

2 Peter Overview

Author: Simon Peter (Ch 1:1)

Audience: same as the first letter...fellow believers, brothers and sisters in Christ in Asia
Minor (Ch 3:1)

Date: about 67 AD, shortly before his death

Purpose: one last chance to remind us of things we already know
(Ch 1:2-15)...

So we grow in grace and peace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ
(Ch 1:2, Ch 3:18)

Theme: Jesus Christ...the Truth that stands opposed to the lie

- Lord (supreme authority): 5 times in Ch 1 + 7 times in Ch 2-3
- Savior (deliverer)
- Lord and Savior: 4 times
- Beloved Son
- equated with God: 2 times

Topics:

1. The True Word of God (Ch 1:16-21)
2. Beware of false teachers (Ch 2:1-22)
3. Remember...(Ch 3:1-10)
4. Forward, March! (Ch 3:11-17)
5. Last words (Ch 3:18)

2 Peter Chapter 1

v1 Servant:

“slave”

The first, predominant identity...

boastful Peter is “lost” in Jesus Christ

Peter was not longing for a title to wave before others...

he was a slave

Would “slave” describe you?

Is that how you approach your ministry?

Or deep down in your heart do you want to be a “somebody”?

Apostle:

His authority in the Body: “sent one, delegate, ambassador”

“faceless” representative of the King’s word and will

to them that have obtained like precious faith with us:

all who have believed Jesus Christ is I AM have received a saving faith...

Remember...

- faith is not of our doing, it is a gift received from God
(Rom 12:3)
- by grace thru faith we are saved...a gift, not works
(Eph 2:8-9)
- it is impossible to please God apart from faith
(Heb 11:6)
saving faith adds nothing to the work of Jesus Christ
- the just (as if it never happened) shall live by faith
(Hab 2:4 + Paul’s trilogy)

through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ:
how did we justifiably qualify for such a gift?

Not by our attaining acceptability in the eyes of a holy and just God...
but by the acceptable sacrifice of the holy and just Lamb of God on
our behalf

Note: God and Jesus Christ are equated
Point blank: Jesus is God. (hello JW's, Mormons, those who deny His
deity)

no doubt as to the identity of Jesus Christ: I AM
John 20:24-29

v2 knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord:
we all want more grace and peace...how are grace and peace multiplied in
our lives?

Knowledge of God and Jesus Christ our Lord

How gain knowledge of Jesus Christ?
Only by time in the Word of God
There is a direct correlation between peace in your life and time in
the Word

the more time you spend with the Lord, the more you know Him...
it is a relationship!
the more you know Him the more of His grace and peace you will
have...regardless of worldly circumstances

Note: God and Jesus Christ are equated again

the letter ends the same way (Ch 3:18)

v3 divine power:

Whose Divine power? Jesus Christ's.

only the Divine can have Divine power

Jesus has Divine power...because He is Divine

Again, Jesus Christ is equated with God

unlike Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Charles Taze Russell,

Jesus not only taught us how to live but also gave us the power to do so.

Teaching how...without the power to do...is not liberating, it is

frustrating...

- for we are unable to do what we are taught
- and what level of "doing" we can attain fuels pride...God hates pride

Jesus Christ is unique...only Jesus can set us free from the power and curse of sin

Note: what did Mary teach us?

John 2:5

all things that pertain to life and godliness:

By His divine power, ALL things (Eph 1:3) relating to His life and holiness have been gratuitously given to those who believe...not as a wage for our work...a gift

apart from faith in Jesus Christ...exercised by surrender and submission... we remain dead in our sins, devoid of both life and holiness

Jesus did not reveal Himself to us...

and does not increase our knowledge of Him thru the Word...

so we can remain in bondage and in the filth of the world, but to call us up to

- His glory (which comes after suffering, remember)
- His excellence of character...holiness

v4

given unto us...promises:

He has given us the greatest and priceless promises...like

| John 6:35-40

| John 11:25-26a

| John 14:1-3, 14-18

| Rev 1:5-6

Rev 3:10

partakers of the divine nature:

that we can “share” the nature of Christ...

- born of the spirit to eternal life
- new creatures in Christ...

