

# **Stand Firm in the True Grace of God**

**Study Guide for 1 & 2 Peter and Jude**

by Andy Sochor

## **1 & 2 Peter - Introduction**

### **Author**

Peter -- apostle of Christ (1 Pet. 1:1), elder (1 Pet. 5:1), bond-servant (2 Pet. 1:1)

Other names -- Simon (Mt. 10:2), Simon Peter (Jn. 6:68; 2 Pet. 1:1), Cephas (Jn. 1:42)

Occupation -- fisherman (Mt. 4:18-19; Jn. 21:2-3)

Family

Father -- Jona/Jonah (Mt. 16:17), Barjona means "son of Jona"

Brother -- Andrew (Mt. 10:2)

Married (1 Cor. 9:5)

Mother-in-law (Mt. 8:14-15)

Prominent position in the church

Apostle and elder (1 Pet. 1:1; 5:1)

His is the first gospel sermon recorded (Acts 2)

He first preached to the Gentiles (Acts 10)

He also made mistakes

Tried to prevent Jesus' arrest (Mt. 16:21-23; Jn. 18:10-11)

Denied the Lord (Mt. 26:69-75)

Hypocrisy among the Gentiles (Gal. 2:11-14)

His death -- traditionally thought to have been crucified in Rome

### **Audience**

Wrote both letters to the same Christians (2 Pet. 3:1)

Aliens (1 Pet. 1:1; 2:11)

Scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bythina (1 Pet. 1:1)

Those of "like precious faith" (2 Pet. 2:1)

### **Date of Writing**

1 Peter -- 64-66 A.D.

2 Peter -- 66-67 A.D., shortly before his death

### **Theme of the Epistles -- Standing firm in the true grace of God**

Our redemption (1 Pet. 1:3-25)

The need to grow (1 Pet. 2:1-3)

We are God's special people (1 Pet. 2:4-12)

Our lives as Christians (1 Pet. 2:13-4:11)

Suffering as a Christian (1 Pet. 4:12-19)

Act with humility (1 Pet. 5:1-7)

Be on guard for the devil (1 Pet. 5:8-10)

God has given us all we need (2 Pet. 1:3-4)

Add to your faith (2 Pet. 1:5-11)

Follow God's revealed will (2 Pet. 1:12-21)

Warning about false teachers (2 Pet. 2:1-22)

The day of the Lord (2 Pet. 3:1-18)

## **1 Peter 1**

### **Introduction (1:1-2)**

Written by Peter, an apostle of Christ (1:1)

To those scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bithynia (1:1)

They were chosen (1:1) -- How? (1:2)

According to the foreknowledge of God

By the sanctifying work of the Spirit

Obedience to Christ

Being sprinkled with His blood

Grace and peace (1:2)

### **Living Hope (1:3-9)**

God's great mercy (1:3-5)

Caused us to be born again (1:3)

Living hope through the resurrection of Christ (1:3)

Inheritance -- imperishable, undefiled, won't fade away, reserved in heaven (1:4)

Protected by God's power through faith (1:5)

Salvation ready to be revealed (1:5)

Rejoice in the face of trials (1:6-7)

Proof of a genuine faith (1:7)

Results in praise, glory and honor at revelation of Christ (1:7)

Their faith (1:8-9)

They had not seen Him, but love Him (1:8)

They did not see Him, but believe in Him (1:8)

Rejoice with joy and glory (1:8)

Outcome of faith -- salvation of your souls (1:9)

### **The Prophet's Search (1:10-12)**

Prophesied of the grace to come (1:10)

Sought to know when the fulfillment would be (1:11)

By the Spirit of Christ, they prophesied of His sufferings and glories (1:11)

This was for our benefit (1:12)

Things into which angels long to look (1:12)

### **A Call to Holiness (1:13-16)**

Prepare your minds for action (1:13)

Keep sober in spirit (1:13)

Fix your hope on the grace to be brought at the revelation of Christ (1:13)

Be obedient children (1:14)

Do not be conformed to former lusts (1:14)

Be holy in all things as God is holy (1:15-16)

**Our Redemption (1:17-21)**

Conduct yourselves in fear (1:17) -- Why?

