



6 July 2025

# PRECIOUS FAITH

## 2 Peter 1:1-2

Hebrews 11:1-6; James 2:14-26

### Lies Believed to Be True

→ How do I KNOW that I have genuine biblical faith. (James 2:14-26)

### The Author and Timing of 2 Peter (v. 1)

- Peter: an eyewitness to Christ's transformation; life; miracles; teachings; death; resurrection; ascension.
- Peter's commissioning: John 21:15-19
- A "slave" (δοῦλος (doulos) of Jesus Christ - JUST as CHRIST became a SLAVE (Philippians 2:5-7; Matthew 20:28), Peter understood that we all become "slaves of God" (Romans 6:17-22) and "slaves of Christ" when we "confess with our mouths 'Jesus is LORD'" (Romans 10:9).
  - ★ In declaring Christ as our LORD and acknowledging our servanthood we are declaring that . . .
    - ① We and all that we own belongs to God. We were "bought with a price" and now belong to God. (1 Cor 6:19-20)
    - ② As slaves, God has the right and authority to use us as He wills. (Psalm 115:3; 135:6; Daniel 4:35)
    - ③ As slaves, we owe our Master our OBEDIENCE to HIS WILL. We no longer live for ourselves but for Him. (John 14:21, 23-24; 2 Cor 5:15; 1 Pet 4:2; Lk 22:42; John 4:34; Galatians 1:10; Luke 17:7-10)
    - ④ As slaves, we give up our rights! (Matthew 26:39)
    - ⑤ As slaves, we "deny ourselves, pick up our crosses daily and follow Christ" (Luke 9:23) who gave His life for us!
    - ⑥ As slaves, we surrender our lives wholly to our Lord. (Gal 2:20)
- An apostle: one sent and commissioned by a higher authority - that authority being Christ Himself (Matthew 28:18; 11:27; John 3:35; 5:22-27; 17:2; Acts 2:36; 10:36).
  - An apostle speaks with the same authority as Jesus Christ. (Luke 10:16)
- Peter served Christ for more than thirty years and at the end of his service (with all his experience) Peter wrote his two letters to us.
- Peter was about to die (2 Peter 1:13-14) and was probably imprisoned in Rome. And still, he serves others! (Psalm 71:18)

- Peter probably wrote his letter between A. D. 64-66.

## The Addressees (v. 1)

- The same audience as his first letter – see 2 Peter 3:1.
  - (1 Peter 1:1) **PILGRIMS** on this earth. (Hebrews 11:13-16; 1 Peter 2:11; Psalm 119:19; Philippians 3:20-21)
  - (1 Peter 1:1) Saints **DISPERSED** because of persecution. Acts 8:1, 4
  - (1 Peter 1:2) **ELECT** according to the foreknowledge of **God, the Father**. (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)
  - (1 Peter 1:2) **SANCTIFIED** (set apart) by **God, the Holy Spirit**. (Hebrews 10:10)
  - (1 Peter 1:2) **SPRINKLED** with the blood of **God, the Son**.
    - ★ **SECURED** in the NEW COVENANT! (Matt 26:28; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 12:24)
  - (1 Peter 1:2) **FOR OBEDIENCE**. Christians have been saved UNTO obedience! (Romans 1:15; 16:25-26; Acts 6:7; Hebrews 5:9; 1 John 2:29; 3:6-10)
    - ☆ Obedience is the **EVIDENCE** of our ELECTION. (1 Thess 1:2-10; 1 John 2:3-6; 3:3)
  - (2 Peter 1:1) Who have **OBTAINED like PRECIOUS FAITH**.
    - ☆ “obtained” is λαγχάνω *lagchano* means to “obtain by lot”; “to receive by divine allotment”; “to cast lots” – see Proverbs 16:33.
      - **FAITH is a GIFT of GOD!** (Ephesians 2:8-9; Philip 1:29)
      - One has biblical faith NOT by his/her will, but by the will of God! (Matt 11:25-27; 1 Cor 4:7)
    - ☆ “like precious” or “the same kind”; “of equal value” – God sees **NO DISTINCTION** among His children! (Galatians 3:26, 28; Romans 10:12-13; 3:22, 29-30; Acts 15:8-9; Eph 2:18-22)
    - ★ Faith is **NEEDED**. Faith does not come from within but from without. (Galatians 3:23-25)
    - ★ Without **BIBLICAL FAITH** one cannot please God. (Heb 11:6)
    - ☆ Again, faith is a **GIFT** of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9 vs 2 Thess 3:2)
    - ★ To whom does God give faith - **see Acts 13:48**.
    - ☆ “faith” – “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1) – Illustration: man on sinking ship with telescope or binoculars.
    - ☆ **“by the righteousness of . . . Jesus Christ”**



