

- How does this make you feel about Divine Power?
 - What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
- Consider – This Divine Power had given us everything we need for a godly life.
 - Why do we ignore it?
 - Genesis 4:6 Sin is crouching at your door, it desires to have you, but you must rule over it!
- How do we share in the Divine Nature of God?
 - Believers share in God's moral and spiritual qualities – love, holiness, and righteousness. We escape punishment and hell.
 - This week reflect on the this truth! We share in the God's qualities – love, holiness and righteousness. God imputes these qualities to us.
- Great and precious promises were given to us. Who is us? This is a great comfort to the Gentiles.

Be on the watch for “make every effort”! Give all diligence!

Read 2 Peter 1:5-9

- What is the reason we should make every effort? *Gratitude – we share in God's Divine Nature, we escape punishment. Participate in the Divine Nature of God.*
- What does “make every effort” mean to you?
- Does spiritual growth happen passively?
- We begin our walk with God with faith. Add to your faith –
 - Goodness/virtue-excel in moral, intellectual, and physical realms
 - Knowledge-includes not only intellectual knowledge, but relational knowledge of Christ
 - Self-control- submission to the Holy Spirit.
 - Perseverance/steadfastness-in the midst of suffering
 - Godliness
 - Mutual affection
 - Love-charity to all mankind.
 - Which of these need attention in 2024?
 - With faith as the foundation, these are the milestones in our walk with God.
- How do we keep from being ineffective and unproductive? *If these building blocks are growing in our life.*
- What is our status if don't possess and increase these qualities? *Ineffective and unfruitful. Near-sighted and blind. We are unable to see God, only ourselves.*
 - This is a warning to us. These words, ineffective and unfruitful and near-sighted and blind, characterize the lives of many Christians today.

Read 2 Peter 1:10-11

- Make every effort!
- What will keep us from stumbling?
- What is our reward if we increase the qualities of these building blocks? *We will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom.*
 - What will your entrance into heaven be like?

Read 2 Peter 1:12-15

- What is Peter's motivation? *To ground us in the truth of the Gospel.*
- Why must we be reminded who God is and what he has done for us?

Read 2 Peter 1:16-18

- Peter's testimony about Jesus is reliable, compelling and truthful. He was an eyewitness.
- Of all the events Peter witnessed of Jesus' life, why did Peter pick the Transfiguration to include in this letter?
 - Matthew 17:2 His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.
 - Matthew 17:5 and a voice from a cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.
 - Our witnesses both SAW and HEARD.
- Consider... As God requires us to give honor and glory to his Son by confessing him to be our Savior, so does he give honor and glory to our Savior by declaring him to be his Son.

Read 2 Peter 1:19-21

- Why does Peter encourage us to pay attention to OT prophetic message? *This is another argument to the truth and reality of the gospel. The fulfillment of prophecy would resonate with the Jewish believers more than eyewitness accounts of sight and voice from heaven.*
- Because God's Word is reliable, we should heed it as the only source of light in the midst of a dark world. Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
- We have some beautiful prose from Peter... "until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts!"
- What is being referenced in "until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts"?
 - *The enlightening of a dark mind is like light of daybreak that advances, spreads and diffuses itself through the whole soul. It is a growing knowledge Jesus Christ.*
- Where does prophecy originate? *No prophecy comes from human imagination but from God by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

We are all spiritually equal and share a common faith.

Through God's Divine Power we have everything needed for a godly life and an eternal life.

Through God's Divine Nature we share in Christ's righteous.

We must make every effort to grow in our knowledge of God.

The Gospel is true and reliable. We have eyewitnesses and the prophetic message to confirm the truthfulness.

Jesus is going to return.

1:19–21 The gospel message rests not only on the apostles' testimony but also on the OT. What Peter experienced on the mountain with Jesus fulfilled OT promises. Because God's Word is reliable, believers should heed it as the only source of light in the midst of a dark world (cf. Ps 19:8; 119:105, 130). This attentive posture towards God's Word must continue until the true and fuller light arrives at Christ's return. Borrowing language from several OT texts (Isa 9:2; Mal 4:2), Peter directs believers to hope in the return of Christ, the morning star who will rule over creation (Num 24:14–19). This hope is grounded in the truth that no prophecy comes from human imagination but from God by the power of the Spirit, who carried men along like a wind filling the sails of a boat. Scripture originates in the mind of God, but it is delivered through the agency of human beings whom God inspired to write exactly what they wrote without overriding their distinctive personalities and experience

The Danger of False Teachers (2:1–22)

The Certainty of False Teachers Coming (2:1–3a)

Having laid the foundation of his experience with Jesus and the authority of the OT, Peter now addresses the problem at hand: the presence of false teachers. Like Israel before her (e.g., Jer 14:13–14), the church also must deal with false teachers, perhaps even more so than Israel did. These false teachers bring in heresies that harm the church. Their departure from the truth of the gospel (whether through addition or subtraction) will often be subtle, introduced with the stealth of a deadly enemy bent on our destruction.⁹ Such heresies are often not overt or obvious, but subtle and indiscernible to the person not intimately familiar with the gospel. By departing from the true gospel, these false teachers deny the very Master they claim to follow. As a result, they are on the path to eternal destruction. Sadly, many will be ensnared by their "sensuality," a term that refers to a "lack of self-constraint which involves one in conduct that violates all bounds of what is socially acceptable."¹⁰ Through the false doctrine and sensual conduct, they bring dishonor to God's name. Motivated by greed, their goal is to exploit others. False teachers teach false gospels using false words that give people a false hope.

The Certain Condemnation of False Teachers (2:3b–10a)

2:3b Despite their apparent success, false teachers will not get away with their deception, because God's judgment will come upon them. God will bring final judgment on these false teachers for what they have taught and for leading people astray. God's judgment is rarely immediate; he often holds off judgment so that people may repent before it is too late (3:9). But we should not mistake his patience for approval of or indifference toward sin.

2:4–8 In Greek, verses 4–10a are a single sentence in which Peter uses a series of four "if" statements followed by two "then" statements that reveal the natural conclusions. Each "if" statement is based on an example drawn from the OT of God rescuing the godly while judging the wicked. The first example is the rebellious angels that God cast into hell to await judgment. This is an expanded summary of Genesis 6:1–4, where the sons of God married the daughters of man, thereby provoking God's judgment. That passage does not record God condemning these angels to hell, but later Jewish writings do (e.g., *1 Enoch* 6–21).¹¹ Peter's second example is God saving Noah and his family from the flood through the ark but judging the wicked people of the earth (Gen 6–9). Like preachers of the gospel, Noah, a herald of righteousness, proclaimed a message of rescue from God's coming wrath. The third example (vv. 6–8) is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 18:1–19:29), two cities God destroyed because of their immorality. Yet in the midst of this judgment, God saved righteous Lot, who was continually tormented by the wickedness surrounding him. Repulsion and grief over the wickedness of our culture are marks of genuine righteousness. Despite his obvious flaws, here God declares him righteous.

WHAT DOES "YOU MUST UNDERSTAND NO PROPHECY CAME ABOUT BY THE PROPHET'S OWN INTERPRETATION OF THINGS" MEAN?