John 17:15-23

escaped the corruption that is in the world:

He is our way of escape from the wrath that is to come to judge the filth,
the moral decay, of this wicked world

yet another wave of gross perversion is sweeping this nation

- for decades: killing innocent children...abortion

Lev 18:21

- now: homosexual marriages...behavior God says is vile and disgusting defiling a sacred institution God gave to man and woman

Lev 18:22-27

Lev 20:13

Rom 1:21-27

Before we continue, we would be wise to slow down and examine again what the Holy Spirit is saying to us thru Peter...

in v3-4...

- divine power of God, Creator of the universe
- has past tense
- given we cannot earn
- unto us to those who put their faith in Jesus
- all what is excluded?
- things that pertain substantiative, not fluff
- unto life eternal with Him
- godliness His nature vs ours
- through John 14:6
- knowledge Scripture is the beginning of knowledge
(Prov 1:7)
- of Him Jesus Christ, God the Son
- that hath called past tense...chosen...and chosen by name
- us believers
- to glory He shares His glory!
- and virtue He shares this too
- given James 1:17
- great/precious promises His Word WILL come to pass!
- partakers of Divine nature we can be restored to pre-fall fellowship
- escaped we were POWs until Jesus set us free
- corruption/world/lust inseparable trio...1 John 2:15-17

now looking at v1-4...

what we have from God the Father thru God the Son

1. precious faith
2. righteousness
3. grace
4. peace
5. all things that pertain to life and godliness
6. glory
7. virtue
8. great and precious promises
9. His nature
10. Escape from the corruption and lust of the world

Do you need any of those things...come up for prayer

Know anyone who wants/needs these things?

Share Jesus with them!

v5-7 giving all diligence:

we have been given all of v3-4 by the Divine power of Jesus Christ...
we share His Divine power...when we submit our lives and will to His...

so we can walk with the Lord our Savior with daily

- eagerness
- sincerity
- determination of mind...

compounding our faith with...

1. virtue = “excellence, goodness”
2. knowledge = “understanding”...not emotions!
3. temperance = “self-control”, dominion over the flesh
4. patience = “cheerful endurance, perseverance”
5. godliness = “holiness”
6. brotherly kindness = “philadelphia”
7. love = “agape”

faith leads to God’s transforming love...the more excellent way...

God’s nature
1 Cor 12:31 – 13:8a

the “faith + 7”...the complete yielding our lives to the Divine power of
Jesus Christ

1. are the answer to the question of what the Divine nature is (v4)
2. that which make us fruitful in Jesus (v8)
3. the absence of them causes blindness and loss of memory (v9)
4. how to keep from tripping and having a deeply rooted faith
(v10)

v8 if these be in you and abound:

if the nature of Christ is in us...and as we possess v5-7 thru denial of self
and daily picking up our cross and following Jesus...we will not be

- barren: useless, lazy
- unfruitful: John 15:1-8...

God expects us to be fruitful...and we will be known by
our fruit

Is your walk with Christ barren and unfruitful? Matt 16:24

- v9 but he that lacks these things:
those that cannot “solve” the math exercise in v5-7
(addition by subtraction...John 3:30)
- are blind (spiritually)
 - are short-sighted (2 Cor 5:7)
 - have “lost sight of” the fact that their sins are forgiven and that they have been washed (Eph 2:1-7)
- Satan would love to rip you off of this truth!

- v10 make your calling and election sure:
a verse often isolated and violated to teach salvation is dependent upon our performance...false teaching

sure means “stable” or “to take root”
sure is having an unwavering, deeply rooted faith in God’s Word
unsure is being tossed about by the winds of false doctrine

Eph 4:14
James 1:6

How are we to earnestly “get grounded” in our election into the kingdom of God?

By diligently giving our lives completely over to the Holy Spirit...
By living lives committed to the Word of God...

How?

- humbling your self before God (James 4:7-8, 1 Peter 5:5b-6)
- putting on
 1. the armor of light
Rom 13:12
 2. Jesus Christ, making no provision for the flesh
Rom 13:14
 3. new man, created in righteousness and true holiness
Eph 4:24, Col 3:10
- having the mind of Christ (Phil 2:5-8)
- being a doer of the Word (James 1:22, 2 Cor 5:7)
- being fruitful (Ps 1:1-3, Gal 5:22-23)

if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:
our natural tendency is to fall
Jer 17:9

...a righteous man does 7 times a day!
Prov 24:16

PTL for God's mercies, which are new every morning!
Great is His faithfulness!
Lam 3:22-23

Those truths in the Word of God reveal:

- our inability to control ourselves
- the futility and discouragement of trying to live holy lives on our own power
- we need the power of God every day to live a holy life

v11 entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly:
We are chosen by the sovereign God...given eternal life, and it abundantly
(John 10:10)