- ★ It is “through” or “by” the righteousness (obedience) of Christ – NOT US – that we obtain faith! **MEDITATE!**
- ★ Christ is our RIGHTEOUSNESS. (Jeremiah 33:16; Romans 3:21-24; Philipp 3:9; 1 Cor 1:30-31; 2 Cor 5:21)
- ★ Christ’s righteousness in imputed unto our account! (Romans 4:6, 11; Isaiah 61:10)
- ★ “Everyone who believes is justified (declare righteous in the court of God).” (Acts 13:39)
- “by the righteousness of **our God and Saviour** Jesus Christ.
  - ☆ “the God, ours, and Saviour” – The Holy Spirit moved Peter to put one definite article before “God and Saviour” signifying that “God and Saviour” are the same person!
  - ☆ Peter is affirming that Jesus Christ is GOD! (See also similar constructions: 2 Peter 1:11; 2:20; 3:2, 18; Titus 2:13)
- Jesus is our GOD!
  - ★ Jesus is YAHWEH (faithful promise keeping God). (Zech 12:1, 10)
- Jesus is our LORD! (2 Peter 1:11; **Acts 10:36**)
- Jesus is our Saviour! (Isaiah 45:21, 22)
  - ★ The Greek word defines a savior, deliverer, and preserver.
  - ★ Christ is ALL three!
  - ★ Christ, our Saviour, came to save us from our sins. (Matt 1:21)
  - ★ Christ, our Deliverer, came to deliver us from the wrath to come and “to bring us to God” (1 Thess 1:10; Matt 3:7; 6:13; 2 Timy 4:17-18; Heb 10:27; Romans 2:8-9; 1 Peter 3:18)
  - ★ Christ, our Preserver, preserves us by His intercession. (Hebrews 7:25; John 10:27-29; Philip 1:6; 1 Thess 5:23-24; Jude 1, 24-25)

## Purpose for 2 Peter (2 Peter 2:1-2; 3:18)

- Peter’s first letter was written to saints:
  - ① To encourage these saints in the midst of their severe persecution.
  - ② To warn them of false teachers infiltrating the churches.
  - ③ To warn them of a tendency towards a lack of holiness (obedience).
  - ④ To stir the saints up to steadfastness in their faith.
  - ⑤ To encourage these saints to grow in their faith.
  - ⑥ To remind these saints to rejoice exceedingly in their trials.
  - ⑦ To warn these saints that the persecution will get worse.
- Specifically, 2 Peter was written for two primary purposes:
  - ❶ To warn of false teachers and dangerous teachings that had already “leavened” the Church. (2 Peter 2:1-2)
  - ❷ To encourage or, better, to exhort believers to “grow” in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”. (2 Peter 3:18)



- ★ Through growth in the truth one can more easily detect false doctrines that will bring destruction to one's soul. Disciples GROW! (Hebrews 5:14)

## Grace and Peace (2 Peter 1:2)

- Righteousness, grace, and peace are all **gifts** of God!
- Through faith **in Christ Jesus** His righteousness becomes our! (Jer 33:16)
  - The result is that we are **freely justified** (declared righteous) by God. (Romans 3:24)
- Each day we *ought* to ask for more grace. (Matthew 7:11; James 1:17)
- Each day we receive God's grace (unmerited favor, kindness) through Christ Jesus. (Hebrews 4:16)
- Because we are justified by God's grace we now have PEACE with God *through* Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1, 10; **Romans 8:1**)
  - ★ God's gospel is called the "gospel of *peace*". (Acts 10:36; Eph 6:16)
  - ★ The gospel brings PEACE **with** GOD! We are **reconciled** to God and our message is "**BE RECONCILED TO GOD!**" (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Grace ("more grace" - James 4:6) and peace are **multiplied** to us when we walk with God in His light! (1 John 1:6-7; 1 Thess 4:1; Matt 11:28-30; Philippians 4:6-7)
- This grace and peace comes *through* **knowledge** of God and of Jesus Christ *our Lord*. Remember the pastor's promise - Colossians 1:9-11
  - This knowledge does not come by feelings, opinions, experiences, or emotions – it comes from **knowing** facts and truths revealed only in the Word of God! (Romans 10:17) - "knowledge" - 5x in 2 Peter 1:1-8
  - This is intimate/relational knowledge. (John 17:3)
- God's grace is SUFFICIENT. (2 Corinthians 9:8; 12:9-10; )

## We Have Heard; Now We Must Do (James 1:22)

- ① Salvation always leads to **servanthood**. Those who have received God's grace say, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" (Acts 9:6; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 20:25-28; Philippians 2:5-9; Romans 6:17-22; 1 Cor 7:22-23)
- ② **We must be good and faithful stewards of the God's gift of precious faith.**
- ③ We are servants of God until the day we die! (Psalm 71:18; Acts 13:36)
- ④ We must remind ourselves daily that we are who we are "by the grace of God"! (1 Corinthians 15:9-10).
- ⑤ We live in dangerous times. The Church has been "leavened" with false doctrine for over 2000 years. We must **TEST EVERYTHING** we read and hear! (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; Isaiah 8:20)
- ⑥ We must **grow** in the knowledge of grace and our Lord. (2 Peter 3:17-18)
- ⑦ We must acknowledge that Jesus is GOD, He is LORD, He is our Saviour, Deliverer, and Preserver! (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- ⑧ We must learn from 2 Peter. (Romans 15:4)