God judges impartially (1:17)

He has redeemed us (1:18)

How have we been redeemed? (1:18-19)

Not with perishable things (1:18)

With the precious blood of Christ (1:19)

Why Christ? (1:20-21)

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world (1:20)

He appeared in the last times for our sakes (1:20)

God raised Him from the dead (1:21)

As a result, we have faith and hope in God (1:21)

**Born Again (1:22-25)**

Purified souls through obedience to the truth (1:22)

Sincerely and fervently love one another (1:22)

Born again through imperishable seed (1:23)

The seed is the word of God (1:23)

All flesh is like grass and withers away (1:24)

The word of the Lord endures forever (1:25)

**Questions on 1 Peter 1:**

What is our inheritance? (1:4)

Why are we called to be holy? (1:15-16)

With what have we been redeemed? (1:18-19)

What is the seed that leads us to be born again? (1:23)

## **1 Peter 2**

### **Like Newborn Babes (2:1-3)**

Put aside malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander (2:1)  
Christians as newborn babes (2:2)  
Remember -- "born again" (1:23)  
Long for the pure milk of the word  
Grow in respect to salvation  
If you have tasted the kindness of the Lord (2:3)

### **Living Stones (2:4-8)**

Come to Christ, a living stone (2:4)  
Rejected by men  
Choice and precious in God's sight  
We are also living stones (2:5)  
Being built up as a spiritual house  
Holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices to God  
Prophecy of Isaiah 28:16 (2:6-7)  
Choice stone laid in Zion (2:6)  
He who believes in Him will not be disappointed (2:6)  
Precious value to those who believe (2:7)  
Those who disbelieve (2:8)  
The stone the builders rejected became the corner  
It became a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense  
They stumble because they were disobedient

### **God's Chosen People (2:9-12)**

Descriptions (2:9)  
Chosen race  
Royal priesthood  
Holy nation  
People for God's own possession  
Proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us (2:9-10)  
Called us from darkness to light (2:9)  
Once were not a people, now are the people of God (2:10)  
Once had not received mercy, now we receive mercy (2:10)  
Aliens and strangers (2:11-12)  
Abstain from fleshly lusts (2:11)  
Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles (2:12)  
We will be slandered as evildoers (2:12)  
Live so that they might glorify God (2:12)

### **Respecting Authority (2:13-20)**

Submit to civil rulers (2:13-16)

For the purpose ordained by God (2:13-14)

To silence the ignorance of foolish men (2:15)

Act as free men, bond-slaves of God (2:16)

Brief instructions (2:17)

Honor all people

Love the brotherhood

Fear God

Honor the king

Servants submit to masters (2:18-20)

Both the good and the unreasonable (2:18)

We have favor with God for enduring unjust suffering (2:19)

No credit for suffering justly (2:20)

### **Example of Christ (2:21-25)**

Purpose to which we were called (2:21)

Christ also suffered

He left us an example to follow

His example (2:22-24)

He committed no sin (2:22)

No deceit found in His mouth (2:22)

Was reviled, did not revile in return (2:23)

He suffered, but uttered no threats (2:23)

Entrusted Himself to God (2:23)

He bore our sins (2:24)

By His wounds we are healed (2:24)

Our responsibility (2:24-25)

Die to sin, live to righteousness (2:24)

We were continually straying (2:25)

We have now returned to our Shepherd and Guardian (2:25)

### **Questions on 1 Peter 2:**

What has God given us to cause growth? (2:2)

What terms are used to describe Christians in verse 9?

