

# 2 Peter Part 1 – The Pursuit of True Knowledge and Maturity – June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Summary

This teaching presents a detailed analysis of **2 Peter**, contrasting its urgent, confrontational tone with the encouraging nature of Peter's first epistle. The speaker emphasizes that the **Apostle Peter** wrote these final warnings while facing imminent death, specifically to protect believers from the widespread deception of **false prophets**. Central to the message is the necessity of pursuing **true knowledge** and spiritual maturity to avoid the "wide road of destruction" paved by erroneous doctrines of his day, many of which are still in existence today.

The text argues that authentic followers of Christ must **crucify the flesh** and adhere strictly to scriptural definitions rather than societal labels. Furthermore, the speaker highlights that **divine grace** and the promise of partaking in the divine nature are only accessible through an accurate and true understanding of God's word. Ultimately, the teaching serves as a call to **faithfulness and vigilance** in anticipation of the coming earthly kingdom to be established on The Lord's return.

## Study Guide: The Pursuit of True Knowledge and Maturity (2 Peter 1:1-4)

### Definitions of Key Words

- **Apostle:** A term used to establish **credibility and authenticity**; Peter uses it to signify his authority as a fellow Elder, and as an Apostle and eyewitness of Christ sufferings.
- **Bond-Servant:** A title Peter uses alongside "Apostle" to define his relationship and committed service to Jesus Christ.
- **Received (Greek: *Lachano*):** To obtain something as a **portion or by lot**, or by divine will, rather than through personal work or merit.
- **True Knowledge (Greek: *Epignosis*):** A precise, correct, and complete knowledge that is **imperative to spiritual life**, as opposed to the erroneous teachings of false prophets.
- **Depart (Greek: *Exodus*):** Literally meaning an "**outgoing**" or a "**road out**"; used by Peter to describe his imminent death, until his resurrection from the dead on Christ's return.
- **Divine Nature:** The holiness and character of God that saints can share in through **discipline and true knowledge**.

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### Expansion of Key Points

#### 1. The Contrast Between First and Second Peter

First Peter was written when the Apostle was approximately 63–64 years old and focused on **enduring through suffering** and remaining obedient during trials. It provided comfort and encouragement for those facing persecution. Second Peter, written a few years later, has a more **intense, final, and urgent tone**. It is confrontational and serves as a stern warning against **false prophets** and upcoming apocalyptic events.

## 2. Defining a True Follower of Christ

The teaching emphasizes that simply believing Jesus lived and died does not scripturally make one a true follower, as even the devil and his angels believe that. According to **Galatians 5:24**, those who belong to Christ have "**crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**". A true follower is identified by their **actions** and **obedience**, not just a label or title.

## 3. The Imminence of Peter's Death

Peter wrote this epistle knowing his **death was imminent**, as revealed to him by the Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 1:13-14**). His goal was to "**stir up**" the believers by way of reminder so they would remember his teachings after his "departure" (*exodus*).

## 4. The Threat of False Prophets

Peter warns that false prophets **infiltrate the assembly from within**, rather than from the outside. These individuals are "ingrained in society" and often define the modern tone of Christianity while neglecting Christ's central message regarding his **coming earthly kingdom**. Jesus used the term "tares" to define them in Matthew 13. Examples of false doctrines mentioned include:

- The belief in an **immortal soul** immediately after death.
- "Once saved, always saved".
- The **pre-existence** of Jesus as part of a Trinity (which the teacher identifies as error leading to idolatry), teaching a man is God.
- Going to heaven immediately upon death without a **resurrection or judgment**.

## 5. The Power of True Knowledge

Spiritual growth is rooted in **true knowledge** (*epignosis*), a term used in contrast to erroneous knowledge. Grace and peace are not automatic; they are **multiplied through the true knowledge of God** and Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 1:2**). This knowledge grants believers everything pertaining to **life and godliness**.

