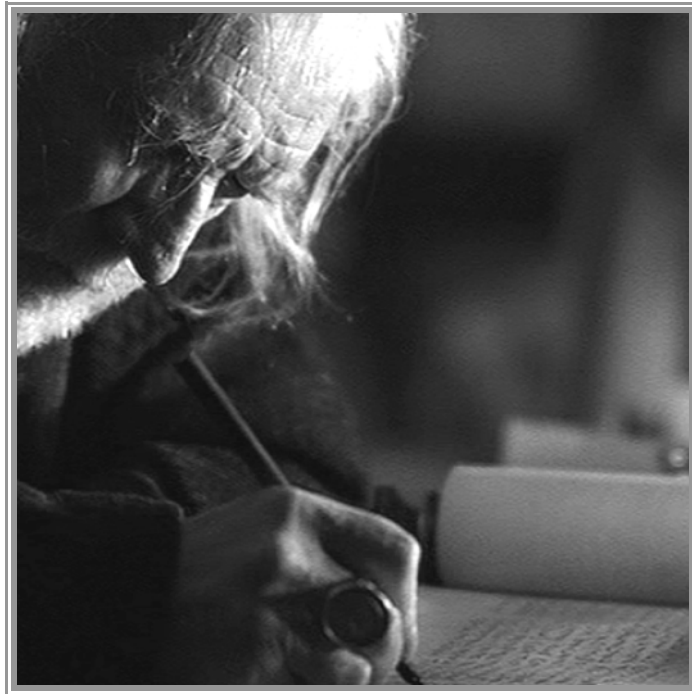


THE WRITINGS OF PETER



STUDY 2

2 PETER 1:14 – 2:22



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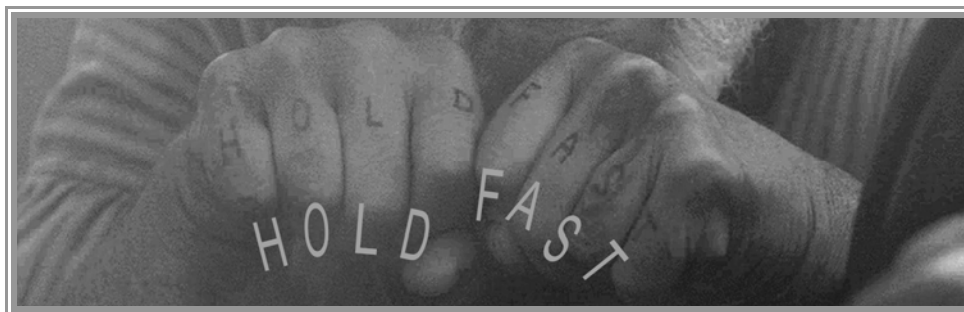
Introduction – Last time we began our study of 2 Peter. While Peter's first letter was to Christians enduring the storm of persecution, his second letter addressed the issue of dealing with false teaching.

In Peter's second letter, he continued his admonition for Christians to **HOLD FAST** in order to endure through the storms they were facing in life. And we, like the Christians of 2,000 years ago, face storms of false teaching and deception regularly. We have to **HOLD FAST** today as much as they did back then. *There are 3 life lines that we are to HOLD FAST to that will keep us from being swept away by untruth:*

HOLD FAST to a *Growing Relationship* with Jesus Christ

HOLD FAST to *Evidences* for Their Faith

HOLD FAST to the Future that God Promises



Chapter 1 verses 1-14 focus on the Christian's growing relationship with Jesus Christ which is the first life line Christians are to HOLD FAST to when surviving the storms of false teaching. **Chapter 1 verses 15-21** speak of some evidences that support our faith; evidences which are a second life line we must HOLD FAST to when faced with untruth. **Chapter 2** warns Christians about false teachers, foretells of their demise, and tells the believer how to recognize false teachers.

If you're not already there, turn to 2 Peter chapter 1 verse 14. Today's study will focus on our second life line we are to HOLD FAST to: *evidences for our belief*; and warn us about false teachers.

2 Peter 1:14-18

Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. 15 Moreover I will endeavour [*make every effort*] that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

Group Questions

- **Verses 14-15** – Why was Peter speaking of his imminent death? Jesus prophesied to Peter that he would be killed for following Jesus (John 21:18-19) and Peter was very much aware of the growing opposition to Christianity and remembered Jesus' chilling prediction.
- **Verses 14-15** – Is there anything Peter could have done to prevent being martyred? Maybe if he had denied everything he had witnessed, the authorities of the day would not have crucified him.

