

The Second Epistle of Peter

4

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we begin studying Peter’s second epistle. Let’s take a brief look at:

- The author of this letter
- The recipients of this letter
- The purpose of this letter

The writer identifies himself as Simon Peter (**1:1**) and claims to have been an eyewitness to the transfiguration of Christ (**1:16-18**). He tells his readers that this is his second letter (**3:1**) and calls Paul “our dear brother” (**3:15**).

Some scholars have questioned the authorship of this letter, however, claiming that there are considerable stylistic differences between the first letter and the second. But the points of similarity in style and language are still many, and the differences could be accounted for by the use of different scribes, translating from Peter’s mother tongue, Aramaic, into Greek. It is reasonable, then, to consider this letter to be an authentic epistle from Peter.

The readers of Peter’s second epistle are addressed as “those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours” (**1:1**). According to the author, this letter was written toward the end of his life (**1:12-15**), and one of his primary purposes is to remind his readers of the essential truths of the Gospel. Note his words:

- “For if you do *these things...*” (**1:10**).
- “So I will always remind you of *these things...*” (**1:12**).
- “I think it is right to *refresh your memory...*” (**1:13**).
- “And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to *remember these things...*” (**1:15**).

For this reason alone, the content of this letter is significant. So pull up a comfortable chair and read through the entire letter of **2 Peter** in one sitting.

Memory Verse

His divine power has given us everything
we need for life and godliness through
our knowledge of him who called us
by his own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:3

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!