

II Peter 1:1-11

OVERVIEW OF II PETER...

- **1ST – WHO WAS PETER...**
 - **1st – FISHERMAN...**
 - Peter was a fisherman – along with his brother Andrew – from the city of Capernaum...
 - Not that he was a very GOOD fisherman – he never seems to catch fish
 - Both times we read about Peter fishing – he caught NOTHING – **Luke 5:5 – John 21:3**
 - Because God had not called him to catch FISH – instead catch MEN!
 - **Matthew 4:19** - “Follow Me - and I will make you fishers of men.”
 - Too often people in life use the gifts God has given them for their own purposes...
 - Then then wonder why their lives are EMPTY – no fish in the net!
 - We are only going to be EFFECTIVE in life – when we become what God desires...
 - When we use our GIFTS for the purpose God DESIRES...
 - We are going to find we are BLESSED – and have a life that is FULL!
 - **2nd - The THREE...**
 - Peter was one of the inner THREE: Peter - James - and John
 - Jesus revive the little girl – **Mark 5:37** - Mount of Transfiguration – **Matthew 17:1**
 - Only they went with Jesus when He prayed in Gethsemane – **Matthew 26:37**
 - This leads us to believe these disciples were SPECIAL – SUPER disciples...
 - They were BETTER than the rest – they were more TROUBLE!
 - James and John – the Sons of Thunder – should we call down fire - **Luke 9:54**
 - Peter – who tended to speak first – then think – which always got him into trouble!
 - We may think that God only uses those with great gifts – ability...
 - But God uses the FOOLISH - ignorant and unlearned FISHERMEN...
 - Which is a HUGE encouragement – because that means He can use us...
 - **I Corinthians 1:27-29** – “God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise... that no flesh should glory in His presence.”
 - **3rd – MARRIED...**
 - Peter had a wife – **I Corinthians 9:5**
 - **Luke 4:38** – Jesus even healed the Mother-in-law of Peter...
 - The Bible is VERY clear that Peter did have a wife!
 - There are some denominations today that insist Peter never married...
 - The idea is that somehow SINGLENESSE is more holy than MARRIAGE...
 - Is a false teaching – and has come to cause a LOT of problems in the church!
 - **I Timothy 4:3** – “[Listening] to deceiving spirits - doctrines of demons... forbidding to marry.”
 - The doctrine that priest must be SINGLE – has led to huge scandals...
 - The Catholic church has had to pay BILLIONS – because of cases of sexual abuse...
 - All because of a FALSE teaching - men are more HOLY if they are SINGLE!
 - Most are called to be MARRIED – only a few are able to stay SINGLE – **Matthew 19:11**
 - If someone is NOT called to be SINGLE – they should GET MARRIED - **I Corinthians 7:9**
 - A church leader is NO exception – Pastors should have a wife – **I Timothy 3:3**
 - **4th – PILLAR...**
 - Peter was a PILLAR of the church – **Galatians 2:9**
 - He was one of the main leaders of that church – **Acts 15:7**

