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TheWordWorks

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# SERMON SERIES OVERVIEW

2 Peter

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# Situation of 2 Peter

- The letter of 2 Peter was the Apostle Peter's last will and testament. Peter is about to die (1:14), and so he wants to write to his readers in order to remind them of certain things (1:12-15, 3:1-2). What is it that Peter wants his readers to recall at any time, even long after Peter is gone (1:15)?
- He wants them to remember that **Jesus will certainly return to judge the ungodly and save the righteous**

Why does he want them to be able to recall this?

- In 2:1-3, Peter predicts that his readers will face a dangerous and insidious threat - false teachers will arise from amongst his readers. They will come from within, they will bring with them destructive false teaching, and they will do so stealthily and in secret.
- These false teachers may have even been present already (1:16 suggests there might have been some who were already claiming the Apostle's testimony was nothing more than a cleverly devised myth)
- Therefore, it is vital that Peter's readers are able to identify this threat. Peter says that these false teachers will be marked by:
  1. A sensual and immoral way of living (2 Peter 2)
  2. Their denial of Jesus' 2nd Coming/future judgement, driven by a desire to continue living in sensuality and immorality (3:3)

# Situation of 2 Peter

- While Peter acknowledges that his readers are established (1:12) and stable Christians (3:17), Peter is also aware that they could lose this stability (3:17) because these false teachers will seek to entice (2:14, 18) and exploit his readers with false words (2:3). Peter's readers must therefore be careful lest they be carried away by this false teaching (3:17)
- Peter therefore wants his readers to remember and be thoroughly convinced of this essential truth, that **Jesus will certainly return to judge the ungodly and save the righteous**. He does this by appealing to the following evidences:
  1. 1:16, 3:2 - the credibility of the Apostolic witness concerning Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
  2. 1:19-21, 3:2 - the God-inspired predictions of the Prophets concerning Jesus' return
  3. 2:4-10a, 3:5-7 - the broader witness of Scripture which repeatedly demonstrates that God will judge the wicked and save the righteous
- But more than just remembering what they already know, Peter goes further. How can Peter's readers secure themselves against this looming threat of lawless heresy and so confirm their election? Peter urges his readers to **grow in godliness** in light of Jesus' certain return (1:3-11, 3:18)

# Main Point and Purpose

## Main Point

- Jesus will certainly return to judge the ungodly and save the righteous

## Purpose

- Grow in godliness and certainty of Jesus' return, watchful of lawless heresy

# Key verse for book

*You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people 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. - 2 Peter 3:17-18*

## Sections

Section	Passage	Main Point	Purpose	Structure
1	<b>2 Peter 1:1-11</b>	Jesus has given us everything required to grow in godliness for entry into his eternal kingdom	Make every effort to confirm your calling by growing in godliness grow in godliness	<p>1:3-4 - Jesus has given us everything required for godly living</p> <p>1:5-9 - Make every effort to grow in godliness</p> <p>1:10-11 - A rich welcome at the end</p>
2	<b>2 Peter 1:12-21</b>	The Apostles' and Prophets' testimony about Jesus' powerful second coming is certain	Remember to keep growing in godliness, certain that Jesus will come again in power	<p>1:12-15 (1:3-11, 1:5) - Remember: Make every effort to grow in godliness</p> <p>1:16-21 - Because Jesus will certainly come again in power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence 1: The Apostles' eyewitness testimony of the Transfiguration (a preview of Jesus' 2nd coming) - 1:16-18</li> <li>Evidence 2: The Prophets' God-inspired written testimony more fully confirmed by the Apostles - 1:19-21</li> </ul>

## Sections

Section	Passage	Main Point	Purpose	Structure
3	<b>2 Peter 2:1-10a</b>	God will certainly judge those who live in immoral error but rescue the righteous	Do not follow immoral false teachers, waiting for God's rescue of the righteous	<p>2:1-3 - False prophets promoting immoral living will arise among you. God will destroy them.</p> <p>2:4-8 - If... God judged the wicked and rescued the righteous in the past</p> <p>2:9-10a - Then... God will certainly judge the wicked and rescue the righteous</p>
4	<b>2 Peter 2:10b-22</b>	God will judge a) arrogant b) greedy, carousing seducers who c) promise freedom but are slaves themselves	Spot them (so as not to follow them and be judged as well)	<p>2:10b-13a - They're arrogant</p> <p>2:13b-16 - They're greedy, carousing seducers</p> <p>2:17-22 - They promise freedom but are slaves themselves</p>

## Sections

Section	Passage	Main Point	Purpose	Structure
5	2 Peter 3:1-10	Despite what scoffers claim, Jesus <i>will</i> return to judge, after patiently waiting	Remember the Prophetic and Apostolic word concerning Jesus' return, resisting scoffers	<p>3:1-3 - Remember the Prophetic and Apostolic word. Why?</p> <p>3:4 - Scoffers will come saying...</p> <p>3:5-10 - 2 facts not to overlook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:5-7 - Fact 1: Jesus <i>will</i> return to judge</li> <li>3:8-10 - Fact 2: Jesus hasn't returned yet because God is patiently giving time for people to repent</li> </ul>
6	2 Peter 3:11-18	On the Day of the Lord, this creation will be destroyed and a new creation will emerge where righteousness dwells	Actively wait for the Day by living godly lives and repenting while you still can	<p>On the Day of the Lord...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This creation will be destroyed by fire (Vs 10,12)</li> <li>A new creation will emerge (Vs 13)</li> </ol> <p>Actively wait for it by...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Godly living (Vs 11-14)</li> <li>Repenting while we still can (Vs 15-18)</li> </ol>