

NT Reading Plan 2020

Living Hope Fellowship
2 Peter

Jesus: Lord, Savior, God

The first verse of this letter expressly teaches that Jesus is God. It's one of the greatest places in Scripture to go to in order to know, believe, and defend Christ's deity. While our English language is a bit ambiguous and we could potentially see two persons in verse one: our God [the Father] and Jesus our savior, the Greek doesn't allow for that at all. Peter knew exactly what he was writing when he called Jesus our God and Savior. There's no wiggle room around this in the grammar (see the same thing in Titus 2:13).

1. In 1:1, what did you obtain (you did not earn but were given) along with Peter and every other Christian (I'm looking for two answers)?

In the next verse (1:2), Jesus is "our Lord" which is an equivalent to "God." If Jesus is Lord, he is God.

2. Compare "our God and Savior Jesus Christ" in 1:1 with the similar phrases in 1:8, 11, 16; 2:20; 3:2, 18.

This is followed by yet another affirmation of Jesus being God in 1:3, "His *divine* power..."

3. What has Christ's divine power granted to us? Is there anything missing that you need? How sufficient is Christ for everything that you need?

Knowledge

The right kind of knowledge is critical to being a Christian. The gospel message is a message which must be known and believed.

4. Read 1:1-2 and 3:14-18 back to back. What connections/similarities can you spot between these opening and closing paragraphs?

Reminder

All of what Peter is teaching is by way of *reminders* of what he has already taught them (1:12, 13, 15; 3:1, 2).

5. Peter isn't the only one who has taught them about these things, though. Who else taught them (3:2)? Where did the church he writes to find those teachings (compare 3:2 with 1:19-21).

6. If Peter's audience needed reminders of what they heard many times, we do as well. Where do we get these reminders today? How much are you seeking them out?

Truth, Godliness & Salvation

God saves people through the knowledge of the truth about his Son (1:3 for example). This truth (aka the gospel) is then to be diligently applied in the believer's life (1:5, 10, 15; 3:14). You can't get saved without the knowledge of the truth (1:3), nor continue walking in

sanctification without the truth (1:8). Everyone who is diligent to apply the gospel in their lives will yield the fruit of godliness. We must walk more "righteously" in this world because of Christ's righteousness which we already have been given (1:1). The Christian life can be summarized this way: becoming more of who you already are in Christ. As we walk with Christ on this earth, we must have our eyes fixed on Christ's return which will result in the culmination of our salvation in heaven.

False, Ungodliness & Condemnation

In opposition to the transforming power of the truth to save and sanctify, however, false teachers will arise (2:1). Along with their false teaching comes lives of ungodliness (those things always go hand in hand, see all of chapter 2). While these folks have heard plenty about the coming judgment, they choose to scoff rather than repent despite God's great patience in withholding punishment. But the day is coming when God's wrath will be poured out in fire upon all the unrighteousness of men. Any who persist in a state of believing lies and living according to those things will face condemnation and swift destruction (1:3, how many times can you spot the word destruction/destroyed in this letter?).

This short epistle bounces back and forth between exhortations to holy living and warnings for those who live in immorality with the 2nd coming in view for both groups.

7. How should Christ's return affect us today (3:11-13)?

8. Where did the false teachers come from in the past? Where will they be coming from now (see 2:1)?

Beloved

Peter heard God's voice say, "This is my *beloved* Son, in whom I am well pleased" (1:17). After this, Peter calls the Christians he is writing to *beloved*, using the same word, 4 times (3:1, 8, 14, 17) as well as calling Paul, "our beloved brother" (3:15). The Christian message is one of God loving us first but his love doesn't end there. Rather, we ought to love one another because God first loved us.

9. How does Peter's commands to the church in 1:3-11 reflect his desire for them to be more like God (see especially 1:7 in the context of "*beloved*")? How does he model for them what he asks them to do?