

**GROW** IN  
THE  
GRACE &  
KNOWLEDGE  
OF  
OUR **LORD**  
& SAVIOUR  
JESUS CHRIST

2 Peter 3:18

**2 PETER**  
GRACE & PEACE TO YOU





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## Historical Context

- Letter written by Peter while awaiting his execution in a Roman prison
- At the time of writing, the church was being persecuted by Nero (64-67 AD)
- Audience – Churches in Asia Minor (Turkey)
- Purpose
  1. Encourage believers by God's grace to live lives that are pleasing to God
  2. Warning to watch out for false teachers who are both theologically and morally bankrupt (pressuring believers to depart from the true knowledge of Christ)



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## Historical Context

- Themes
  1. The grace of God in Christ transforms and empowers believers to live holy lives – even in the face of opposition (persecution & false teachers)
  2. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit produced virtuous or godly character in the Christian resulting in fruitful living
- 2 Peter is Peter's last words to the church before his execution

2 Pet 1:1-2  
to You

Grace & Peace



## 2 Peter 1:1-2

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup> May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

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## Who is Peter?

- Leader of disciples
- Called to follow Jesus while fishing (Luke 5) after Jesus used his boat to preach from
  - Jesus, the carpenter/preacher, tells the fisherman where to fish
  - “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man” (5:8)
  - “From now on you will fish for men” (5:10)
- Quick to speak/act... Foot in mouth guy
  - “You are the Christ” – “Get behind me Satan!”
  - Transfiguration – “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him” – “let’s build 3 huts...”
  - Foot washing fiasco
  - Sword swinger



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## Who is Peter?

- Walks on water with Jesus (Matt 14)
- Eye witness to Jesus' authority over nature, disease, demons and death
  - Nature: "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?" (Luke 8:25)
  - Disease: Every kind of healing done by Jesus
  - Demons: Demons afraid of Jesus
  - Death: Raising people from the dead
- The denial – "I don't know him!"
- Filled with the Spirit (Acts 2) and preaches sermon – 3000 people saved



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## Who is Peter?

- Peter & John heal a lame beggar (Acts 4) and are arrested
  - Acts 4:13... When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus
- Peter present when Holy Spirit was given to the Gentiles (Acts 10)
- History books tell us Peter was crucified (prophesied by Jesus in John 21)
- Peter's life is a testimony of God's transforming grace and work (theme)

2 Pet 1:1-2  
to You

Grace & Peace



## A Faith of Equal Standing

- There are no “second-rate” Christians in the Bible
- There are no “super Christians” in the Bible
- All believers share equally the privileges in Christ and have the same Spirit
  - All believers live on borrowed righteousness
  - Our righteousness is given to us by Jesus

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2 Pet 1:1-2  
to You

Grace & Peace



## Grace & Peace to You

- God's grace is what enables our transformation and empowers us to live lives that are pleasing to God
- God's grace is the soil in which we grow in our faith and character
- Peter is providing the setting for fruitfulness in the Body of Christ (1:8)
- Your faith is like a garden and Peter's letter is meant to instruct us on how to have a healthy thriving garden that yields a delicious harvest

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## So What?

1. Peter's story should inspire us
2. Knowing that your standing before God is equal to the Apostles should change the way you view your relationship with God and affected the way you live your life.
  - "An infinite God can give all of Himself to each of His children. He does not distribute Himself that each may have a part, but to each one He gives all of Himself as fully as if there were no others." — A.W. Tozer
3. God desires you to grow in him and his grace empowers and enables us to live fruitful lives that are pleasing to God.

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