

Book of 2 Peter

1. 2 Peter 1:1-15

1) Observation: What expression best represents the characteristics of the "world" that infiltrate the church and the saints?

2) Interpretation: As a solution to the "false teachers" who enter the church and deceive the saints, Peter presents "knowing" and "being." So, what should we know (1:2-3, 8; 2:20; 3:18), and what kind of existence should we become (1:4, 5-8; 3:11-13, 18)?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Peter emphasizes the importance of "knowing" God and Jesus Christ (1:2, 3, 8). John also says, "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3), and Paul says of the Ephesian church, "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him" (Ephesians 1:17-18). The Bible emphasizes that knowing God and Jesus Christ well is crucial in faith. When did you "know" God and Jesus Christ and how did it happen?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Peter emphasizes that saints should become "partakers of the divine nature" (1:4). This means that they should resemble the character of God and become "true Christians" without being deceived by false teachers. To become "partakers of the divine nature" and resemble God, what kind of spiritual training and efforts are you making?

3.3(God Refinding Us): After mentioning "partakers of the divine nature," Peter lists eight virtues of faith (1:5-8) to describe what kind of existence saints should become. Looking at the virtues of "faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love," we realize that it begins with "knowing God (faith)" and through the transformation of various virtues, it culminates in "love." What virtues do you currently possess? What virtues do you still need to refine?

3.4(God Inspiring US): While emphasizing the eight virtues of faith, Peter highlights the need for continuous and diligent effort to acquire such character. Expressions such as "make every effort," "add to," and "not be ineffective or unfruitful" (1:5-8) contain Peter's exhortation. Decide the efforts you will make to become a saint who is used by God.

4) Real Life Today: One of the virtues that Peter asks of the saints is "endurance" (1:3, 6, 13; 4:12-13), which means more than simply enduring but having the strength to endure difficult challenges, such as trials and hardships, based on trust and hope in God. When have you practiced endurance in your life and overcome problems based on trust and hope in God? What was a challenging experience that required endurance?

2. 2 Peter 1:16-2:22

1) Observation: What is the decisive reason that leads to the emergence of "false teachers" (2:1) causing spiritual confusion and difficulties in the church? (1:16, 20)

2) Interpretation: The fatal mistake committed by false teachers is "twisting the Scriptures" (1:20). To avoid falling into the trap of "misinterpreting the Scriptures" and understanding them according to one's desires, what should be done?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Peter emphasizes that the words of God recorded in the Scriptures are "not of human origin, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (1:21). Therefore, he advises being cautious in discerning the will of God by saying, "Pay attention" (1:19). If you have had an experience of encountering God while reading and meditating on His word, recall that experience.

3.2(God Meeting Us): The method to avoid "twisting the Scriptures" is to "pay attention and wait" (1:19-20). The expression "until the day dawns and the morning star rises" indicates that "waiting" and "focus" are necessary to grasp the meaning contained in God's word. How much do you wait and pay attention to meet God through His word?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Expressions such as "following cleverly devised myths" (1:16), "twisting the Scriptures" (1:20-21), and "enticing others by sensuality" (2:18) point out that false teachers arise from doctrinal misunderstandings originating from misinterpreting the Scriptures. As a result, they fall into ethical corruption, deny the Lord, and live in sensuality and greed (2:1-3), ultimately facing God's judgment and condemnation (2:4-10). Have you made such mistakes before? How can we rescue those who follow this path?

3.4(God Inspiring US): False teachers are described as "like irrational animals" (2:12), tempted with "sensuality of the flesh" (2:18), and if one yield to them, they become "slaves of corruption" (2:19). What does Peter suggest as a way to avoid the temptation and false teaching of false teachers? (2:20-21) To do so, what should the church focus on?

4) Real Life Today: People who supported the institution of slavery (Pro-Slavery) and those who opposed it (Anti-Slavery) both believed that their arguments and beliefs were based on the 'Bible.' However, their 'twisted interpretations' led to 'false faith,' which misguided not only individuals but also the community. In today's context, what are some instances where saints and churches interpret and apply the Bible in a 'twisted' manner instead of following it faithfully?

3. 2 Peter 3:1-18

1) Observation: What is the key content that Peter highlights as the essence of the "false teachers" and "wrong teachings"? (3:4)

2) Interpretation: The false teachers who infiltrated the church doubted and mocked the second coming of Jesus Christ and the judgment (3:4-6), causing confusion among the saints. Peter

explains the reason for their deliberate denial and attempts to forget God's "judgment" as living "according to their own desires" (3:3), which is detailed in the previous chapter (2:13-14). What is the true reason behind people living according to their own desires, trying to deny and forget God's "judgment"?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): To avoid living as if there were no final coming and judgment by falling into the false teachers' wrong teachings, Peter points out aspects such as the "creation of heaven and earth, the judgment of the flood, and the preservation of the heavens and the earth" (3:5-7) to reassure the unchanging nature of God. If you have recently experienced the unchanging nature of God who is with you, share that experience.

3.2(God Meeting Us): In response to the false teachers' mockery of the delay of the second coming and judgment, Peter answers that "with the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day" (3:8) and that the Lord's patience is for everyone's repentance (3:9), emphasizing that the Lord's long-suffering is for salvation (3:15). Could Peter's answer reflect God's heart to meet "me"?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Speaking of the second coming and judgment, Peter warns that "the day of the Lord will come like a thief" (3:10), reminding us of Jesus' words about the ten virgins, talents, and the final judgment (Matthew 25:1-46). When we hear the words that the day, described as "like a thief" (3:10), "at midnight" (Matthew 25:6), "after a long time" (Matthew 25:19), and "when the Son of Man comes" (Matthew 25:31), cannot be known, what image of yourself comes to mind that you need to repent and turn back right now?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Addressing the saints who were shaken by the false teachers' wrong teachings, Peter advises them to "wait" (3:12-14) and to make every effort to be "blameless and at peace" in their "holy conduct and godliness," following the Lord's promise, so that they may appear before God without blemish or fault. While waiting for the Lord's second coming and judgment, specify examples of "holy conduct and godliness" in your life, distinguishing them in areas such as "home, church, and workplace."

4) Real Life Today: As we read and meditate on today's Scripture, we are reminded of the lyrics of a praise song titled "Until the Lord Comes Again" (Ko Hyungwon). The lyrics go: "Until the Lord comes again, I will walk this path. Carrying my cross on the narrow road, I will see the Lord at the end of this journey. I hope for the Lord's appearance of glory. Until the Lord comes again, I will rise and run. When the Lord's glory covers the earth, I will rise and sing. My beloved Lord, be the Savior of the world. My beloved Lord, be the King of glory." If you have felt something while meditating on this confession, write down your own "lyrics."