How are we to use our freedom? (2:16)

What kind of example do we have in Christ? (2:21-24)

## **1 Peter 3**

### **Husbands and Wives (3:1-7)**

- Wives to be submissive to husbands (3:1)
- Converting a husband who is disobedient (3:1-2)
  - Can be won without a word (3:1)
  - If they observe her chaste and respectful behavior (3:2)
- Adornment not to be external (3:3-4)
  - Focus not to be on hair, jewelry, dresses (3:3)
  - Hidden person of the heart (3:4)
  - A gentle and quiet spirit (3:4)
- Holy women in former times (3:5-6)
  - Hoped in God, submitted to husbands (3:5)
  - Sarah obeyed Abraham, called him lord (3:6)
  - Women are her children if they do what is right without fear (3:6)
- Husband's responsibility to the wife (3:7)
  - Live with her in an understanding way
  - Show her honor as a fellow heir
  - So our prayers will not be hindered

### **Righteous Living (3:8-12)**

- Be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble (3:8)
- Do not return evil for evil, insult for insult (3:9)
- Give a blessing so that you might inherit a blessing (3:9)
- If we desire life and good days (3:10-11):
  - Keep tongue from evil, lips from deceit (3:10)
  - Turn away from evil and do good (3:11)
  - Seek peace and pursue it (3:11)
- God's approval (3:12)
  - His eyes are toward the righteous
  - His ears attend to their prayer
  - The face of the Lord is against those who do evil

### **Suffering for the Sake of Righteousness (3:13-17)**

- Who will harm us if we are zealous for good? (3:13)
  - If we do suffer, we are blessed (3:14)
  - Do not fear or be troubled (3:14)
- Sanctify Christ as Lord (3:15)
  - Be ready to make a defense (3:15)
    - Give an account for our hope
    - Do so with gentleness and reverence
  - Keep a good conscience (3:16)
    - We will still be slandered
    - Those who revile us will be put to shame
- Better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong (3:17)

**Salvation in Christ (3:18-22)**

Christ died for sins once for all (3:18)

The just for the unjust

To bring us to God

He was put to death in the flesh, made alive in the spirit

He made proclamation to spirits in prison (3:19)

They were once disobedient (3:19)

When God was patient during the construction of the ark (3:20)

Eight persons brought safely through the water (3:20)

Baptism now saves you (3:21)

Corresponds to Noah's salvation

Not the removal of dirt from the flesh

It is an appeal to God for a good conscience

Through the resurrection of Christ

Christ now in heaven (3:22)

At the right hand of God

Angels, authorities, and powers subjected to Him

***Questions on 1 Peter 3:***

What is the proper adornment for women? (3:3-4)

How are husbands to treat their wives? (3:7)

How do we make ourselves ready to make a defense to others? (3:15)

Who are the spirits in prison? (3:19)

How does baptism save us? (3:21)



## **1 Peter 4**

### **Living According to the Will of God (4:1-6)**

Christ suffered in the flesh (4:1)

Arm yourself with the same purpose

He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin

Living the rest of our time in the flesh (4:2)

No longer for the lusts of men

For the will of God

The time past is sufficient to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles (4:3)

Sensuality, lusts

Drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties

Abominable idolatries

Those who carry out the desire of the Gentiles (4:4-5)

They are surprised you no longer run with them (4:4)

They malign you (4:4)

They will give an account to God (4:5)

Purpose of the gospel being preached (4:6)

Preached to those who are dead

While in the flesh, live according to the will of God

### **The End of All Things is Near (4:7-11)**

Be of sound judgment and sober spirit for purpose of prayer (4:7)

Keep fervent in love -- covers a multitude of sins (4:8)

Be hospitable without complaint (4:9)

Use special gifts as good stewards (4:10)

Speak as the utterances of God (4:11)

Serve by the strength which God supplies (4:11)

So that God may be glorified in all things through Christ (4:11)

Glory and dominion belong to Him forever (4:11)

### **Suffering as a Christian (4:12-19)**

Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal (4:12)

Comes upon you for your testing

It is nothing strange

To the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ (4:13-14):

Keep on rejoicing (4:13)

At the revelation of His glory you may rejoice (4:13)

If you are reviled for His sake, you are blessed (4:14)

The Spirit of glory and of God rests on you (4:14)

Do not suffer as an evildoer (4:15)

If you suffer as a Christian (4:16):

Do not be ashamed

Glorify God in this name

Time for judgment (4:17-18)

Will begin with the household of God (4:17)

What will be the outcome for those who do not obey? (4:17)

Quotation of Proverbs 11:31 (4:18)

