

The Second General Epistle of Peter

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a like precious faith with us in the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ:

²Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³seeing that his divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue, ⁴through which he has given to us his precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in that world because of lust.

⁵Now for this very reason, making every effort, you must supplement your faith with virtue; and with virtue, knowledge; ⁶and with knowledge, self-control; and with self-control, patience; and with patience, godliness; ⁷and with godliness, brotherly affection; and with brotherly affection; love. ⁸For if these things are yours and are increasing, they make you to be neither idle nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For he who lacks these things is blind, seeing only what is near,

having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make *his* calling and choosing you sure, for if you do these things, you will absolutely not stumble, ¹¹for in this way the entrance into the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the *Age to come* will be richly supplied to you.

¹²Therefore, I intend to always remind you of these things, though you know them, and are established in the truth that is with *you*. ¹³And I think it right, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by way of a reminder, ¹⁴knowing that the putting off of my tabernacle comes swiftly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

¹⁶For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received from God the Father honor and glory when there was borne such a voice to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸and this voice we *ourselves* heard borne out of heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have the word of prophecy *made* more sure, to which you do well that you pay

attention (as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise) in your hearts.

²⁰Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God, being moved by holy spirit.

2 But false prophets also arose among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ²And many will follow their unrestrained ways, *and* because of them the way of the truth will be defamed, ³and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words.

Their judgment, from long ago, is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. ⁴For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but threw them down into Tartarus, *the god-dungeon*, and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until *the* judgment. ⁵And *if he* did not spare not the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly, ⁶and *if he* condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example of what is about to happen

to ungodly *people*, ⁷and rescued righteous Lot, worn down by the unrestrained manner of life of the lawless ⁸(for *that* righteous man while living among them day after day, kept torturing *his* righteous soul by what he saw and heard concerning their lawless works)⁹*then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly out of temptation, and to keep the unrighteous to the day of judgment while continuing their punishment, ¹⁰but especially those who walk after the flesh in its passion for defilement, and show contempt for lordship. Bold *and* self-pleasing, they do not tremble at defaming *the* glories, ¹¹whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not bring a blaspheming accusation against them before the Lord.

¹²But these, as irrational animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and destroyed, speaking defaming words about matters of which they are ignorant, in their destruction *they* will indeed be destroyed, ¹³suffering wrong as the wage of wrong-doing. They count it pleasure to revel in the day-time. *They are* spots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you, ¹⁴having eyes full of an adulteress, and unable to cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed. Accursed children!

¹⁵Forsaking the right way, they went

astray, having followed the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved *the wages of wrong-doing*,¹⁶ but he was rebuked for his own transgression. A donkey, without speech, spoke with a human voice and restrained the madness of the prophet.

¹⁷These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the blackness of the darkness has been reserved.¹⁸ For, uttering grandiose *words* of folly, they entice by the lusts of the flesh, by unrestrained behavior, those who are just escaping from those who live in error,¹⁹ promising them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a man, by that he is also brought into slavery.

²⁰For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in it and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.²² It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “**the dog returns to his own vomit**,” and “the sow that had washed *returns* to wallowing in the mire.”

3 Beloved, this is now the second letter that I write to you, and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by way of a reminder,² that you should remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the holy prophets, and the commandments of the Lord and Savior through your apostles.

³Knowing this first, that in the last days mockers will come with mockery, walking after their own lusts,⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? For, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”⁵ For this they willfully forget, that there were heavens of old, and an earth existed out of water and between water, by the word of God,⁶ by which means the world that then was, having been inundated with water, perished.⁷ But the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

⁸But do not forget this one thing, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years are as one day.⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come

as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

¹¹Seeing that all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people do you need to be in your holy manner of life and godliness ¹²as you wait for and earnestly desire the coming of the Day of God, because of which the heavens, being on fire, will be destroyed, and the elements, will melt with the intense heat? ¹³But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which dwells righteousness.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, seeing that you look for these things, be diligent that you may be found in peace, without spot, and blameless in his sight. ¹⁵And regard the longsuffering of our Lord *to be* salvation, even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you, ¹⁶as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things (in which are some things *that are* hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction).

¹⁷You therefore, beloved, knowing *these things* beforehand, beware lest being carried away with the error of the wicked, you fall from

your own steadfastness. ¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him *be* the glory both now and for ever. Amen.