

1 and 2 Peter L18 – Lessons 12-17 Study Summary

Lesson 12 – 2 Peter 1:1-11 Add to YOUR Faith

Q1, 2 – Believers can have a faith standing before God equal to the apostles. Jesus knows our true level of faith, and we should not be held back by doubts. Jesus has given us everything we need for eternal life and godliness.

Q5 – Corruption in our world exists because people focus on pursuing their own selfish desires.

Q6-8 – Effective, fruitful faith is active! Believers are to add to their faith: 1) virtue (goodness); 2) intimate knowledge (of the Bible AND of God); 3) self-control (personal yes/no choices); 4) steadfastness (faithful reliability); 5) godliness (God-likeness); 6) brotherly affection (care for others in our church fellowships); and 7) love (humble, selfless service).

Q9, 10 – Peter says we should diligently focus on God’s calling in our lives. Pursuing these growth areas above our initial faith helps prevent us from falling away from God. Unwillingness to add to our faith is to be “forgetful” or “blinded” to all that God has saved us from. We are to become NEW creations!

Lesson 13 – 2 Peter 1:12-21 The Gospel Truth or Cleverly Devised Myths?

Q2 – Examples of good reminders we share with one another: “read your Bible”, “go to church every week”, “have faith”, “pray regularly”, “Jesus saves”, “Jesus loves you”, “cast all your cares upon Him”, “God is with us to the very end”, “God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted above what you are able to bare”, “God can be trusted”, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble”, “you can never out-give God”, “God is still on the throne”, “salvation is by faith”, etc....

Q5-8 – Many people reject the Bible as a book of cleverly designed myths, with exaggerated and impossible stories, inconsistencies, and mistranslations. They believe the story of Jesus is made up. Peter says not so! He ministered with Jesus for over 3 years and was an eyewitness to Jesus’ glorification by God the Father on the mountain. God’s Word was authored by the Holy Spirit, who inspired over 40 prophets to record God’s truth with accuracy and completeness. Nothing was added; nothing was taken away.

Q10 – God holds prophets and teachers to a higher accountability standard because they convey the truths of God to the people. When prophecies are made that don’t come true, people are to ignore that prophet as a false prophet.

Lesson 14 – 2 Peter 2:1-10a Part 1 – False Prophets and Teachers: Judgment Coming

Q1 – Peter says false prophets existed in his day, and they will continue to exist across the years in our churches. They manipulate and change church teachings from the Bible to convey unacceptable ideas, often “majoring” on the “minors”. 2 Timothy 2 says we should all present ourselves to God as “approved” workers who rightly handle God’s Word. 2 Timothy 3 says God’s Word teaches us through reproof, correction, and training. Heresy is a twisting of God’s Word.

Q2, 4 – Mostly motivated by their own sensualities, Peter says these false teachers bring upon themselves swift destruction. As they “deny” the Lord Jesus by their teachings, they, too, will be denied by Jesus before the Father on Judgment Day. Because of them, the Way of Truth will be blasphemed (ridiculed and mocked), and in their greed, they will exploit us (take advantage of us) with false words. Yes, these false prophets arise from our preachers and teachers...!

Q9, 11 – God knows how to rescue the godly from trials and temptations. God also knows how to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the Day of Judgment arrives. Holding the ‘unrighteous under punishment’ is “especially” for people who indulge in their “lust for “defiling (immoral) passions” and who “despise (God’s) authority.”

Lesson 15 – 2 Peter 2:10b-21 Part 2 – False Prophets and Teachers: Arrogantly Sinful

Q1 – Peter refers to false prophets as “irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed.” He means that they lack reasoning abilities and are driven by their instincts like animals. Their teachings include ignorantly blaspheming matters of the spiritual realm!