- But PETER was NOT the PILLAR of the WHOLE church!
- SIMON...
 - Peter – adds the addition of SIMON in this SECOND epistle – **II Peter 1:1**
 - Simon is the birth name of Peter – the word means to hear or listen...
 - PETER [or Cephas in Aramaic] was a name given to him by Jesus - **John 1:42**
 - Jesus used the word Peter with a play on words - **Matthew 16:13**
 - PETER [Πέτρος] - means a little pebble [small stone]
 - ROCK [πέτρα] - refers to a huge foundation stone...
 - Peter is a little PEBBLE – but on his confession of Jesus as God - was the ROCK...
 - The foundation of the church is Jesus Christ - **I Corinthians 3:11**
- 5th – SERVANT
 - Peter also adds the title of BONDSERVANT – **II Peter 1:1**
 - BONDSERVANT [δοῦλος] – 127x in NT - means a slave...
 - God defined the role of a [δοῦλος] – a bondservant - **Deuteronomy 15:17**
 - If a servant was to be set free – but CHOSE to stay – he had his ear pierced...
 - He became a BONDSERVANT – someone who CHOSE to be a slave for His master!
 - Jesus does not demand that we give our lives to Him – it is our CHOICE...
 - We can CHOOSE to live for ourselves – live for this world – in bondage to this world...
 - But the irony is when we GIVE our lives to Jesus – that is when we are truly free!
 - **John 8:36** – “If the Son makes you free - you shall be free indeed.”
- 6th – The APOSTLE...
 - Peter was an APOSTLE – he was one of the TWELVE...
 - In Matthew – Mark - Luke - and Acts – we have a list of all TWELVE Apostles...
 - In each of those lists PETER is mentioned FIRST...
 - PETER was the APOSTLE to the Jews - while Paul to the Gentiles - **Galatians 2:7**
 - The word APOSTLE – means to be sent out!
 - Is a picture of an ambassador - a representative of God to the world...
 - Sent out to share the Good News - the hope of salvation through Jesus...
 - You might think that you will NEVER be an APOSTLE – but we are all called to be sent out!
 - **II Corinthians 5:20** – “We are ambassadors for Christ...”
- 2ND – WHAT IS THE KEY THEME TO THE BOOK...
 - The KNOWLEDGE of the Lord...
 - **II Peter 1:2** – Grace be multiplied in the KNOWLEDGE of God...
 - **II Peter 1:3** – His divine power has given us all things - through the KNOWLEDGE of Him...
 - **II Peter 2:20** – They have escaped the pollution of this world through the KNOWLEDGE ...
 - **II Peter 3:18** – Grow in the grace and KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
 - The word KNOWLEDGE [ἐπίγνωσις] – is used SIXTEEN times in various forms in II Peter!
 - The word means to know thoroughly - intimately though experience!
 - What does Peter want us to KNOW...
 - KNOWING - the Day of the Lord will come like a THIEF in the night - **II Peter 3:10**
 - KNOWING - the Day of God will come QUICKLY [hastening] – **II Peter 3:12**
 - KNOWING - SCOFFERS will come in the Last days – **II Peter 3:3**
 - KNOWING - the POWER when our Lord Jesus comes – **II Peter 1:16**
 - Peter wants us to know the Lord – and about the RETURN of the Lord!
- 3RD – WHERE WAS THE BOOK WRITTEN...
 - The book was written in same place as I Peter – **II Peter 3:1**

- o Most scholars hold that Babylon - was a code name for the city of Rome - **I Peter 5:13**
- o Peter called Rome Babylon to try and avoid further persecution for the church there!
- **4TH – WHEN WAS THE BOOK WRITTEN...**
 - o Between 66-67 A.D. – about THREE years after I Peter was written...
 - o Peter was at the end of his life – **II Peter 1:14-15**
 - o Church history tell us Peter was martyred in 68 A.D.
 - o That same history tells us that Peter was crucified upside down for his faith in Jesus...
 - o Upside down because he was not worthy to die in the same manner as His Lord!
- **5TH – HOW IS THE BOOK DIVIDED...**
 - o Chapter 1 – A REMINDER for the church of the POWER of God...
 - o Chapter 2 – A WARNING to the church about FALSE teachers...
 - o Chapter 3 – The HOPE of the church because of the RETURN of Jesus!

THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST...