Suffer according to God's will -- entrust our souls to a faithful Creator (4:19)

### **Questions on 1 Peter 4:**

If we are living as we ought to as Christians, how will people react? (4:3-4)

How does love cover a multitude of sins? (4:8)

How should we respond to persecution? (4:12-13,16)

## **1 Peter 5**

### **Instruction about Elders (5:1-5)**

Peter identifies himself (5:1)

Fellow elder

Witness of Christ's sufferings

Partaker of glory to be revealed

Exhortation to elders (5:2-4)

Shepherd the flock of God among you (5:2)

Exercise oversight according to God's will (5:2)

Do not serve under compulsion, but voluntarily (5:2)

Do not serve for sordid gain, but with eagerness (5:2)

Not lording it over them, but proving to be examples (5:3)

When the Chief Shepherd appears, receive the unfading crown of glory (5:4)

Young men to be subject to elders (5:5)

All are to act with humility toward one another (5:5)

**Various Admonitions (5:6-11)**

Humble yourselves that God may exalt you (5:6)

Cast your anxiety on Him because He cares for you (5:7)

Resist the devil (5:8-9)

Be sober and on the alert (5:8)

The devil prowls around like a lion (5:8)

Resist him, firm in your faith (5:9)

Same sufferings exist among brethren in the world (5:9)

After we suffer a little while (5:10-11):

God will perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you (5:10)

To Him be dominion forever (5:11)

**Closing Remarks (5:12-14)**

About this letter (5:12)

Written through Silvanus, faithful brother

Briefly exhorted and testified of the true grace of God

Stand firm in it

Greetings (5:13-14)

She who is in Babylon, chosen with you (5:13)

Mark, "my son" (5:13)

Greet one another with a kiss of love (5:14)

Peace to you in Christ (5:14)

**Questions on 1 Peter 5:**

In addition to being an apostle, what other position did Peter hold in the church? (5:1)

What is the extent of the elders' oversight? (5:2)

If we humble ourselves before God, what will He do? (5:6)

How does Peter describe the devil? (5:8)

What Babylon is Peter referring to in verse 13?

## **2 Peter 1**

### **Introduction (1:1-2)**

Written by Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Christ (1:1)  
To those of like faith (1:1)  
Grace and peace in the knowledge of God (1:2)

### **What God Gives Us (1:3-11)**

Everything pertaining to life and godliness (1:3-4)  
Through the true knowledge of Him (1:3)  
Precious and magnificent promises (1:4)  
We may become partakers of the divine nature (1:4)  
We can escape the corruption in the world (1:4)  
Be diligent to add to your faith (1:5-9)  
Moral excellence, knowledge (1:5)  
Self-control, perseverance, godliness (1:6)  
Brotherly kindness, love (1:7)  
These qualities make us useful and fruitful (1:8)  
Without them we are blind or short-sighted (1:9)  
Be diligent to make sure about His calling and choosing you (1:10)  
If you practice these things, you will never stumble (1:10)  
Entrance into the eternal kingdom will be abundantly supplied (1:11)

### **Peter's Impending Death (1:12-15)**

He was ready to remind them of these things (1:12)  
They knew them and were established in the truth (1:12)  
It was still right for him to do this (1:13)  
He had divine knowledge that he would die soon (1:14)  
He wanted them to be able to recall his teachings after his death (1:15)

### **Divine Revelation (1:16-21)**

They did not follow cleverly devised tales (1:16)  
They were eyewitnesses (1:16)  
Example of the transfiguration (1:17-18)  
We have the prophetic word made sure (1:19)  
So pay attention (1:19)  
It is as a lamp shining in a dark place (1:19)  
No prophecy is a matter of one's own interpretation (1:20)  
No prophecy is an act of human will (1:21)  
Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God (1:21)

**Questions on 2 Peter 1:**

Through what has God given us all things pertaining to life and godliness? (1:3)

What qualities are we to add to our faith? (1:5-7)

How can we keep from stumbling? (1:10)

Why was Peter diligent to remind them of the truth? (1:12-15)

How did prophecies come to be? (1:20-21)