Q2, 5 – Insatiably driven (i.e., can’t get enough...) by adultery (sex) and greed (money, v.14), false prophets prey on unsteady souls (v.14, NIV – “seduce the unstable”) and those just escaping from sinful living to a life of

salvation (new, still learning believers, v.18). These folks haven't learned or practiced holy living, so they are more easily duped by charismatic leaders with warped motives. These leaders set out to deceive others and delight in being successful.

Q6, 7 – Peter teaches that anything that dominates our lives and our activities can be thought of as “enslaving” us. Good or bad, it may interfere with our worship of God and faith practice. What enslaves each of us probably differs. The false leaders are “slaves of corruption” who are now bringing fellow church goers into their corruption.

Q8 – After coming to Jesus for salvation, these false leaders are then later entangled and “overcome” by worldly defilements. This post-Salvation state is considered worse for them than their pre-Salvation state, before they experienced God's deliverance and righteousness and know better. In Matthew, Jesus taught that being taken over by a defiled spirit after being saved is much worse!

Lesson 16 – 2 Peter 3:1-10

The Day of the Lord Comes Like a Thief

Q1 – Peter believes there is great value in reminding congregations about the prophecies of the future and the teachings of Jesus. Many things of the Bible are hard to understand, and sharing our questions with pastors, teachers, and biblically-knowledgeable folks is helpful in grasping difficult truths about living for Jesus and anticipating His return.

Q2, 3 – In Acts, Peter explained that the “Last Days” began with Pentecost. That was 2,000 years ago, so today we face many skeptics and scoffers who mock the idea that God will ever return to deliver believers. They attack us this way because they don't want to change from their own desires and agendas to live God's way. However, it really is not a matter of “if” but “when” Jesus comes back, so the point is to have saving faith (and always be ready for His return).

Q4 – God has intervened twice in earth's history (creation and Noah's flood). Scoffers “deliberately overlook” these fundamental truths everyone knows about.

Q5, 8 – The present heavens and the earth will face God's fiery destruction on the Day of Judgment when the ungodly will also be destroyed. Revelation 6 adds that ALL humanity will be terrified as signs of the destruction arrive. Yet, even with this advance information, most people in our world still choose to ignore or reject God and His warnings related to a certain return!

Q6, 7 – God is not bound by time. To Him, a thousand years is the same as a single day. God's return is NOT late --- but He is patient. He delays to allow people time to repent and be saved. When the full number of people being saved arrives, the end will come. Romans speaks to allowing time for repentance, but also that the unbelieving are storing up God's wrath against themselves for the judgment to come. 1 Timothy expresses God's desire: that all people come to know the truth and to be saved.

Lesson 17 – 2 Peter 3:11-18

Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus

Q1 – We should be a holy people living godly lives as we await Jesus' return and ‘hasten’ the Day of the Lord. We ‘hasten’ the Day of the Lord by faithfully witnessing to others about saving faith and God's Word of truth. It is our part to play in spreading the Gospel until He returns.

Q6 – The patience of the Lord today is intended to lead people in saving faith and eternal salvation of their souls.

Q7 – When dealing with hard-to-understand Bible passages we can compare scripture with scripture to seek clarification. Often, we will bring up our questions to loved ones, pastors, teachers and scripturally-knowledgeable people. Others of us may search on the internet and/or consult Bible commentaries.

Q8 – Ignorant (lacking knowledge) and unstable (not fixed, wavering, unsteady) twist (manipulate) scriptures to mean what they want --- to their own destruction. They may ignore the ‘whole’ of scriptural teaching on a subject, and, conversely, narrowly interpret a single verse to form a philosophy or opinion. When they meet up with believers who don't share their interpretations, they argue with or avoid them.

Q10 – To keep our own spiritual stability, we are to grow in God's forgiving grace and in our knowledge of Jesus. Romans says Jesus' return is nearer now than when we first believed, and that we need to ‘put on’ the Lord Jesus and make no allowances for fleshly desires. 2 Timothy says that God's Word can train us to be competent (godly) Christians, plus equip us for all kinds of good works.