## 6. Partaking in the Divine Nature

Through God's own "**glory and excellence** and His precious and magnificent promises," believers may become **partakers of the divine nature** (**2 Peter 1:4**). This is not achieved through "spiritual feelings" but through His grace and the **integrity of the Word** and having the scriptures "rightly divided". It requires escaping the corruption of the world and undergoing **divine discipline** to share in His holiness (**Hebrews 12:10**).

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## Study Questions

1. How does the primary theme of 1 Peter differ from the primary theme of 2 Peter?
2. What scriptural definition does the scripture use to identify those who "belong to Christ"?
3. Why did Peter feel it was so urgent to write this second letter?
4. According to the source, where do false prophets typically come from in relation to the church?
5. What does the Greek word *exodus* signify in the context of Peter's writing?

6. What are three "false" doctrines mentioned in the teaching that the teacher warns against?
  7. How are "grace and peace" multiplied in the life of a believer?
  8. What is the requirement for sharing in God's holiness according to Hebrews 12:10?
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### Answer Key

1. **1 Peter** focuses on enduring suffering and trials with obedience; **2 Peter** is more confrontational, focusing on warnings against false prophets and the pursuit of maturity through true knowledge.
  2. Those who belong to Christ have **crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires (**Galatians 5:24**).
  3. He knew his death was **imminent** and wanted to ensure the saints had a permanent **reminder** of the truth after he was gone.
  4. They infiltrate the assembly **from within**.
  5. It means an "**outgoing**" or a "**road out**," referring to Peter's departure from his "earthly dwelling" (death until Peter's resurrection).
  6. Any three of: Life directly after death (immortal soul), "once saved always saved," the per-existence of Jesus/Trinity, or going to heaven without resurrection/judgment.
  7. They are multiplied through the **true knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord.
  8. It requires **discipline** from God for our own good.
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### Biblical References Found in the Sources

- **2 Peter 1:1-11**
  - **2 Peter 1:1**
  - **2 Peter 1:2**
  - **2 Peter 1:3-8**
  - **2 Peter 1:12**
  - **2 Peter 1:13-15**
  - **2 Peter 2:1-22**
  - **2 Peter 3:1-2**
  - **2 Peter 3:8**
  - **2 Peter 3:11**
  - **Galatians 5:24**
  - **1 Corinthians 15**
  - **Philippians 1:23**
  - **2 Timothy 4:6-8**
  - **John 15:16, 19**
  - **Luke 10:22**
  - **Hebrews 12:10**
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## Exhortations

- **Examine your walk:** Do not be satisfied with the label of "Christian"; ensure you are a follower of Christ who has **crucified the flesh** and its desires.
- **Fight for Truth:** Be vigilant against the "massive influence" of false doctrines that surround society. **Integrity of the Word** is your primary defence.
- **Value the Time:** Recognize that the "sand in the timer" is always moving. Use your time to **stir up other, with loving encouragement** and ground yourself in true knowledge.
- **Pursue Maturity:** Do not be complacent. True grace and peace are found only through the **pursuit of a correct and precise TRUE knowledge** of God.

## 2 PETER: THE FINAL WARNING & THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH

| MODULE 1   | MODULE 2  | MODULE 3  | MODULE 4  | MODULE 5  |
|--|---|---|---|---|
|    |                               |   |    |                                       |
| <b>THE IMMINENT "EXODUS"</b>   | <b>FROM COMFORT TO CONFRONTATION</b>  | <b>THE DANGER WITHIN THE CHURCH</b>   | <b>15 MENTIONS OF "TRUE KNOWLEDGE"</b>  | <b>PARTAKE IN THE DIVINE NATURE</b>   |
|   |                              |    |    |                                      |
| Peter writes with urgency, knowing his "earthly dwelling" is soon to be laid aside, making these his final, most serious warnings. | While 1 Peter offered comfort during suffering, 2 Peter is a stern confrontation of error and internal threats. | False prophets infiltrate from inside the assembly, using familiar religious terms to lead believers toward "the wide road of destruction." | The word "knowledge" appears 15 times, emphasizing that grace and peace are only multiplied through a correct understanding of God. | Believers must "crucify the flesh" and pursue spiritual maturity to share in God's holiness and enter His coming kingdom. |