.
 - We have wasted enough time with all that!
- *For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit. (v. 6)*
 - Keep spreading the Gospel even if we do not see immediate results.
 - Live in *the spirit*.
- *The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (vv. 7-11)*
 - *The end... is near* - isn't it? Do we believe that?
 - Pray - *be alert and of sober mind...*
 - ...love covers a multitude of sins.
 - *Offer hospitality...*
 - ...serve others...
 - Speak (and live) the word of God.
- Life in the Church (5).
 - *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (vv. 1-4)*
 - Elders can be official or unofficial church leaders, or they can simply be older (hopefully more mature) Christians.
 - *Be shepherds... not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be...*
 - *not pursuing dishonest gain*
 - *eager to serve*
 - *not lording it over anyone*

- Respect. *In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. (v. 5a)*
- Humility. *All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another; because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (vv. 5b-7)*
- Dealing with the devil. *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (vv. 8-11)*
- Closing. *With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (5:12-14)*

2nd Peter

- While there is some scholarly debate regarding 2nd Peter, the traditional view supported by church tradition and most scholars is it was written by the Apostle Peter shortly before his death around 67AD.
- He attempted to call Christians to spiritual growth and away from apostasy.
- Key passage: *“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness”* (2 Peter 1:3).

OUTLINE

- Salutation. *Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord* (2 Peter 1:1).
 - Notice how Peter described himself first as a servant and second as apostle - we serve first!
 - Faith is a precious gift.
- Calling and Election (1).
 - *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.* (v. 3-4)
 - DIVINE POWER = *theos dunamis* (Greek phrase): strength, power, ability from God.
 - God's divine power has already given us *everything we need for a godly life*.
 - Through God's divine power we can *participate in the divine nature*.
 - *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.* (vv. 5-9)
 - For this reason = because of God's divine power we can (notice the process):
 - start with faith - *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”* (Hebrews 11:1).

- add goodness to faith - goodness must come after faith (never the other way around) because, *“No one is good - except God alone”* (Mark 10:18; Luke 18:18).
- add knowledge to goodness - *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...”* (Proverbs 1:7).
- add self-control to knowledge - *“For the Spirit God gave us ... gives us power, love, and self-discipline”* (2 Timothy 1:7)
- add perseverance to self-control - *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”* (Galatians 6:9).
- add godliness to perseverance - *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers”* (Galatians 6:10).
- add mutual affection to godliness - Respect for everyone.
- add love to mutual affection - Love grows out of respect.
- *“...if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive...”* (v. 8).
- *Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* (v. 10)
 - *Therefore = because His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life...* (v. 3).
 - You are called and elected by God himself - live like it.
- Prophecy (1).
 - *So, I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.* (vv. 12-15)
 - Even though we know a great deal about our faith we need to be reminded of it - *to refresh your memory.*
 - Our witness for Christ outlives us!
 - *For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power; but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well*

pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. (vv. 16-18)

- It is important to remember Peter was an eyewitness of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus - he heard Jesus’ teachings straight from him!
- Peter heard God say, *“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased”* at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:1-9; Luke 9:28-36).
- Be very careful about, “cleverly devised stories”!
- *We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (vv. 19-21)*
 - Peter ties the teachings of Jesus, as well as the teachings of the Apostles to the prophetic message from the Old Testament - there is a thread!
 - The Old Testament prophets were very human, but reliable because they *“spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*
- False teachers (2).
 - *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them — bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. (vv. 1-3)*
 - There have always been *false prophets* and *false teachers*.
 - They are among the people of God - watch out for them!
 - *In their greed they will exploit you.*
 - *They bring the way of truth into disrepute.*
 - *They cleverly introduce destructive heresies.*
 - *They deny Jesus - God Incarnate.*
 - *Many will follow their depraved conduct...*
 - *Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was dis-*

tressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) — if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. (vv. 4-9)

- We do not have to get caught up with these false teachers in their, “...*false doctrines... myths... endless genealogies... controversial speculations...*” (1 Timothy 1:3-4).
- God can defend himself.
- God will handle these false teachers just like he did
 - *angels when they sinned*
 - *the ancient world when he brought the flood*
 - *the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah*
- *This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord. (vv. 10-11)*
 - These false teachers are *bold and arrogant...*
 - They are not afraid to pervert spiritual things and speak falsely about *celestial beings... even angels*, but they should be.
- *But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish. They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. (vv. 12-13a)*
 - False teachers *blaspheme* in matters *they do not understand*.
 - Again, God will deal with them - *they will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done*.
- *Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed — an accursed brood! They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey — an animal without speech — who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness. These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them free-*

dom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity — for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.” (vv. 13b-19)

- the way of Balaam refers to an event in the life of a non-Israelite prophet (Numbers 22-24).
 - The King of Moab offered to pay Balaam to put a curse on the Israelites.
 - While on his way to curse the Israelites, Balaam was blocked by an angel and rebuked by a talking donkey.
 - Balaam was forced by God to pronounce a blessing on the Israelites instead.
- Peter used *the way of Balaam* to describe those who sin without shame.
 - *carouse in broad daylight*
 - *reveling in their pleasures*
 - *they never stop sinning*
 - *they are experts in greed*
 - *they mouth empty, boastful words*
 - *they promise ...freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity...*
- *If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.” (vv. 20-22)*
 - Peter described apostasy - turning away from Jesus after knowing him.
 - There are those that want to deny the possibility of apostasy, but Peter does not do that - apostasy is the result of a willful, conscious rejection of Christ.
 - *If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.*
 - Paul expanded this problem, “It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have

fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace” (Hebrews 6:4-6).

