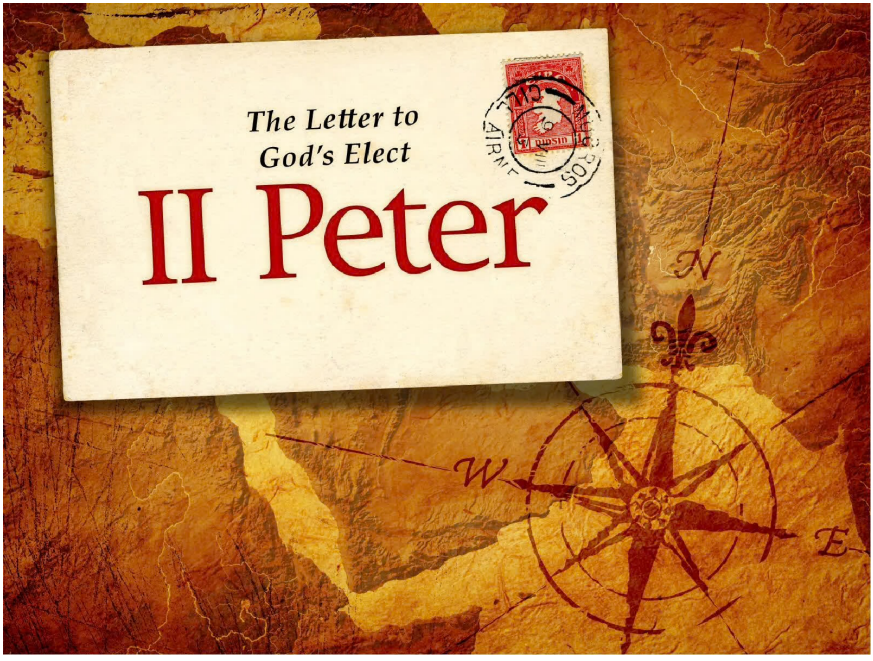
A Guided Inductive Study of 2nd Peter



"Study to show yourself approved unto God,
a workman that needs not be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

A practical study of Second Peter

by Pastor Richard W. LaFountain

How To Study

Read the Scripture:
Reading the Scripture is important. Read every word. Don't skip. Don't just read your favorite verses. Read it all. Think about what you are reading. Is there any word or statement you do not understand? Is there anything that confuses you or seems inconsistent with other Scriptures? Is there anything you would like to research? Use at least two translations.

Translations:
I suggest New King James, if you like the old wording. The New International Version is helpful. And the English Standard Version is also refreshing. For this study I am using the NKJV because I grew up with KJV and its rhythms are familiar to me. You can use other translations.

Chapter by Chapter:
We are going to study the Book of Romans chapter by chapter. Some chapters are longer and have much to think about. Those chapters we have divided into segments so you cover Romans 8 in four weeks instead of one week. We assume you will use one chapter each week. If you are using this for daily readings then you might find it too difficult to answer the questions. That's okay. My hope, however, is that you use is in a weekly Bible study. Anyone can lead it.

Highlighted Verses:
I have chosen to highlight what I feel are key verses. You may think others are more important. That is okay. Write that in your personal journal or if you are studying in a group write down other verses you feel are important. Oh, and every chapter has one key verse.

Discussion Questions:
We have not attempted to add commentary because we believe the Scriptures speak for themselves and the Holy

Spirit can teach us as much as another person's commentary. I have added suggested questions to answer and discuss. This is especially helpful when studying with a group. You are not limited to my questions, ask your own. In a self-directed study it will be harder to consider your answers to the questions. In a group, however, one question might stimulate other questions. You do not have to answer every question. Use what is helpful and useful and leave the rest.

Personal Edification:
I have often taught my students to look for certain things in ever chapter of the Bible. You will not find all five in every chapter, but you should be able to find two or three. Write them down in a journal or share it with a group. It is called the PEPSI acronym.

Search for Treasure: (P.E.P.S.I.)

- A **P**-romise to claim.
- An **E**-xample to follow.
- A **P**-rayer concern.
- A **S**-in to avoid.
- An **I**-nstruction to obey.

Personal Questions:

- What Verse Challenged you?
- What Verse Encouraged you?
- What Verse Convicted you?
- What Verse Confused you?
- What Verse Startled you?
- What Verse Frightened you?