- **1ST – GREETINGS FROM PETER... VS. 1**
 - o 1st - Who the book was written to...
 - Peter – the Servant and Apostle – addresses his SECOND epistle to FOUR groups...
 - Peter tells us that he wrote to the same people as I Peter - **II Peter 3:1**
 - Peter wrote to the PILGRIMS - the DISPERSED - and the ELECT - **I Peter 1:1**
 - Peter adds a FOURTH group here in verse one of II Peter!
 - Precious FAITH...
 - To those who have obtained like precious faith with us...
 - By the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ!
 - OBTAINED [λαγχάνω] – 4x in NT – speaks of a DIVINE gift...
 - PRECIOUS [ἰσότημος] – only here NT – compound word meaning equal value...
 - We have been GIVEN the same FAITH as Peter had through Jesus...
 - Because Jesus did what no one else could – He lived a RIGHTEOUS life...
 - Then Jesus – the only PERFECT man – paid the price for our sin – **Romans 6:23**
 - In that moment Jesus condemned sin – defeated the darkness once and for all...
 - Then came one of the great mysteries of the ages – God gave us Jesus RIGHTEOUSNESS!
 - Not because we earned it - but it was GIVEN to us as a free gift of GRACE!
 - **II Corinthians 5:21** – “God made Christ - who never sinned - to be the offering for our sin - so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”
 - In Jesus – we have lived a PERFECT life – there is NO sin...
 - When God looks down on us – He does not see our sinful mistakes - flaws...
 - He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus – He sees us as perfect - flawless!
 - o 2nd – God and SAVIOR...
 - Do NOT miss – Jesus is both our GOD and SAVIOR...
 - **John 10:30** – “The Father and I are one.”
 - **John 14:9** – “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!”
 - **John 20:28** – “My Lord and my God! Thomas exclaimed.”
 - **I John 5:20** – “Jesus Christ. He is the only true God - and He is eternal life...”
 - One of the great mysteries of our Faith - there is only One God - **Deuteronomy 6:4**
 - Yet God exists in THREE distinct persons - God the Father - God the Son - God the Spirit...
 - The Bible makes no effort to explain how this is WORKS - only that it is TRUE...
 - What makes a religion a CULT - rather than a DENOMINATION...
 - Is there denial of this KEY doctrine - rejecting the divinity of Jesus Christ!

- 2ND – WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN... vs. 2-4
 - 1st - Grace and peace... vs. 2
 - Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord!
 - There can be NO peace with God – until we have GRACE from God...
 - Only the CERTAIN expectation of the JUDGMENT of God – **Hebrews 10:31**
 - When we have the GRACE of God - GIFT of salvation - we have PEACE with God!
 - PEACE multiplied...
 - MULTIPLIED [πληθύνω] – a great number – filled up...
 - Not just a LITTLE grace and peace – to be FILLED with GRACE and PEACE...
 - But being FILLED with PEACE is the RESULT [passive] of KNOWLEDGE...
 - The more we KNOW God and Jesus our LORD – the more GRACE and PEACE we have!
 - I was talking to someone in church the other day about a computer program...
 - As they saw me using it they were amazed how little they knew about it...
 - They realized to really use it to its FULL potential – they needed to KNOW more!
 - The key to seeing grace and peace multiplies – is the KNOWLEDGE of Jesus...
 - That means spending LOTS of time with Him – in His Word - in prayer...
 - The more we KNOW about Him – the more GRACE and PEACE we receive from Him!
 - 2nd – Life and Godliness... vs. 3
 - As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...
 - Through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue!
 - Having the KNOWLEDGE of Jesus does not just give us GRACE and PEACE...
 - By His DIVINE [θεϊός] POWER [δύναμις] – we might say GOD POWER...
 - We have already [passive] been given [perfect] all things that pertain to life - godliness...
 - It is not that God will ONE day give us ALL we need to live for Him...
 - Through the KNOWLEDGE of Him that called us to GLORY and VIRTUE [morals]
 - God has ALREADY given us EVERYTHING we need to live a HOLY life!
 - The KEY to VICTORY...
 - We may not realize how much we have been given - if we do not have KNOWLEDGE...
 - Maybe you are like me - you wonder many days if you can really live for Jesus...
 - With all the temptation in this world - as many times as we seem to make mistakes...
 - Is it really possible to live a HOLY life for the Lord - and if so HOW...
 - The answer – KNOWLEDGE - God has already blessed us with all we need!
 - **Ephesians 1:3** - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ - who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...”
 - 3rd – Great PROMISES... vs. 4
 - By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises...
 - That through these you may be partakers of the divine nature...
 - Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust!
 - Through the KNOWLEDGE of Jesus we are given [passive] PROMISES [perfect]
 - EXCEEDINGLY great [μέγιστος] – only here NT - the GREATEST promises...
 - That through these great PROMISES - we might [subjunctive] be PARTAKERS...
 - PARTAKERS [κοινωνός] – 10x NT - to be a partner or to help...
 - The DIVINE nature – that helps us ESCAPE - the corruption [sin] that is in the world!
 - The KNOWLEDGE of Jesus helps us choose to live for God...
 - The world lives for LUST – selfish desires – because they think it will fulfill them...
 - But as we gain the KNOWLEDGE of Jesus – we learn about something FAR greater...
 - We learn of the greatest PROMISE – and in doing so choose to FLEE from an EMPTY world!

