



Grace and Peace Multiplied

“Peter opened and closed 2 Peter with the theme of victory. But within the epistle he focused primarily on how to live when surrounded by the problems and perplexities of the end time. After painting the landscape (*in 2:1-3:10*) replete with false teachers, fallen angels, flagrant immorality, and flaccid scoffers, Peter charged his readers ‘to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming’ (*3:11-12*). Godly and faithful living in difficult times—that is the lesson Peter would have believers learn through this dynamic letter.” *Walvoord, Zuck—Bible Knowledge Commentary p. 859*

A. First and Second Peter

In his first letter Peter was more concerned with external pressures exerted on Jewish and Gentile Christians by society. In this letter Peter is concerned about internal pressures from false teaching. *See also Heb 2:1*

B. Peter and His Audience 2 Peter 1:1

1. Bondservant: A person totally ‘owned by’ and devoted to Jesus Christ—Peter’s status came from the Messiah not from Peter.
2. Apostle: Conveys the authoritative nature of the epistle.
3. Like precious faith: This is one word in the Greek and it means ‘equal in honor and privilege.’ This is most likely in reference to the Diaspora but would also include Gentile believers meaning that their ‘faith’ was equal to that of the apostles.

C. Jesus is God 2 Peter 1:1; 2

1. Our God and Savior Jesus Christ: This is one of the strongest assertions of the deity of Christ outside of the Gospels.
2. God and—Jesus our Lord: In vs. 2 God the Father and God the Son are identified.

D. The Greeting 1Peter 1:2 “Grace and peace be multiplied in you...”

1. Grace: The typical Greek greeting which emphasizes God’s favor
2. Peace: The typical Hebrew greeting ‘shalom’ meaning total well being.
3. Knowledge: Peter says that ‘grace and peace’ come from the ‘knowledge’ of Him [Jesus]. *See “Knowledge” in the sidebar.*

E. The Importance of Second Peter

1. Cultural issues: Peter helps us come to terms with our postmodern culture. The letter is ‘corrective’ in nature and applies to many ‘within’ the church who are currently attempting to reach the lost at the expense of the truth. Peter takes a different approach than did Paul. *See Acts 17:22-34*
2. Doctrinal Issues: Peter writes to believers who were coming to terms with teachers who were rejecting the ethical teachings of Jesus but who still claimed to be followers of Jesus. Many (like many today) emphasized grace so much that it seemed as if the final judgment did not matter much.

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God.”

Hebrews 12:14-15

2 Peter 1:1-4 (NKJV)

:1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

: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,

: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.

Knowledge [Epignosis]

Peter uses this Greek word in 2 Peter 1:2, 3, 8; 2:20. The word literally means “coming to know.” It is often referred to as ‘experiential’ knowledge but it goes much deeper than that. It’s not just “learning from my mistakes.”

“What is clear is that this knowledge implies an ethical lifestyle. Therefore the knowledge is not simply intellectual (*knowing things about God and Jesus*), or even personal in the sense of having met someone, but knowledge that results in committed living.”

Peter H. Davids
Letters of 2 Peter & Jude
Eerdmans p. 164