Group Questions:

1. What verse stands out to you in this chapter? Why?
2. What verse causes you to struggle with its demand? Why?
3. What verse encourages your faith the most? Why?
4. Is there a command here you find most difficult to obey? Why?
5. Is there a promise here you want to claim? What?
6. Is there something you need to pray about in this passage? Why?
7. Is there a word / topic here you need to explore more deeply? What?

Introduction to Second Peter

Peter identifies himself as an “apostle of Jesus Christ” (1:1). He specifically mentions that he was an eyewitness of the transfiguration (1:16–18; see Matt. 17:1–8). Peter probably wrote this letter from prison in Rome (see 2 Pet. 1:12–15) not too long before his death by execution, sometime during A.D. 64–67.

It is impossible to identify with certainty the churches Peter addresses. He may have been writing to the churches of Asia Minor, because Peter mentions that this is his second letter to these same people (3:1; see 1 Pet. 1:1–2). (On the similarities between 2 Peter 2 and Jude, see Introduction to Jude.)

Since Jude addresses a situation similar to the one addressed by 2 Peter and exhibits a literary relationship to ch. 2 of that letter (Jude may have been a source for 2 Peter), the two letters are commonly dated in fairly close proximity.

Peter writes his brief, final reminder to the churches so that his readers will, by God’s grace, live in a way that is pleasing to God. In doing so, Peter must also combat the false teachers who were apparently exerting pressure on the churches to depart from the true knowledge of Christ (see esp. ch. 2). The false teaching is not only a theological challenge but also a moral one, promoting some form of sexual permissiveness as a legitimate Christian lifestyle.

While the false teaching can be described based on what Peter writes, it is historically impossible to identify who the false teachers were. For example, there is no clear historical evidence that these teachers were Gnostics.

Second Peter deals with serious issues, but it is also filled with famous proverbs and wise sayings, as well as vivid poetry and imagery.

2nd Peter 1

Key verses to think about.

1:3-4 Great Precious Promises
as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

1:5-8 Add to Your Faith
But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:10 Make Your Election Sure
Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

1:20-21 Inspiration of Scripture
Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of Gods spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Main Truth:

God has provided the means by which you will be sure to never fall or be unfruitful.

Questions to ponder & discuss:

1 What are the key promises you live by? Where are they found? Can you quote them?

2 What do you need to add to your faith, or at best strengthen your faith? Or these traits what do need you work on most? Score yourself from 1-10, ten being the best.

virtue ___ knowledge ___ self-control ___ perseverance ___

godliness ___ brotherly kindness ___ love ___

3 What is godliness? How can you add it to your faith? Are you godly? (See Hebrews 12:14 “without holiness no man will see the Lord.”

2nd Peter 2

Key verses to think about.

2:1 False Prophets & Teachers
But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.

2:9 Deliverance From Temptations
The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the Day of Judgment.

2:20-21 Falling Away
For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it,* to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Main Truth:
The danger of falling away is real, just as temptation is real for all of us.

Questions to ponder & discuss:

1 Do you know believers who have “fallen away” that is, returned to their old sinful habits? Who? What happened to them?

2 Do you know any false prophets or false teachers today? Who? Why do you consider them false?

3 What are some false teaching in the church today? Try to name at least three.

2nd Peter 3

Key verses to think about.

3:1 Stir Up Your Pure Minds
Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle in *which* I stir up your “pure minds” by way of remembrance.

3:3-4 Doubters Will Come
Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 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 creation.”

3:8 A 1000 Years as One Day
But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

3:9 The Reason Jesus Delays
The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

3:10 The Day of the Lord
But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

3:11 Holy Conduct and Godliness
Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the Day of God.

Main Truth:

Jesus will come again even though it seems delayed, he will come!

Questions to ponder & discuss:

1 What is the best way to stir up your pure mind?

2 Do you ever doubt the Lord's Coming? Do you ever wonder why the Lord is delaying His coming?

3 Have you ever studied Revelation and tried to predict when the Lord will come? Do you think He will come before the tribulation, during the tribulation, or after the tribulation? What do you think that? What is your scriptural proof? Do you think his coming is near? How soon?

4 Can it be said that your life is holy? What makes it holy? How is a holy life different from an average life?