- **I Timothy 6:10** – “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil - for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness - pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
 - The world may try and sell us on **CHEAP** momentary pleasures that seem good...
 - But when they are held in the light of the **KNOWLEDGE** of the **PROMISES** of God...
 - They quickly **FADE** – and the **TRUTH** becomes apparent – it is all about **Jesus!**
 - We are heirs to all that God has - joint heirs with Jesus Christ - **Romans 8:17**
 - Which means God desires to give us **EVERYTHING** - His **KINGDOM** - **Luke 12:32**
 - Nothing this world offer us could ever compare to that!
- **3RD – WHAT WE MUST DO ... vs. 5-7**
 - Be diligent... vs. 5-7
 - But also for this very reason - giving all diligence - add to your faith virtue...
 - To virtue knowledge - to knowledge self-control - to self-control perseverance...
 - To perseverance godliness - to godliness brotherly kindness - to brotherly kindness love!
 - In light of all we have been given through the **KNOWLEDGE** of Christ...
 - **DILIGENT** [σπουδή] – to be quick to respond...
 - **GIVE** [παρεισφέρειν] - only here NT – to bring beside – to add to...
 - We are saved by grace alone through faith alone – **Ephesians 1:9-10**
 - But we do have a **PART** to play – coming along side what God has done...
 - **SEVEN** nouns we **MUST** [imperative] add to our faith!
 - 1st – **VIRTUE** [ἀρετή] – 4x NT [3 by Peter] – moral excellence - modesty - purity!
 - 2nd – **KNOWLEDGE** [γινῶσις] – indicates a relation - knowing a person...
 - When I got to **KNOW** my wife – it changed my priorities...
 - I wanted to do those things that pleased and blessed her!
 - In the same way as we get to **KNOW** the Lord – it affects our behavior...
 - We want to live a virtuous – moral - modest – pure life to please Him!
 - 3rd – **Self-control** [ἐγκράτεια] – 4x NT – to have **POWER** over our desires...
 - It is one of the descriptions of the Fruit of the Spirit – **Galatians 5:23**
 - When we **KNOW** the Lord – we let Jesus control the desires of our heart!
 - **Psalms 37:4** – “Delight yourself in the **LORD** - He shall give you the desires of your heart.”
 - 4th – **Perseverance** [ὑπομονή] - compound word – hupo and meno...
 - Apart from Jesus we can do nothing - **John 15:4**
 - We must **ABIDE** [μένω] in Him in order for us to be able to have any **FRUIT**...
 - When we **ABIDE** – we will have the **POWER** to live a **HOLY** life!
 - 5th – **Godliness** [εὐσέβεια] – Reverence or respect towards God
 - 6th – **Brotherly** [φιλαδελφία] – brotherly love for one another...
 - The result of having a reverence for God is that we **KIND** to each other...
 - We do not just pretend to get along – fake it – we actually do like one another!
 - 7th – **Love** [ἀγάπη] – unconditional perfect **LOVE**
 - Our love is conditional – we tend to show love to those who love us back...
 - But that is not the love that God desires to flow from us – define us...
 - As we have **KNOWLEDGE** – we will find we begin to reflect the Love from the Word!
 - **John 13:35** - “All will know you are My disciples - if you have love for one another.”
- **4TH – THE RESULTS... vs. 8-11**
 - 1st – A fruitful life... vs. 8
 - For if these things are yours and abound...