Our election was paid for by God and given to us by grace thru faith...
Our fruit is

- evidence of a saving faith...not just a "said" faith
- that which makes our calling and election firm-footed and deeply rooted

most Christians...saved by grace thru faith...live by works to stay
saved...are

- Looking for loopholes to "enjoy" in the flesh
- Exploring just how far they can push the envelope of sin and still be saved
- Living in a legal relationship with God
- Continually slipping and stumbling on their walk
- Knowing only defeat and frustration in their walk with Christ
(Rom 7)

Few Christians...saved by grace thru faith...live by grace thru faith...are

- Denying their flesh, picking up their cross, and following Jesus
- Diligently seeking the mainstream of God's will for their lives
- Living in a loving relationship with God
- Walking sure-footedly...not with spiritual scraped knees and elbows
- Knowing victory in their walk (Rom 8)
- Entering boldly into His presence

v12 I will not be negligent...established in the present truth:
being diligent, not negligent

“I will not be careless about reminding you of these truths...
repeatedly...even though you already know them.”

Why? Why do we need the written Word

- God’s work in us (Phil 1:6) is
- continually opposed by the flesh, the world, and satan
(1 Peter 5:8)...all to rip us off and spoil our fruit...
making it
- possible to lose sight of the blatantly obvious...so
- we need to be continually reminded

the Truth sets us free...

the present truth...the truth we have in our hands...the Word of God...
gives stability to our lives

the winds of doctrine do not...
our emotions do not

v13-15 to stir you up:

“As long as a live in this tent, it is right that I continually remind you, to
awaken you so that you watch and pray and enter not into
temptation.”

...as Jesus urgently “stirred up” him in the Garden of Gethsemane
(Matt 26:40-41)

...as Jesus urges His Bride...to watch, be ready, occupy

Peter had urgency...for this was written near the end of his life
i.e. this probationary life confined by space and time

Paul had the same urgency to stir up Timothy in his last letter (2 Tim)

I feel a sense of urgency – I don’t know the number of my days but I do
know the season in which we live!

v16-18 we have not followed cunningly devised fables...eyewitnesses...heard:
issue: false teachers in the Body.

the Truth Peter had proclaimed...

- the birth, suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ...
- the deity of Jesus Christ...
- Salvation in no other name and by the grace of God
- The return of Jesus Christ in glory

is not cheap fiction or passing drama! It is eternal truth

Peter was an

- Eye-witness (Matt 17:1-6)
- Ear-witness
- Touch-witness (1 John 1:1-4)

...of the Lord's

- majesty
- love and approval of God the Father
- suffering
- resurrection
- glory
- ascension

today, the issue remains: false teachers in the Body.

consider the incredible doctrines being sold by JW's, Mormons,
Roman Catholics

a man with only the Bible could be shipwrecked and become a
born-again Christian, he could never become a JW or a
Mormon or a Roman Catholic

v19 we have also a more sure word of prophesy:

God has given us a more certain revelation of truth than our

- senses of sight, hearing, smell, and touch...
- emotions
- even of eyewitness accounts...

the inerrant and inspired Word of God...

God's Word is more sure than any experience or feeling.
The Word is our final authority.

also a message of Paul in his last letter (2 Tim 3:16-17)

do well that you take heed:

Since the Bible is the Word of God, we would be wise to read it, study it, apply it to our hearts, and obey it...so

- *I AM* the Light of the World (John 8:12)
- can chase away all the darkness in our dark hearts (John 3:19)
- until He, the Morning Star, returns (Rev 2:28, Rev 22:16)

v20 no prophesy...is of any private interpretation:
private = "one's own, separate"

The Word was not given so that each of may have our own interpretation of the Truth.

God's Truth is absolute and unchanging (Heb 13:5)

when God gave His Word, He had an intention in doing so...

His intent is the proper interpretation

To help us

1. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, fulfilling the Word
2. The Holy Spirit is given to teach us all things and to lead us in the Truth
 - pray to the Teacher for revelation
 - Scripture interprets Scripture
 - context, context, context
 - use IBS (OIA)

this is the Word we live by...that gives our lives stability...

