

## 2 Peter 3:1-7

## By God's Word

Peter desires to stir up the faith of the beloved by God's word, so that they may respond faithfully to the mockery of the false teachers and the errors of their doctrines.

**Perseverance in the faith is the mark of authenticity.** By God's Word, those who are saved will continue to remain faithful to Christ and grow in grace and knowledge until the end.

**Consider the Source:** The false teachers professed faith in Jesus, but their nature never changed. They, like dogs and pigs, were by nature unclean, so they 'returned' to their true nature; they only seemed to have changed. They were corrupted by lust.

**The Source of God's Word:** *Hold your minds in a state of attention; unmixed and pure; no noise - NIV: to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. Remember what you were taught - stay on course, with God's word underneath your car . . . and Him beside you*

- The power of the mind to affect our hearts, emotions, feelings and actions
- Great and precious promises, *by these you may escape the corruption of the world through lust: 2 Peter 1:3*

To **bolster, strengthen, and fortify** your faith in light of sin's pollution, which includes the mockers and scoffers who are deliberately ignoring (turning a blind eye to) essential and eternal supernatural truths:

### **God's Word is THE Consistent, Reliable Source of Communication:**

God's Prophets: made predictions which were fulfilled and will be fulfilled

God's Son: the commandment of Jesus, through His apostles: feed my sheep

God's Apostles: A commissioned servant and eyewitness of the resurrection

God's Creation: The earth was formed out of water; the flood itself is a witness

Other witnesses: The Cross, the Conscience, the Church. . .

The Spirit using God's Word, and testifying within us . . .

"The ancient and tested source is revealed in a book whose reliability, relevance, and accuracy all fields of human knowledge continue to corroborate." (E. Eliot)

The people of God are identified as such and differentiated from the world chiefly by their knowledge of and devotion to the word that God breathed out. (Bingham)

God moves us by addressing our minds with his word, and so bringing to bear on us the force of truth. Affection may be the helm of the ship, but the mind must steer, and the chart to steer is by God's revealed truth. (Owen)

Read 1 Peter 1:13: Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

These sources reveal to us who God is, what He has and will do, thereby giving the godly their identity and cultivating faith, hope and love along the way

**1. God's Word speaks of the faithfulness of God for our encouragement.**

- a. Peter reminds us of the role of the prophets throughout history. What were their predictions? Did God fulfil those promises?
- b. An historical timeline, from the creation of the world, to the prophets, to Christ through the Apostles . . . look at the historical proof of His faithfulness; His word fulfilled over time again and again.
- c. Romans 8:32; John 16:33; Acts 26:27; Hebrews 10:26-27  
Paul is strong before Agrippa (Acts 26) and appeals to the prophets

**2. God's Word speaks of the mercy of God for our forgiveness.**

- a. Peter's use of "beloved" in this letter is important: 1:17; 3:1; 3:8; 3:14; 3:15; 3:17
- b. For our continual sinfulness (See 1 John 1), there is continued mercy and forgiveness.
- c. The beloved are "recipients of God's saving grace", and recipients of Peter's love for them; God's love will sustain them and keep them.
- d. Do not fret: YOU ARE BELOVED BY GOD
- e. John 15:13; Jeremiah 31:3; Isa. 43 -
  - i. My life is not my own; I am bought with a price; redeemed
- f. We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us: Peter stirs them because he loves them by reminding them of God's great love for them.

**3. God's Word speaks of the power of God for our edification.**

- a. He is the creator and communicator, God speaks and His speaking is creating . . . His Word is the agent. *The Son of God was the Word of God, creating with God everything that was not God.*
- b. When our Faith grows weak, God's word strengthens and revives our resolve
- c. The false teachers maintained that "God's promise is unreliable, and that God's universe is a stable, unchanging system where events like the parousia just do not happen. (Green)
- d. Yet, God has already intervened in Creation, as His word proves!
- e. 1 John 4:4; God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. (2 Tim. 2:7)

#### **4. God's Word speaks of the justice of God for our vindication.**

- a. "By His word, the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire."  
(v.7)
- b. "The destruction of ungodly men." (v.7)
- c. "Things will continue as they always have." This is a lie, and it is also hopelessly bad news! (you are not getting any better; only worse)
- d. These verses speak of God's justice in His judgment.
- e. "God has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through that man whom He has appointed, giving evidence to all by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:31)
- f. God will vindicate the Godly and punish the wicked. Since vengeance is His, we are called and empowered to love our enemies. (Romans 12:17-21) see also Psalm 73, how the psalmist's feet almost slipped . .
- g. God will not be mocked, nor will He allow His children to be mocked.

**In Christ, our Lord and Saviour.** . we have all we need for life and godliness.

2 Tim. 2:11-13

If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him

If we endure, we will also reign with Him

If we deny Him, He will also deny us

If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself

Be humbled and encouraged by the fact that God will bring about justice quickly for His children - behold the kindness and severity of our God (Luke 18)

Be humbled and encouraged by the fact that Jesus was mocked intensely . . and remember how He responded 1 Peter 2:21-25

Be humbled and encouraged by the fact that you and I were among the sufferers . . .'

"'Twas I that shed the sacred blood, I nailed him to the tree; I crucified the Christ of God; I joined the mockery; Of all that shouting multitude I feel that I am one; and in that din of voices rude I recognise my own." (Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Your faith will not fail while God sustains it; You are not strong enough to fall away whole God is resolved to hold you." (Packer)