- **Verse 16-18** – What's a key difference between fictional writings and the writings of the Bible? The Bible is a record of events and teachings from the **eyewitnesses** who were lived then and **saw** and **heard** the events they recorded. These eyewitness believers were willing to be tortured and put to death for following Jesus just as Peter mentioned in verses 14 and 15. Fictional writings are just that: *fiction*. Authors of fiction books typically don't allow themselves to be martyred just to get people to believe their writings are true when they know they are not.
- **Verse 16-18** – What event is Peter referring his readers to? The experience of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ (Matt. 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35) where Peter, James, and John were permitted to see Jesus' glory.
- **Verse 16-18** – When things in life cause us to doubt the Bible, what should we remember? We can remember that the things we are believing in were seen and heard by the eyewitnesses who experienced them.

2 Peter 1:19-21

We have also a more sure word of prophecy [or: *We also have the word of prophecy confirmed (by Jesus' transfiguration and the Father's words about His Son)*]; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved [*literal: carried along*] by the Holy Ghost.

Group Questions

- **Verses 19-21** – If verses 16-18 refer to New Testament writings, what do verses 19-21 refer to? Old Testament writings.
- **Verse 21** – What does Peter tell Christians about Scripture? That information that was revealed from God to humanity recorded in the Scriptures did not originate from man but from God Himself through the Holy Spirit.

- **Verse 21** – Can you remember where the Apostle Paul made a similar statement about the source of Scripture? 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Summary of the Life Lines to HOLD FAST to when faced with false teaching:

LIFE LINE NUMBER 1

HOLD FAST to a *growing* relationship with Jesus Christ; *growing* involves frequent time spent together building trust.

LIFE LINE NUMBER 2

HOLD FAST to the evidence of our faith from the eyewitnesses who recorded things as the Holy Spirit led them to.

Identifying and Avoiding False Teachers 2 Peter 2

2 Peter 2:1-3 Warnings Concerning False Teachers in Christianity

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in [*smuggle*] damnable [*destructive*] heresies [*false teachings*], even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious [*immoral*] ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness [*materialism*] shall they with feigned words [*fabrications*] make merchandise of you [*exploit you*]; whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Group Question

- **Verses 1-3** – What are some things we can learn about false teachers from verses 1-3?
 - They WILL be present in our lifetime

- They “smuggle in” their false teachings – in other words they are clever or crafty in the way in which they get people to follow their doctrines
- Their teachings are destructive to a Christian’s faith
- They deny that Jesus is God; many people will follow them
- Their ways are often immoral
- Materialism is a tool for them
- They will make things up in order to exploit people
- And their judgment will come in due time.

2 Peter 2:4-9 Destruction of False Teachers in Christianity

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Group Question

- **Verse 9** – What encouragement can we find in verse 9? That not only can Christians be delivered from false teaching but the unjust false teachers will get what they deserve for leading others astray.

2 Peter 2:10-22 Descriptions of False Teachers

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. 11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing

accusation against them before the Lord. 12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. 17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. 20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Some Characteristics of False Teachers

- Walk after the flesh
- Desiring immorality
- Rebellious toward authorities
- Pushy or overbearing
- Self centered
- Speak untruth about angels and/or demons
- Act from instinct of emotion
- Speak evil of things they do not understand
- Shamelessly party
- Looking for adultery
- Unable to not sin
- Enticing unstable people
- Practiced experts in greed
- Easily misleading new Christians

- 1.** The Apostle Peter's willingness to die rather than deny what he had *seen* and *heard* about the Messiah is **EVIDENCE** of the truthfulness and reliability of the New Testament writings.
- 2.** The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies is evidence of God's supernatural involvement in the writing of the Scriptures and reinforces their **RELIABILITY** and truthfulness.
- 3.** False teaching can be identified by its destructive effect on a Christian's faith and its tendency to **DENY** Christ's deity.
- 4.** Unfortunately, many will follow false teachers because they do **NOT** emphasize morality in their teaching and they use **MATERIALISM** to entice people into their belief system.
- 5.** Although false teachers may temporarily enjoy success and fleshly pleasures on earth, they can not escape the **JUDGMENT** from God that awaits them.

OUR WORLD IS FULL OF FALSE TEACHINGS AND
UNTRUTHS DESIGNED TO CONFUSE AND
IMMOBILIZE US. WE MUST REMEMBER TO
HOLD FAST TO THE LIFE LINES JESUS CHRIST
HAS PROVIDED FOR US.