Beware...flee...the private interpretations given to

- Joseph Smith...ff
- Charles Taze Russell...ff
- any Pope
- any man (Acts 17:11)

v21 prophesy came not...by the will of man:
 prophesy...The Word of God...is light authored by God the Holy Spirit

 darkness resides in the world and in the hearts of men (Gen 6:5)
 false teachers teach doctrine contrary to the Word of God...
 not blatantly contrary but subtly

 if a man teaches something feels good and pleasing to the flesh, he is a
 false teacher

Gal 5:17

Rom 7:14, 18

Rom 8:13-14

2 Peter Chapter 2

Issue: False teachers...those NOT speaking as moved by the Holy Spirit (Ch 1:21)
Peter raises the same red flag Jesus, Paul, John, James, and Jude

Good News for those who believe The Truth (John 6:29)...Bad News for those
that believe a lie

v1 there were false prophets also among the people:
God sent His prophets to His people Israel...
there were also false prophets...
imposters sent by the deceiver intent on leading Israel away from
God
God allowed the false prophets to test His people

Deut 13:1-3

there shall be false teachers among you:
therefore, the Church should expect false teachers...counterfeits...
who will surreptitiously introduce poison...lies...
false doctrine...spiritual cancer...
to lead people away from Jesus Christ...to cripple or kill the Body
of Christ

we find poisons and cancers such as these in the Church today:

- Denial of
 1. the deity of Jesus Christ
 2. the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 3. the Gospel of Grace
 4. the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible as the
Word of God
 5. the existence of hell
- Embrace of
 1. “feel good” Christianity without the Cross and the
denial of self
 2. Health and Wealth
 3. Philosophies with self-gratification as the goal of
life
 4. Psychology
 - “self-“ orientation on every issue of life
 - love of self vs selfless love
 - pre-occupation with sex...works of Freud,
Reich, Jung etc

- Acceptance of
 1. Darwinism (evolution as “fact” of beginnings... sexual orientation)
 2. Situational ethics
 3. Morality without the authority of Jesus Christ
 4. Yoga

bring upon themselves swift destruction:

the false teachers bring eternal ruin upon themselves...

God does not condemn them

He only gives them their choice...they love the darkness, He gives it to them

John 3:14-19

- v2 many shall follow their pernicious ways...the way of truth shall be evil spoken of:
 these false teachers have large followings who ingest their toxic poison...
 and keep coming back for more...bringing others with them

Why are these cancers not cut out...why do these cancers persist?

1. the listeners are spiritually complacent in their relationship with Jesus Christ and ignorant of the word of God...walking by the flesh and not the Spirit

1 John 4:1-3

1 Cor 3:1-3

2. “I want to go to a church that makes me feel good, that won’t talk about sin!”

2 Tim 3:12 – 4:4

3. Just as He allowed the false prophets to test Israel, God allows false teachers to test us as to our diligence to “search these things out”

Acts 17:11

v3 through covetousness...with feigned words make merchandise:
false teachers...their creed is greed
peddling fables...poisoned sugar cubes...to enrich themselves

“Religion is Big Business!”
that’s their motive...Satan’s is far more sinister

whose judgment...lingereth not...damnation slumbereth not:
Since others of their kind went before them did not receive immediate
judgment...because God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
and of great kindness...
they believed a lie from the father of lies...and as infectious agents...
are sowing those lies in the Body of Christ

the history of the Church is one continuous “Flu season”

but rest assured, God knows who in the Church are germs...
He knows the tares from the wheat...and they will be separated at
harvest time

v4-9 For if God:

2 Peter 3:9...so God warns the false teachers of His certain judgment...
their reward

Since God

1. was not at all lenient with the rebellious angels...
1/3 that rebelled...creating hell for them
Jude 6

Warning: hell is real!
a maximum security prison of solitary
confinement...
a place of torment...of fire and darkness...
Mark 9:43-48
NOT a giant party

a holding tank...
a half way house...for rebels on their way to
the Lake of Fire

Satan’s cry in Milton’s *Paradise Lost* is a lie
“Better to reign in hell than serve in
heaven!”
Satan does not rule in hell...God does.
Satan will be hell’s chief prisoner...chained

2. did not wink at the wickedness of “the original world”...
God’s wrath fell in a world-wide judgment of unrestrained
wickedness by the Flood...radically changing the
world...

but Noah was preserved because he found grace in the eyes
of the Lord...because Noah believed!
Gen 6:5-8

for 120 years, Noah was a “Revival Tent Meeting”
preacher!
“Repent! Get on board before it’s too late!”