- For if these come from us - and ABOUND [πλεονάζω] – to SUPER abound...
- If we are DILIGENT to add to our FAITH all SEVEN things...
- You will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - There are TWO results – they will make us not BARREN...
 - 1 - BARREN [ἀργός] - 8x NT - means to be lazy or refuse to work...
 - 2 - UNFRUITFUL [ἄκαρπος] – someone who does not have the FRUIT of the SPIRIT...
 - What will NOT be LAZY and UNFRUITFUL – the KNOWLEDGE of the Lord Jesus!
 - Where our treasure is there is your HEART will be also – **Luke 12:34**
 - We tend to think we invest in the things that are important to us...
 - But the truth is our HEART follows our investments – what our HEART wants...
 - That is why we should never follow our heart – it is deceptive – **Jeremiah 17:9**
 - If we spend all of our time on the things of this world – BARREN and UNFRUITFUL...
 - But if we are investing in the things of God – we will have the KNOWLEDGE of God!
- o 2nd – A BLINDED life... vs. 9
 - For he who lacks these things is shortsighted - even to blindness...
 - And has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins!
 - If we are NOT diligent to add to our faith all SEVEN things...
 - We will find [indicative] there are THREE results!
 - SHORTSIGHTED [μυωπάζω] – only able to see what is right in front of you...
 - BLINDNESS [τυφλός] – not speaking of physical blindness – but spiritual blindness...
 - FORGOTTEN [λήθη] – to be HIDDEN from!
 - The problem with living for the world – is we are limited to worldly KNOWLEDGE...
 - And worldly knowledge cannot tell us what will happen next year - month – tomorrow...
 - So all of our decisions are SHORTSIGHTED - BLIND choices – made on false hope...
 - Hope that somehow things will work out – but we have FORGOTTEN...
 - We must be DILIGENT in the Lord – receive the KNOWLEDGE of the Lord...
 - Who can see the end from the beginning – and can safely direct our steps!
- o 3rd – Never stumble... vs. 10-11
 - Therefore – brethren - be even more diligent to make your call and election sure...
 - For if you do these things you will never stumble!
 - Because there will be FRUIT if we are diligent - and BLINDNESS if we are not...
 - Be even more DILIGENT to make your calling and election sure – because if we do...
 - NEVER stumble – [οὐ μὴ subjunctive] – the most powerful negation in Greek!
 - I have read about several stories about Christian influencers denouncing their faith...
 - We hear the stories and wonder what happened – how could they have stumbled...
 - What happened – they did not apply the KNOWLEDGE of God in their lives!
 - A smart person sitting inside a house on fire - is dumb if he does not get up and run out...
 - In the same way we can know all about what God has done for us...
 - But if our KNOWLEDGE is just in our head - then it really does us no good...
 - God has done it all for us – given us Grace and peace - Life and Godliness - Great promises!
 - But along with the KNOWLEDGE - we need to put into practice the things we learn!
 - If we do then we will NEVER stumble – because it will be God who directs - holds us!
 - For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly...
 - Into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
 - Considering what is at stake – our ETERNAL destination – entrance into heaven...
 - It is CRUCIAL that we make sure we have the KNOWLEDGE of what God has done for us...
 - Grace and peace - all things that pertain to life and Godliness - greatest promises...
 - And that we also are DILIGENT to put our FAITH into practice...

- So we are FRUITFUL – with the ability to SEE clearly and make wise choices...
- So we NEVER stumble – and abundantly enter into the Kingdom of Christ!