

Outline of the Book of 2 Peter

The book of 2 Peter, written by the Apostle Peter, serves as a final reminder to the believers to stay firm in their faith, grow in knowledge, and be aware of false teachers. It emphasizes the importance of living a godly life, remembering the prophetic words, and anticipating the return of Christ. Below is an exhaustive outline of 2 Peter, highlighting the dangers facing believers.

I. Introduction (1:1-2)

A. Salutation (1:1-2)

1. Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ (1:1a)
2. To those who have received a faith as precious as ours (1:1b)
3. Grace and peace be multiplied through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord (1:2)

II. The Christian's Calling and Election (1:3-21)

A. Growth in Christian Virtue (1:3-11)

1. God's power has given us everything we need for a godly life (1:3)
2. Promises that enable us to share in the divine nature (1:4)
3. Add to your faith: goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love (1:5-7)
4. If you possess these qualities, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive (1:8)
5. Those who lack these qualities are nearsighted and blind (1:9)
6. Make every effort to confirm your calling and election (1:10-11)

B. Remembrance of Christ's Power and Coming (1:12-21)

1. Peter's intention to remind them always (1:12-15)
2. Eyewitness testimony of Christ's majesty (1:16-18)
3. The prophetic message confirmed (1:19)
4. No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation (1:20-21)

III. Warning Against False Teachers (2:1-22)

A. Characteristics and Fate of False Teachers (2:1-10a)

1. False teachers among the people (2:1)
2. Destructive heresies and denial of the sovereign Lord (2:1)
3. Many will follow their depraved conduct (2:2)
4. Their condemnation and destruction (2:3)
5. Examples of God's judgment: angels, Noah's flood, Sodom and Gomorrah (2:4-8)
6. The Lord knows how to rescue the godly and hold the unrighteous for punishment (2:9-10a)

B. Depravity of False Teachers (2:10b-16)

1. Bold and arrogant, not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings (2:10b-11)
2. Like unreasoning animals, they too will perish (2:12)
3. Their blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures (2:13)
4. Eyes full of adultery and greedy for gain (2:14)

5. Forsaking the right way and following the way of Balaam (2:15-16)
- C. Empty Promises of False Teachers (2:17-22)
1. Springs without water and mists driven by a storm (2:17)
 2. Promising freedom while they are slaves of depravity (2:18-19)
 3. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness (2:20-22)

IV. The Day of the Lord (3:1-18)

- A. The Certainty of the Lord's Coming (3:1-10)
1. Reminder of the words spoken by the prophets and apostles (3:1-2)
 2. Scoffers will come, following their own evil desires (3:3-4)
 3. Deliberate forgetfulness of God's creation and judgment by flood (3:5-7)
 4. The Lord's timing is not like human timing (3:8)
 5. The Lord is patient, not wanting anyone to perish (3:9)
 6. The day of the Lord will come like a thief (3:10)
- B. Living Holy and Godly Lives (3:11-16)
1. What kind of people ought you to be? (3:11-12)
 2. Looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth (3:13)
 3. Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with Him (3:14)
 4. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation (3:15-16)
- C. Final Exhortation and Doxology (3:17-18)
1. Be on guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless (3:17)
 2. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (3:18)
 3. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (3:18)

Dangers Facing the Believer Highlighted in 2 Peter

A. Neglecting Spiritual Growth (1:3-11):

- **Danger:** Becoming ineffective and unproductive in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- **Application:** Make every effort to add to faith virtues such as goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love.

B. Forgetting the Fundamentals of the Faith (1:12-15):

- **Danger:** Forgetting the foundational truths of the Christian faith.
- **Application:** Be constantly reminded of the truths of the gospel and the teachings of Christ.

C. Dismissing Eyewitness Testimony and Prophecy (1:16-21):

- **Danger:** Rejecting the eyewitness accounts of the apostles and the prophetic messages of Scripture.
- **Application:** Recognize and hold firmly to the apostolic and prophetic testimony about Jesus Christ.

D. Being Led Astray by False Teachers (2:1-22):

- **Danger:** Following false teachers who introduce destructive heresies and lead others into sin.

- **Application:** Be aware of the characteristics of false teachers, avoid their influence, and adhere to sound doctrine.

E. Ignoring the Reality of God's Judgment (3:1-10):

- **Danger:** Scoffers will deny the second coming of Christ and the judgment to come.
- **Application:** Remember God's past acts of judgment and recognize that His timing is different from human timing. Trust in His promises and remain vigilant.

F. Becoming Complacent in Godliness (3:11-16):

- **Danger:** Living unholy lives in anticipation of Christ's return.
- **Application:** Live holy and godly lives, looking forward to the new heavens and new earth. Be diligent to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with God.

G. Being Carried Away by Lawlessness (3:17-18):

- **Danger:** Being influenced by lawlessness and falling from a secure position.
- **Application:** Be on guard, grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, and remain steadfast in faith.

Well-known Passages from 2 Peter

[2 Peter 1:3-7 ESV] His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

[2 Peter 1:16-21 ESV] For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

[2 Peter 2:4-11 ESV] For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a

flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.

[2 Peter 2:15-22 ESV] Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.

They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

[2 Peter 3:8-13 ESV] But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Conclusion for 2 Peter

By understanding these dangers and applying Peter's exhortations, believers can safeguard their faith, grow in spiritual maturity, and live lives that are pleasing to God, anticipating the return of Christ with hope and vigilance.