3. incinerated Sodom & Gomorrah
Divine cleansing of abominable sin by fire and brimstone
from heaven...
as an example to those who are like-minded

today, Sodom-ites (I am not going to sugar-coat God’s
word) are affirmed in many churches...not warned
and not rebuked

Sodom-ites even hold positions of leadership in certain
churches (pastors...)

what makes them think their perversion is acceptable to
God?

Ignorant of the Truth...even despising the Truth...
they have believed a lie from the father of
lies

and their judgment will be even more severe than fire and
brimstone

Matt 10:14-15

But the cleansing could not take place until the righteous
were removed...

Lot

- Holy...(set apart)...
but carnal and compromising...
- abiding with the vile, wanting to be “set apart”
in their midst...
rather than abiding in Christ apart from them
like Uncle Abraham
- Righteous...by faith
but an ineffective witness of righteousness
- Burdened and tortured by the filthy, lawless
behavior of the sodomites...
yet willing to co-exist with them in his
“Tolerance and Diversity” attitude
- Nonetheless...was snatched out before the
wrath of God fell

God, the Lord of the Harvest, has a profound track record demonstrating that He is more than able and willing to sort out the tares from the wheat...in His perfect time

- He rescues the godly (the just shall live by faith) before His wrath falls
- He reserves...guards...the rebels until the Day of Judgment...
a day of sudden punishment appointed by The Holy and Just God.

God does not tolerate sin

Until then, what are we to do?

- Be discerning, using the Word of God to test all things
- Love the sinner while hating the sin
- Go out on search-and-rescue missions (2 Cor 4:4, Eph 6:12)
- Be holy, standing apart from the world, and preaching the Absolute Truth of God with loving boldness
- Be like Noah, not like Lot

This passage is not just a wake-up call for the lost...it is a wake-up call for the Church

- Which today is indistinguishable from the world...
so cleanse yourself!
- And has more “voices of Lot” than “voices of Noah”...
be salt and light

v10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh:

speaking to

- the false teachers (v1) ...the deceiving
- the multitudes that follow them (v2)...the deceived

God has mercifully given the examples of

- the fallen angels
- the original, pre-Flood world
- Sodom & Gomorrah...
-

to warn them about the fruit of their choices...
so they have no excuse!

They are held accountable to

- “know better”
- to make right choices
- abandon their foolish choices

1. Lust: the uncontrollable, burning desires of the flesh...
sexual immorality first and foremost
(clean = 1 man + 1 woman in marriage)
2. Chaos: the hatred of authority over their lives
(1 Cor 14:33, 40)
3. Self-pleasing...even to the point of careless daring and
inordinate risks
4. Fearless in their rebellion...refusing to be governed by
God...they rail against God and angels...the devil
and demons!

v11-14 whereas angels...bring not...these, as natural brute beasts...cursed children:
angels, ministering spirits, do not “mouth off” against the devil or
demons...not even

Jude 7-11a

but physical, unreasonable, unregenerate, natural man does!
even though angels are greater in power than 2D man...1:185,000
and the outer limit of that ratio has not been revealed!

Natural result of Evolution: Since I came from an animal, I will act like
an animal

unregenerate man is a snarling, wild animal...a rabid dog
What do we do with rabid dogs?
Call Animal Control...to capture them and destroy them

unregenerate man speaks evil of things he does not understand...
the definition of a fool
he does not understand because he

- loves the darkness...
- does not believe

unbelieving men...committing the unpardonable sin of unbelief...
choose a life of

- sensual delight
- insatiable debauchery...even in broad daylight...
seen blatantly in our society today
(entertainment, advertising, and fashion industries)
- reveling in self...unable to refrain from the lusts of the flesh,
their hearts being trained to covet

such a man cannot stop sinning...he is a slave to it.

God calls their rebellious choices “stains” and “diseases”...
He calls them “cursed children”

and they will receive the reward of his rebellious choices

- wailing and gnashing of teeth
- eternal torment first in hell and then in the Lake of Fire
- death...eternal separation from God

Gal 6:7-8

If you live for self, you will die in self and by self

their unbelief does not change the Absolute, Eternal, Unchanging Truth of
God...their self-delusion does not chase away the
Light of the World

but their poison...cancer...has infected the Church

sowing calamity and mischief in the Church, they entrap others who are unstable

(James 1:8, 22)

enticing others to laugh with them at Rom 6:23 and deny Matt 16:24

v15-16 Which have forsaken...following the way of Balaam:
these false teachers have abandoned God's way of truth...
in favor of mercenary materialism...Balaam's way (Num 22-25)

- a prophet for hire to curse God's people wandering in the wilderness
(vs going by faith into their inheritance)
- Balaam could not...was even rebuked by his donkey for his insanity...
the thanks for which was a beating
- But he gave Balak the way to get GOD TO CURSE His people –
send their women unto the men of Israel...
sexual immorality...lust of the flesh

v17-19 wells without water...great swelling words...brought in bondage:
these false teachers with their insane teachings...who have an appointment
with the utter darkness if they do not repent...

