

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: **February 15, 2023**

Fall Study: Standing Fast in the Last Days: A Study of 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, and Jude

INTRODUCTION

In 1:10b-11, Peter introduces *a major theme of great importance* in his letter; namely, the second coming of Christ and the “day of the Lord”. Apostolic preaching about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ did not rest on “cleverly invented stories”, but on two solid foundations.

1. The voice from God at the _____ (vss. 16-18).
Peter was an eyewitness to an event that previewed the Second Coming. See Matt. 16:26-17:8. In 2nd Peter 1:16-18, Peter wrote a summary of what he, James & John saw and heard on the Mount of Transfiguration.
2. The still more significant testimony of _____ (vss. 19-21).
Peter wrote, “And we have more certain the word of the prophets.” The *word of the prophets* describes the entire scope of OT prophecies that point to the glorious future Kingdom of Jesus the Messiah.

A. 2 Peter 1:20-21

This is one of two important Scriptures concerning the divine inspiration of the Bible. Peter affirmed that the Scriptures were not written by men who used their own ideas & words, but by men of God who were “carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

- 1) The _____ of inspiration: “*Above all, you must understand*”.
- 2) The _____ of inspiration: “*men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*”. How did God produce an infallible book through fallible men?
- 3) The _____ of inspiration:
The result: “All Scripture (lit. “every writing”) is God-breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16). The final product is a God-breathed (inspired), infallible / inerrant, authoritative book . . . the Word of God in the language of men. “Inspiration is the process by which *Spirit-moved writers* (2 Pet. 1:21) recorded God-breathed writings (2 Tim. 3:16).” The Bible is not just “the good book”, it is “God’s book”.
- 4) The _____ to Inspiration: “*You will do well to pay attention to it*”.
This brings up the subject of the **perspicuity** of Scripture. The Reformers believed that the Scriptures were **perspicuous**. This means the Scripture is _____ and _____. Ecclesiastical experts were not needed for one to know God & to read His Word. That did not mean they saw no place for the true scholar or the pastor-theologian. Quite the opposite. They valued the office of pastor/teacher even more highly, precisely because they valued the Word so highly.

B. 2 Timothy 3:16

- 1) What is the _____ of inspiration?
Our text says, “all Scripture (literally *pasa graphe* or “ev’ry writing” . . . the entire Bible) is inspired (God-breathed).” This is called verbal-plenary inspiration and answers the questions: How far does inspiration extend? Are all sixty-six books of the Bible inspired? Are the words inspired, or just the thoughts and the concepts?
 - The sixty-six books of the Bible are _____ inspired. Inspiration extends to the _____ the prophets wrote (not just to the ideas & thoughts). **See Matthew 5:17-19.**
 - The sixty-six books of the Bible are _____ inspired – it extends to every part. The whole Bible, not just parts, are inspired. Don’t confuse relevancy with inspiration!
- 2) What is the _____ of inspiration?
2 Timothy 3:16 reads, “All Scripture is God-breathed and _____.” For what?
 - _____. See 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Rom. 10:17.

- _____ (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- _____. The “man of God” is the Christian preacher or teacher or Christian worker. The “man of God” only used here (3:17) and in 1 Tim. 6:11.

3) How we got our Bible? There are three links in the chain from _____ to _____.
From _____ to _____ to _____.

COUNTERFEIT COMMUNICATORS (2:1-22)

1. Their _____ (2:1)

A. “There _____ also false prophets among _____ (cp. 1:19-21)

C. “There _____ false teachers among _____.”

Interpretive Question: “Are these false teachers genuine believers or are they only nominal believers, professing Christians?”

1) These are _____ (_____) Christians (see verses 20-22).

2) How do you explain their being “_____” (redeemed) in verse 1?

2. Their _____ (2:10)

Peter speaks of these false teachers as “those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature (flesh)” (vs. 10). They are driven by three desires (lusts, passions; Gk: *ἐπιθυμία epithumía*).

A. Lust for _____: “despise authority” (cp. 3 John 9-11).
They look down on authority. They hold authority (all forms) in contempt (cp. 3 Jn. 9-11).

B. Lust for _____: “exploit you” (means “commercialize”)
See vs. 14c – “experts in greed” (lit. “exercised [practiced/ trained] in greed – *gumnadzo*)
See vss. 15-16 – “rushed for profit into Balaam’s error” (Jude 11; Num. 25:1-18; 31:8, 16; Rev. 2:14)

C. Lust for _____. See **vs. 2** – “shameful ways”; **vss. 4-9** (two of three illustrations have directly to do with sexual perversion); **vs. 10** – “corrupt desire of the flesh” (NIV Study Bible footnote); **vs. 14** – “eyes full of adultery” (NIV Study Bible footnote); and **vss. 18-19**.

3. Their _____ .

A. “They deny the sovereign Lord who bought them” (1b). How did/do they do this?

1) _____ denial
In their teaching they diminish the person and/or work of Christ in some manner.

2) _____ denial
See Jude 4 - “For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”

B. Their teaching is _____ (against law). They are “lawless” (unprincipled).
See verses 7-8 (men of Sodom); also 2:17-19, and 3:17.

C. They _____ at the second coming of Christ & the Day of the Lord (3:3-16). Why?
They resist (downplay) the idea of a time of judgment and moral accountability.