## **2 Peter 2**

**False Teachers Will Come (2:1-3)**

Just as false prophets arose before (2:1)

They will secretly introduce destructive heresies (2:1)

Many will follow their sensuality (2:2)

Because of them the way of truth will be maligned (2:2)

In greed they will exploit you with false words (2:3)

Their judgment from long ago is not idle (2:3)

Their destruction is not asleep (2:3)

**God's History of Judgment (2:4-9)**

Angels sinned -- they were cast into hell (2:4)

Ancient world -- destroyed by the flood (2:5)

Sodom and Gomorrah -- reduced to ashes (2:6)

God knows how to rescue the godly from temptation (2:9)

Noah, a preacher of righteousness (2:5)

Lot, righteous, oppressed by the sins of others (2:7-8)

The unrighteous are kept under punishment for the day of judgment (2:9)

**Characteristics of False Teachers (2:10-19)**

- They indulge the flesh (2:10)
- They despise authority (2:10)
- They are daring and self-willed (2:10)
- They revile angelic majesties without fear (2:10)
  - Angels are greater in might and power (2:11)
  - Yet they do not bring a reviling judgment against them (2:11)
- They are like unreasoning animals (2:12)
  - Born as creatures to be captured and killed
  - Revile with no knowledge
  - Will be destroyed along with these creatures
- They suffer wrong as the wages of doing wrong (2:13)
- They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime (2:13)
  - They are stains and blemishes
  - They revel in deceptions
- They have eyes full of adultery, never ceasing from sin (2:14)
- They entice unstable souls (2:14)
- Their heart is trained in greed (2:14)
- They are accursed children (2:14)
- They followed the way of Balaam (2:15-16)
  - Forsook the right way (2:15)
  - Loved the wages of unrighteousness (2:15)
  - Rebuked by a mute donkey (2:16)
- They are springs without water, mists driven by a storm (2:17)
- They speak arrogant words of vanity (2:18-19)
  - Entice by fleshly desires (2:18)
  - Promise freedom while they themselves are slaves (2:19)

**The Fate of Those Who Follow Them (2:20-22)**

- Worse condition (2:20)
  - First escaped the defilements of the world
  - Then they are again entangled in them and overcome
- Better not to have known the way of righteousness (2:21)
- According to the proverb (2:22)
  - A dog returns to its vomit
  - A sow, after washing, to it wallowing in the mire

**Questions on 2 Peter 2:**

How certain was Peter that false teachers would come? (2:1)

Is one a false teacher *only* if he possesses every characteristic listed in this chapter?

In what way are those escape the world and then turn back, in a worse condition than those who never knew the way of righteousness? (2:20-21)

## 2 Peter 3

**Peter's Second Letter (3:1-2)**

Stirring up their sincere mind by way of reminder (3:1)

Remember the words of the prophets (3:2)

Remember the commandment of the Lord spoken by the apostles (3:2)

**The Day of the Lord (3:3-10)**

Mockers will come in the last days (3:3-4)

They will follow after their own lusts (3:3)

They will question the promise of His coming (3:4)

What the mockers forget (3:5-6):

God is the Creator (3:5)

The world was once destroyed by water (3:6)

Future judgment (7-10)

Present heavens and earth are reserved for fire (3:7)

For the Lord, a day is as a thousand years (3:8)

God is not slow about His promise, but patient (3:9)

He does not wish for any to perish, but repent (3:9)

The day of the Lord will come like a thief (3:10)

The earth and its works will be burned up (3:10)

**Preparing for the Day of the Lord (3:11-18)**

Knowing what will happen, what sort of people should we be? (3:11)

Engage in holy conduct and godliness (3:11)

Look for and hasten the coming of the day of God (3:12)

Everything we know will be destroyed (3:12)

According to His promise, we look for a new heaven and new earth (3:13)

Be diligent to be found in Him in peace, spotless and blameless (3:14)

Regard the patience of the Lord as salvation (3:15)

Paul wrote of these things according to the wisdom he received (3:15)

Some things are hard to understand (3:16)

The untaught and unstable distort them to their own destruction (3:16)

Knowing these things, be on guard (3:17)