- are as worthless as a dry well or a rain cloud blown away by the wind
- are fountains of high-sounding, flesh-pleasing, boastful words
- speak words that promise "freedom"... "If it feels good, do it!"
- but are lies...words that are empty and without power to break the bondage of sin and death

Prov 27:20

there is no freedom in "no satisfaction"...only bondage
only Jesus...only His words...satisfies
Jesus alone liberates...by giving us power to NOT sin
No man is ever a master...every man is a slave – either to
God or to satan/self/sin

v20-22 after they have escaped...again entangled...latter end is worse:

The fruit of false teaching:

- enticement
- endangerment
- entanglement
- enslavement

a very solemn warning to the “buyers”...those who follow the false teachers...who

- after having heard the Truth about freedom from sin and death by spiritual regeneration thru faith in Jesus Christ
- “reason it” (Is 1:18-20)
- dabble with faith (H + B + O + W)...but don’t commit... don’t separate themselves from the world...and in the end
- reject the denial of self for the indulgence of self
- reject selfless love for selfish love
- reject the grace of God thru the finished work of Jesus Christ for their own works

are no better than brute beasts...

even worse off because now they are accountable for what they have heard

Luke 12:47-48

The warning is clear...and the Church is dirty and sick
But the Lord knows how to deliver the godly!

So, what’s it going to be for you –

- vacillation...or...unconditional surrender?
- “living for death”...or...dying for Life?
- Saving your life to lose it...or...losing your life to save it?
- The Marriage Feast of the Lamb...or...your own vomit?
- Wallowing in your own filth...or...white linen garments and a crown?

Is your heart...

- Without understanding...as hard as the sidewalk...and unfruitful?
- As shallow as the stony soil...and unfruitful?
- Choked by the deceitfulness of riches and the cares of this world like the thorny soil...and unfruitful?
- As fruitful as the good soil?

Make your calling and election sure...

- submit to the Divine Nature (Ch 1:5-7)
- be fruitful...bear good fruit!

Time is of the essence!

2 Peter Chapter 3

Peter's 2nd letter is a reminder

- To live a holy life....a life noticeably different than the world
- Beware of false teachers

v1 beloved:

will be used 5 times in these concluding 18 verses...conveying both

- a tenderness...to one receiving agape love
- a sense of urgency

I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

Peter is writing to fully awaken them, whose minds have been tested as genuine...by trials, tribulations, and persecutions (1st letter)

interesting...even the mind of a tested believer needs to be reminded
...every believer will fall asleep without a concerted effort to be
awake

v2 be mindful of the words:

the reminder: stay in the Word of God

we stay awake by staying in the Word of God...daily

the words of God...the entire counsel of God

- spoken by the prophets (OT)
- exhorted by the apostles (NT)

it is essential to read/study/teach the entire counsel of God, not just the NT
(Acts 20:27)

cannot understand either without the other

v3-4 Knowing this first:
knowing this most importantly...
hear Peter's sense of urgency to be watching and ready

shall come in the last days scoffers, walking...and saying:

Jude 17-19

in the days before the Lord Jesus Christ returns, there WILL be false teachers

- not spiritual but living after the flesh...blind guides
- proclaiming the Word of God is untrustworthy...just a bunch of myths written by mere men
- mocking the believers for believing the Bible

Where is the promise of His coming:

They...the scoffers...will tauntingly ask,

“Do you mean to say you actually believe the near future will be even remotely like what those “*Left Behind*” books are about?

Are you so simple as to believe what the Bible says?

That is an ancient book written by ancient men!

This is the 21st century, man!

Get with the times!

You say Jesus is coming back...my silly grandmother used to tell me that and her grandmother told her that...etc, etc, etc

So where is the promised Messiah?

Where is this Jesus of yours?

People like you have been saying forever that He's coming back to judge 'sinners' and make things right...but He is a no-show!

