

A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF 2 PETER

BIBLE TEXT | 2 PETER 3:1-7

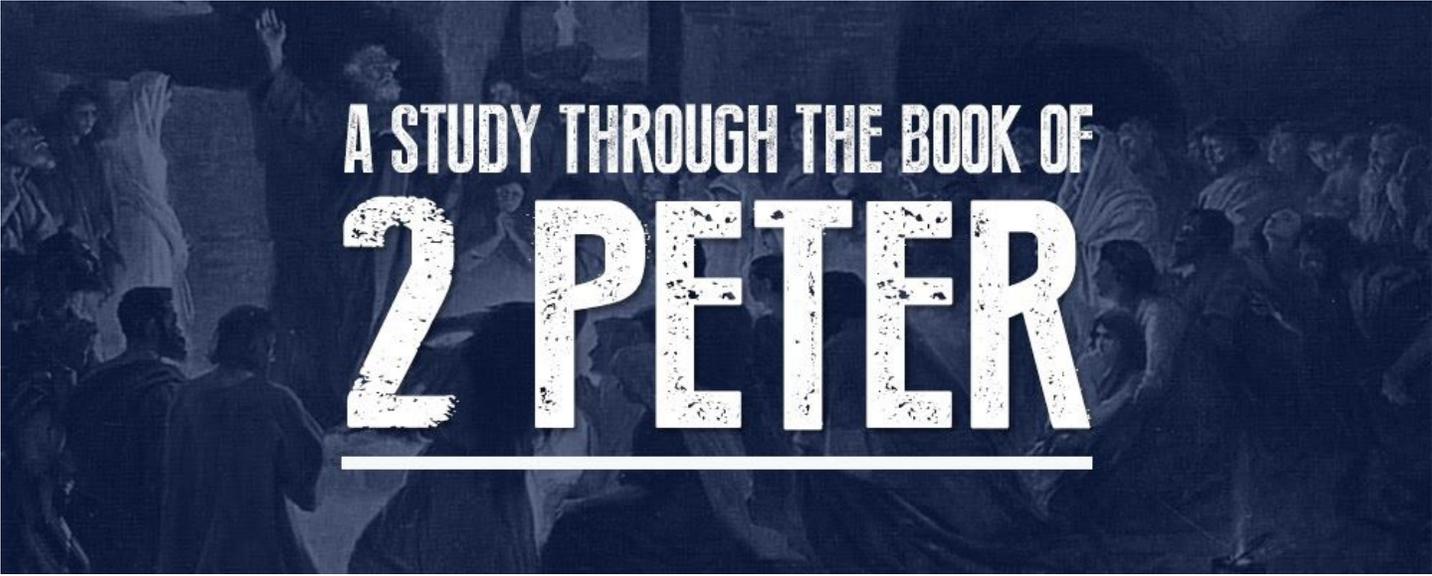
1 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, **2** that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, **3** knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. **4** They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." **5** For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, **6** and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. **7** But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

DEVOTIONAL FOR 2 PETER 3:1-7

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As a whole, we are a fickle society. One moment, we are absolutely in love with someone and can't imagine our life without them, and the next, we can't believe we ever loved them and are ready to move on. We want pizza for dinner until steak comes along. We say "yes" to a concert with friends until we get invited to floor seats at a professional sporting event. We're always looking for something better, something easier...a better diet, exercise routine, an entertaining church we can attend that makes us feel good about ourselves, a job that pays more and requires less, and the list goes on and on.

We are not the only people who are prone to be uncommitted, disloyal, and discontented. We don't have to read far in the Scriptures to see that this trait has marked all of humankind since the beginning. We see this with Adam and Eve, as they sought the "better", forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:6). David pursued another man's wife and killed her



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husband to obtain what he desired in the moment (Samuel 11). The Israelites, God's chosen people, repeatedly doubted, complained against, and disobeyed the Lord, even though He rescued them from slavery in Egypt and promised them their own land (Psalm 78). He provided for their every need but they wanted "meat", not "bread" (Numbers 11). And Peter, the same man who wrote this letter, apparently had "amnesia" when he denied knowing Christ three times (Matthew 26:69-75).

In 2 Peter 3:1, Peter gives the main reason for writing both this letter and his first: "I am stirring up your sincere (pure) mind by way of *reminder*" (see also 1:13). Perhaps he was passionate about this given his own story. He exhorts his readers to *remember* where they came from and who they are (1 Peter 2:9-10), the divine power they have by the Spirit (1:3) and the promises of God's word (1:4).

I believe the reason we tend to be fickle is because we are forgetful and short-sighted. In the moment of hurt, pride, and fear, we forget the things that we love about our spouse and suddenly they are our "enemy". We forget the commitments we make to people because we become blinded by something "better". And we forget the God who has chosen us, bought us freedom with the blood Christ, called us His people, and has set us apart to do His work with abundant joy (1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:7; 2 Corinthians 8:1-2), because we are not diligent to *remember*. There is a reason the word "*remember*" is scattered through the pages of God's Word some 250 times.

Doubt, specifically doubting God's goodness, is a tool the enemy uses (see Genesis 3). The world can also cast doubt through the scoffers that Peter mentions in 2 Peter 3:3-7. And the desires of our flesh are especially misleading (Galatians 5:16-18). But God has given His Word, His Spirit and His people (Hebrews 10:24) to continually *remind* us of what is true. We must be diligent to pursue each of these resources that the Lord has given us for life and godliness so that we can remain steadfast instead of fickle.

Questions:

1. Read Joshua 4. What does the Lord ask Joshua to do and why?
2. In what area(s) of your life do you tend to be fickle? Confess that to the Lord and ask him to show you why.
3. In reference to #2 above, what is causing you to forget the truth? What Scripture could you use? Now reach out to your Journey Group or another believer and share what the Lord has shown you.