

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: June 7, 2020

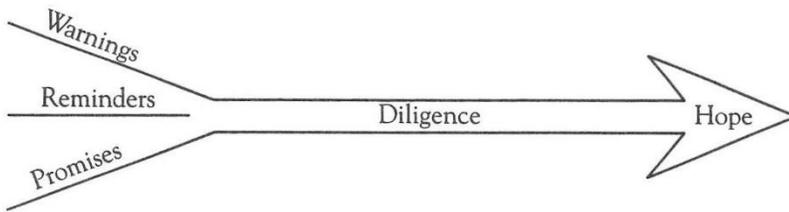
Summer Quarter: Zealous for the Truth

Today's Lesson: "A Letter that Rattles our Cage"

INTRODUCTION:

Except for perhaps Jude's letter, 2 Peter is the most intense epistle in the New Testament. Some observations . . .

1. Many people aren't aware that 2nd Peter is more difficult read 1st Peter.
2. The concern in 2nd Peter is different from that in Peter's 1st epistle.
3. 2nd Peter is strange, surprising, and occasionally severe.
4. Themes in 2nd Peter are more subtle & indirect than those in 1st Peter.



AUTHORSHIP and CANONICITY

- In early centuries, 2nd Peter has stirred up quite a debate over its genuineness & canonicity. It was listed by Origen and Jerome as one of the Antilegomena. The main reason there was hesitancy (it was "spoken against") was due to dissimilarity of style with 1st Peter.
- A strong argument for Petrine authorship comes from the internal evidence.
- Finally, after prolonged scrutiny, the church council of Laodicea (A.D. 366) officially recognized Second Peter as belonging to the canon of Scripture.

RELATIONSHIP TO JUDE

Even a quick reading of 2 Pt. 2 & Jude 4-18 confirms their striking similarity. This raising the question: "Who was depended on who? Who wrote first?"

DATE and PLACE OF WRITING

Traditional date is late A.D. 67 or early A.D. 68 and written from Rome.

DESTINATION

See 2 Pet. 3:1. If this verse refers to 1 Peter, then he was writing to the mixed Jewish & Gentile churches of "Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bithynia."

OCCASION and PURPOSE

The purpose of Second Peter is to call Christians to spiritual growth/diligence so that they can combat apostasy as they look forward to the Lord's return.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW: Peter had three purposes in mind.

1. To _____ Christian _____ (Chapter 1)
He addresses the moral corruption of the last days, & answers the pressing question, "How can we avoid being corrupted?"
 - A. Resources for growth are provided (1:3, 4)
 - B. Resolve to grow is required (1:5-7)
 - C. Reasons for growth are clear (1:8-11)
 - D. Reminders to grow are necessary (1:12-15)
2. To _____ _____ Teaching (Chapter 2)
 - A. Prediction of false teachers (2:1-3a)
 - B. Destruction of false teachers (2:3b-9)
 - C. Description of false teachers (2:10-22)
Their Character; Their Teaching; and Their Influence
3. To Encourage _____ (Chapter 3)
 - A. Believers cherish it (3:1-2)
 - B. Scoffers laugh at it (3:3-7)
 - C. God guarantees it (3:8-9)
 - D. Peter describes it (3:10-13)
 - E. Behavior is changed by it (3:11, 14-16)

SOME TIPS ON LIVING A MORE ALERT LIFE

1. Pay attention to what you already know (1:12-13; 3:1-2)
2. Open your eyes and ears (2:1-3; 3:17)
3. Pursue a godly lifestyle (3:11, 14)
4. Expect Christ's return (3:12)