Nothing is different, nothing has changed ever since the creation.”

Hmmm...acknowledgment of the beginning of all things...

which means there is a Creator...

but they think Him untrustworthy or incapable or indifferent...

blasphemy

today, they even mock creation and embrace evolution more blasphemous

Note: same question asked by this writer and others in Matt 24:3...
but not mockingly

“Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of
Your coming, and of the end of the world?”

And Jesus told them the signs of the season...described the labor
pains

Back to the unbelieving mockers...

v5-6 for this they willingly are ignorant...heavens were of old...world...perished:
determined to be stupid, they make a choice to not believe the Word of
God about His

- holiness
- jealousy
- power and majesty...as declared by the heavens
- mercy and grace and love...as demonstrated by provision of
breath...food...
- longsuffering of wicked, unbelieving men...like themselves
- ultimate justice

God was loving and longsuffering with the original world...
which was only evil continually.

He endured the world's wicked unbelief and rejection...and endured it...
and endured it...and endured it...until He ceased enduring.

Then He poured out His holy and just and jealous wrath...flooding the
entire planet and destroying all life...except those who believed
what He had said

evidence of world-wide cataclysm in our state – the Grand Canyon

What do the scoffers choose to believe?

- Noah's Flood is a myth
- It was a local flood

Interesting...every culture has a “flood” story...

v7 heavens and the earth, which are now...reserved:
because of the Flood, this planet is radically different from the beginning
of creation...but the world is no different

- unbelieving
- wicked
- mocking...

1. the Word of God

2. God...and His

- holiness
- jealousy
- power and majesty...as declared by the heavens
- mercy and grace and love...as demonstrated by
provision of breath...food...
the work and words of the Lord Jesus Christ
- longsuffering of wicked, unbelieving men...
like themselves
- ultimate justice

but some day, as before, the longsuffering of God will cease and He will
again pour out

His holy and just and jealous wrath upon wicked unbelievers

reserved unto fire = “treasury of fire”

the world is a great store of fire!

atomic power unleashed; when Jesus releases His grip on the atom...

The second world-wide judgment will be by consuming fire because God
promised Noah

He would never again flood the world

God is true to His Word

the Word of God was true...is true...will always be true

ungodly men:

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness
(Joel 2:13)...

but if His grace and mercy and love are rejected, His justice will be
executed

His wrath is currently being restrained...but it is an absolute truth that this
world will be unable to escape the appointed day of judgment and
destruction...

godly men...who believe and receive...are baptized with fire...

the Holy Spirit

ungodly men...who refuse to believe and receive...will be baptized by fire
too

Ps 50:3

Noah entered the Ark and was saved...we enter into Jesus Christ and are
saved too

1 Thes 1:10

1 Thes 5:9

Rom 5:8-10

2 Peter 2:9

v8 be not ignorant:

beloved of God, choose to believe

one day...thousand years:

one day = 24 hours

Ps 90:4

speaking of v3-7...the longsuffering of God (outside of time)

vs

the patience of man (trapped in time)

reminds me of a conversation God had with grumbling, whining,
complaining man...

“Lord, is 1000 years really like a day to you?”

“Yes.”

“Hmm. How long is a man’s life time?”

“It is but a minute to Me.”

“Well, how much is a million dollars?”

“It is but a penny.”

“Lord, will you give me a penny?”

“Just a minute.”

v9 the Lord is not slack...men count slackness:

God is never late or tardy with His promises...

When He returns, Jesus Christ will not be late or tardy

When it comes to appointments, men prefer

- Lombardi time (10 minutes early)
- Calvary Chapel time (20 minutes late)
- Later (indefinite delay)
- Never (avoidance)

but God is always right on time!

but is longsuffering...not willing that any:

God puts up with immeasurably more grief than we do

- be thankful He is God and we are not
- do not misinterpret or mock His patience and grace and mercy and love

Why is God longsuffering?

1 John 4:8b

God is love

1 Cor 13:4-8a

definition of love...declaration of God's nature

this verse captures the heart of God – that all men make correcting choices

- admit they are a sinner...that they are wrong and He is right
- reverse the direction of their life
- choose life and not death (Deut 30:15-20)

Is 1:18-20

Jesus Christ died for all to make possible a correcting choice by all men
God chooses for salvation whosoever will believe, repent

Oh, by the way...how can they come to repentance unless repentance is preached?