- Peter described the apostate person with two references:
 - He quoted Paul (Romans 6:16) when he wrote, “...people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”
 - He quoted Proverbs 26:11, “A dog returns to its vomit...”
- The Day of The Lord (3).
 - Wholesome thinking. *Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.* (v. 1)
 - The importance of Scripture. *I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.* (v. 2)
 - Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (vv. 3-9)
 - There have always been scoffers, but they will increase in the last days.
 - Yes, those who follow Christ have been waiting for a very long time. However, remember God is not bound in time like we are - all time is ‘now’ with God.
 - These scoffers will reject the biblical teaching concerning the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ - they are two different events!
 - The Rapture.
 - Jesus himself said, “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and

they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other” (Matthew 24:30-31).

- Paul wrote, *“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).*
- The Second Coming of Christ. *“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:11-15).*
- *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. (vv. 10-13)*
 - *the day of the Lord is not The Rapture - it is The Second Coming.*
 - *“Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud*

voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away'' (Revelation 21:1-4).

- *Life in the present. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. (v. 14)*
- *Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. (vv. 15-16)*
 - *Peter defended his friend, Paul.*
 - *...our Lord's patience means salvation...*
- *Conclusion (3). Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (vv. 17-18)*

Jude

- This letter was written by Jude, the brother of James and half-brother of our Lord Jesus Christ, about 70AD. It was probably written after 2 Peter and may have copied some portions of Peter's letter.
- Jude and James both came to believe in Jesus sometime after his resurrection, "*For even his own brothers did not believe in him*" (John 7:5) while he walked the earth.
- Jude is a loving but straightforward warning against false teachers and apostasy.

OUTLINE

- Salutation. *Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.* (vv. 1-2)
- Ungodliness.
 - *Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.* (vv. 3-4)
 - Jude would rather talk about the salvation we share...
 - However, like Peter did in his letters, Jude had to confront ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.
 - Grace is never a license for immorality! Paul wrote, "*What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin... Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires... For sin shall no longer be*

your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace” (Romans 6:1-14).

- Jesus Christ [is] our only Sovereign and Lord!
- *Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt but later destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling — these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings. (vv. 5-8)*
 - We know better!
 - A time of final judgement is coming for:
 - ...those who did not believe.
 - ...the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling...
 - [those like] Sodom and Gomorrah [who] gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion.
 - ungodly people [who] pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.
- The devil.
 - *But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct — as irrational animals do — will destroy them. (vv. 9-10)*
 - Always take the devil seriously — the archangel Michael sure did.
 - *“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings” (1 Peter 5:8-9).*
 - Destruction is coming for those who slander whatever they do not understand.

- Judgement.
 - *Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.* (v. 11)
 - *the way of Cain* = The self-willed rebellion and pride Cain showed when he tried to approach God through his own works and then hated Abel to the point of murder. toward his righteous brother Abel, eventually murdering him (Genesis 4).
 - *Balaam's error* = The King of Moab offered to pay Balaam to put a curse on the Israelites, but while on his way to curse the Israelites, Balaam was blocked by an angel and rebuked by a talking donkey. Balaam was forced by God to pronounce a blessing on the Israelites instead (Numbers 22-24).
 - *Korah's rebellion* = Korah was a Levite who led a rebellion against Moses out of pride and a desire for power. He and those who followed him were destroyed by God (Numbers 16).
 - *These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm — shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted — twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.* (vv. 12-13)
 - Jude described these people as *blemishes* within the church.
 - He also described them as *twice dead*.
 - *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."* (vv. 14-15)
 - Enoch. *"When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch... When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah... Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away"* (Genesis 5:18-24).
 - The Book of Enoch is actually three Jewish apocryphal books attributed to Enoch, but most likely written long after his death. Jude is probably quoting one of these books.
 - *These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.* (v. 16)
 - *grumblers*
 - *faultfinders*

- *they follow their own evil desires*
 - *they boast about themselves*
 - *[they] flatter others for their own advantage.*
- A Call to Perseverance.
 - *But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. (vv. 17-19)*
 - Jude is quoting Peter (2 Peter 2:1, 3:3).
 - He described the *scoffers* as *people who*:
 - *divide you*
 - *follow mere natural instincts*
 - *do not have the Spirit.*
 - *But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear — hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. (vv. 20-23)*
 - Again, we do not have to defend God!
 - We are to build ourselves up in the *most holy faith* by:
 - *praying in the Holy Spirit*
 - *keeping ourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*
 - *[Being] merciful to those who doubt*
 - *[saving] others by snatching them from the fire*
 - *[showing] mercy, mixed with fear*
- Doxology. *To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (vv. 24-25)*