Do not be carried away by error and fall from your steadfastness (3:17)

Grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord (3:18)

**Questions on 2 Peter 3:**

What would come in the last day? (3:3)

Why has God not destroyed the world already? (3:9)

How will the day of the Lord come? (3:10)

In what are we to grow? (3:18)



## **Jude - Introduction**

### **Author**

Jude -- bond-servant of Jesus, brother of James (v.1)  
Likely was one of Jesus' earthly brothers (Mt. 13:55)  
Another suggestion was one of the apostles (Lk. 6:16)  
Most believe it was the Lord's brother

### **Audience**

Christians -- "to those who are called" (v.1)  
Likely the same ones Peter wrote to -- Christians in Asia Minor

### **Date of Writing**

Around the same time as 2 Peter -- 65-67 A.D.

### **Theme of the Epistle -- Warning of those who would pervert the grace of God**

Contend earnestly for the faith (v.3-4)  
God's pattern of punishing the wicked (v.5-7)  
False teachers were among them (v.8-16)  
Remember previous warnings (v.17-19)  
Exhortation to remain faithful (v.20-21)  
Help keep others from being lost (v.22-23)

## **Jude**

### **Introduction (v.1-2)**

Written by Jude -- bond-servant of Christ, brother of James (v.1)  
Written to the called, beloved in God, kept for Christ (v.1)  
Mercy, peace, and love multiplied to you (v.2)

### **The Reason for this Letter (v.3-4)**

Original intent to write of common salvation (v.3)  
It was necessary to make a different appeal (v.3)  
Contend earnestly for the faith  
The faith was once for all handed down to the saints  
Certain persons have crept in unnoticed (v.4)  
Long beforehand marked out for condemnation  
Ungodly persons  
Turn the grace of God into licentiousness  
Deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ

### **God's Pattern of Punishing the Wicked (v.5-7)**

The Israelites delivered out of Egypt were destroyed (v.5)

Angels who did not keep proper domain kept in eternal bonds under darkness (v.6)

Sodom and Gomorrah indulged in gross immorality, example of punishment (v.7)

### **False Teachers Among Them (v.8-16)**

They are filthy dreamers (v.8)

Defile the flesh

Reject authority

Revile angelic majesties

Michael wouldn't even do this with the devil (v.9)

They revile what they don't understand -- will be destroyed (v.10)

Comparison with wicked in the Old Testament (v.11)

Gone the way of Cain

Rushed headlong into the error of Balaam

Perished in the rebellion of Korah

Hidden reefs in your love feasts (v.12)

Feast without fear

Care only for themselves

They are useless, unfruitful, unhelpful

Prophecy of Enoch (v. 14-15)

Directed at these individuals (v.14)

The Lord will execute judgment (v.14-15)

Characteristics of these false teachers (v.16)

Grumblers, finding fault

Follow after their own lusts

Speak arrogantly

Flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage

### **Remember Previous Warnings (v.17-19)**

Remember the words of the apostles (v.17)

"In the last time there will be mockers..." (v. 18; cf. 2 Pet. 3:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1)

Description of these men (v.19)

They cause divisions

They are worldly-minded

They are devoid of the Spirit

### **Exhortation to Remain Faithful (v.20-21)**

Build yourselves up on the most holy faith (v.20)

Pray in the Holy Spirit (v.20)

Keep yourselves in the love of God (v.21)

Wait anxiously for the mercy of the Lord to eternal life (v.21)

**Help Keep Others from Being Lost (v.22-23)**

Have mercy on those who are doubting (v.22)

Save others, snatching them out of the fire (v.23)

Have mercy with fear (v.23)

Hate the garment polluted by the flesh (v.23)

**Closing Remarks (v.24-25)**

God is able to keep us from stumbling and make us stand in His presence (v.24)

To God be glory, majesty, dominion, authority for all time (v.25)

***Questions on Jude:***

What subject did Jude initially want to discuss? (v.3)

How were some attempting to change the grace of God? (v.4)

What were the “love feasts” Jude mentions in verse 12?

What does Jude tell us about Enoch? (v.14)

What does Jude tell us we should hate? (v.23)