- by the Word of God being shared with loving boldness
- by our lifestyles

v10 But:

not all men will come to repentance...most will choose to perish

The Day of the Lord:

a very significant phrase in Scripture...referring to when

- God's holy and just and jealous wrath will be poured out on an unbelieving, blasphemous world...
- God's longsuffering ceases...
- Suddenly He says, "Enough is enough!"
- "time's up!"
- no more "Ollie Ollie, ox in free!"

phrase appears 29 times in Scripture

Is 13:6-9

Zeph 1:14-18

how do I describe the Day of the Lord?

A boy...did or said something that was very unacceptable to his parents

he was warned to stop...to make different choices

But he did not heed the warning and was chastised... corrected... and warned again

he still did not heed the warning or learn from the chastisement

Then, suddenly, came "The Day of Dad"...the day of his father's wrath

- Mouth washed out with soap
- Banishment to his room...no toys...not books... no friends...etc

On the Day of the Lord, the defiant, rebellious, blasphemous unbelievers

- get their mouths washed out...with
Fire
Brimstone
Locusts
Hail and fire mingled
Tormenting sores
- are banished to hell...then the Lake of Fire

Then...the Ultimate Atom Bomb

when Jesus takes away His sustaining hand from the power of all atoms in the universe...Col 1:16-17 is released

- universal nuclear meltdown
- all subatomic particles are scattered...
- all material things will be reduced to the Periodic Table...
then they will be consumed

I think the Big Bang is the end of the universe, not the beginning of it.

v11-12 all these things:
everything you can see and touch

what manner ought ye to be...looking for and hasting...the day of God:
Therefore...given the FACT that this will happen...because the Word of God says so...how should we behave?

With

1. holiness
2. godliness...and...
3. watching and waiting...
urging the coming of the Lord to establish His kingdom and His refining fire to purge this wicked world

God has told us in advance that these things will happen. Why

1. we are His friends (Gen 18:16-19)
2. to encourage godly choices and exhort godly behavior...
this moment!

Here is wisdom: live holy lives...now!

v13 according to His promise:
requires faith (H+B+O+W)

we look for new heavens and new earth:

Is 65:17

Is 66:22

Rev 21-22

The appointed time when the universe

- takes on incorruption (1 Cor 15:53)
- is made new (2 Cor 5:17)

v14 look...be diligent:

3rd “look” in v12-14

to be earnest...eager...endlessly aware and obedient

this is an imperative...as were the Lord’s words to Peter to watch...

to be ready

found of him in peace:

we do not know the hour either...only the season...because Jesus told us
until then...abide in Jesus...and His peace

John 14:27

John 16:33

by faith (1 John 5:4)

the world is having labor pains...birth could happen at any moment...

Is the Church looking for Jesus?

Is the Bride making herself ready?

don’t be caught

- looking at that website
- with that man or woman
- in that bar while on a business trip
- indulging yourself...instead of denying yourself

To the unbeliever, the future that has been foretold says

- make peace with your Creator (Eph 2:1-3, Matt 5:9)
- accept the gift of grace from God (Eph 2:8-9)
- abide in Christ (John 14:23, 15:1-12)

to the believer, the future says

- Be holy...set apart.
- Be godly...abide in Christ (John 14:23, 15:1-12)
- Be ready

v15a the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation:
all men who are saved are saved because God is longsuffering...
because v9 is true and because God is love

PTL the saved hippies of the Jesus Movement were wrong in their
timing....
I would not have been saved
Praise God for His longsuffering!
Otherwise, I would have been among the lost in the Lake of Fire.

But that means we must be very busy at His work as long as He is
longsuffering
Gal 6:1-2 with all men

v15b-16 even as...Paul...wisdom given unto him...hard to understand:
those to whom Peter is writing also received letters from Paul

2 Peter 1:19-21
the Holy Spirit is the Author...and Scripture interprets Scripture
the Word of God is the wisdom of God revealed to man

Paul wrote boldly of the great truths of God...which ignorant and unstable
men tortured and perverted for their own personal gain...
to their destruction

v17 beware lest ye also:
Remember the Word of God!

Always be an alert watchman so you

- are not seduced by the flesh-appealing doctrines of false teachers
- do not drop away for your stability, the Rock of your salvation
Is 33:2-6

Acts 17:11
1 Thes 5:21

v18 my hope and prayer for every one of you!

but it requires

- time
- effort
- devotion
- urgency

on your part