

CHAPTER 1

SIMON Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly

kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know *them*, and be established in the present truth.

13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance;

14 Knowing that shortly I must put off *this* my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

16. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

19. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but

holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

CHAPTER 2

BUT there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an over-

throw, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

7. And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

10. But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, *as they that*

count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots *they are* and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son of Bosor*, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

18 For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

CHAPTER 3

THIS second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in *both* which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

3. Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the

fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11. *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even

as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

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

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The theme of II Peter is assurance and growth in spiritual knowledge. Peter sees the danger of false doctrine in the church and warns the believers to beware (chapter 3:17). In other words, the two letters together emphasize the perils of the church: Satan can come as a lion with persecution (I Peter), or he can come as a serpent with false doctrine (II Peter).

We could contrast II Peter 2:20-22, where we have a description of false Christians. They have escaped the pollutions of the world, not the corruptions; that is, they have merely washed on the outside, and have not been changed on the inside. They have a head knowledge of Christ and not a heart-faith. They are not truly saved, for they go back to the old life after awhile.

Chapter 2 deals with warnings concerning false teachers. The danger of false teachers is so great that the Holy Spirit used both Peter and Jude to warn us against them! Please keep in mind that a false teacher is not a person who teaches false doctrine out of

ignorance. In Acts 18:24-28, we see Apollos teaching false doctrine (the baptism of John), but he was not a false teacher. Many of the great leaders of the church in centuries past held to doctrines that we believe are not Biblical (infant baptism, union of the church and state, etc.), but we cannot call them false teachers. A false teacher is one who knows the truth, but who deliberately teaches lies that he might promote himself, get financial gain, and be able to live in sin and please himself. He uses deceptive means to twist the Word of God to suit himself. In verses 1-9 Peter explains the condemnation of these false teachers; in verses 10-16 he gives their character; and in verses 17-22 their claims.

Today we live in a day of false teachers. You may detect them by the way they exalt themselves instead of Christ. Whenever you hear someone exalting himself and emphasizing what he has done and his accomplishments—beware. He is a false teacher and his life is full of lust and sin. Today, as Christians, we should not only know the Bible in our lives. God wants us to have balanced lives, learning the Word

and living the Word. In I and II Peter this great apostle is admonishing us to grow in grace and knowledge and to live daily, showing forth the life of Christ in our lives. Each of us should know the Bible in our heads, stow it in our hearts, show it in our lives, and sow it in the world!

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight” (Proverbs 15:8).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 38 (found on page 8).

HYMN FOR THE DAY

SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!

Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848

English translation by John F. Young, 1820-1885

When this beloved hymn was written by two humble church leaders for their own mountain village parishioners, little did they realize how universal its influence would eventually be.

Joseph Mohr, assistant priest in the Church of St. Nicholas in the region of Tyrol, high in the beautiful Alps, and Franz Gruber, the village schoolmaster and church organist, had often talked about the fact that the perfect Christmas hymn had never been written. So Father Mohr had this goal in mind when he received word that the church organ would not function. He decided that he must write his own Christmas hymn immediately in order to have music for the special Christmas Eve mass. He did not want to disappoint his faithful flock. Upon completing the text, he took his words to Franz Gruber, who exclaimed when he saw them, “Friend Mohr, you have found it—the right song—God be praised!”

Soon Gruber completed his task of composing an appropriate tune for the new text. His simple but beautiful music blended perfectly with the spirit of Father Mohr’s words. The carol was completed in time for the Christmas Eve mass, and Father Mohr and Franz Gruber sang their new hymn to the accompaniment of Gruber’s guitar. The hymn made a deep impact upon the parishioners even as it has on succeeding generations.

When the organ repairman came to the little village church, he was impressed by a copy of the Christmas carol and decided to spread it all around the region of Tyrol. Today it is sung in all major lan-

guages of the world and is a favorite wherever songs of the Christmas message are enjoyed.

*Silent night! holy night!
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and Child,
holy Infant, so tender and mild—
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night holy night!
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar;
heav’nly hosts sing alleluia—
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace—
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1486

SAVANAROLA SAT IN HIS PULPIT FIVE HOURS WAITING FOR POWER.

Savanarola would not preach without the power of God!

520 B.C.

THE APPROXIMATE DATE THAT HAGGAI REBUKED THE PRIESTS.

Haggai 2:10.

Haggai rebuked the priest for the unclean nation and warned of coming destruction. Haggai 2:10.

1274

ROBIN HOOD DIED.

1866

ANNIE JOHNSON FLINT WAS BORN.

Miss Flint was a poet and a cripple. She wrote the poem, “Hands and Feet for Him.”

*Christ has no hands but our hands
To do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no lips but our lips
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help*

To bring them to His side.

*We are the only Bible
The careless world will read;
We are the sinner's gospel;
We are the scoffer's creed;
We are our Lord's last message,
Written in deed and word;
What if the type be crooked?
What if the print be blurred?*

*What if our hands be busy
With other work than His?
What if our feet be walking
Where sin's allurements is—
If our lips be speaking
Of things His lips would spurn,
How can we hope to help Him,
Or hasten our Lord's return?*

1784
THE METHODIST DENOMINATION WAS ORGANIZED IN AMERICA.

1871
THE NORTHSIDE TABERNACLE IN CHICAGO WAS DEDICATED BY MOODY.

This tabernacle was the father of what is now the famous Moody Memorial Church.

1943
GENERAL EISENHOWER WAS APPOINTED THE EUROPEAN COMMANDER.

Let us thank God for this great man and his influence on our nation.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1881
Exodus of five thousand blacks from Edgefield County, South Carolina. Migrants, protesting exploitation and violence, settled in Arkansas.

Tennessee started modern segregation movement with Jim Crow railroad car and was followed by Florida (1887), Mississippi (1888), Texas (1889), Louisiana (1890), Alabama, Kentucky, Arkansas and Georgia (1891), South Carolina (1898), North Carolina (1899), Virginia (1900), Maryland (1904), Oklahoma (1907).

United Order of True Reformers established.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 38 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION:

Divine inspiration evident in that the scriptures correct those who are trapped in error.

E. A WARNING TO THOSE INTERESTED IN THIS WORLD ONLY, AND CARE NOT FOR THE WORLD TO COME

() Luke 12:15

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

() Luke 12:19

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

() Luke 12:20

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

() Luke 12:21

So is he that layeth up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God.

() Luke 16:25

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.