

Stand Firm.

LETTERS OF PETER

Owasso First Assembly

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2 Peter 2—STAND FIRM IN SOUND DOCTRINE

1 Peter 1—Stand firm in victory 1 Peter 2—Stand firm in your identity

1 Peter 3—Stand firm in your relationships 1 Peter 4—Stand firm in your faith

1 Peter 5—Stand firm against your adversary 2 Peter 1—Stand firm in the provision of God

1st Peter gives encouragement against outside persecution.

2nd Peter warns against inside corruption.

Corruption abounds when the Word of God is not the centerpiece of the church's function.

To combat the problem of heresy, Peter reaffirmed the foundation of Holy Scripture.

Second Peter is written to combat false teaching in the church.

Second Peter stresses the importance of knowledge using a form of that word 12 times.

Second Peter validates the inspiration of scripture.

"Peter wrote this (second) letter to remind believers of the source of sound doctrine, to encourage diligence in faith, to strengthen biblical foundations of beliefs and practices." Swindoll

Second Peter chapter 2 warns against false teachers who lead others astray.

Second Peter 2 is probably not on anyone's favorite chapter list, but it is an important word for every believer.

1. False teachers Focus on the Sensual; not the Spiritual

2 Peter 2:1–3a (NIV84) ¹ *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up.*

2 Peter 2:17–21 (NIV84) ¹⁷ *These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. ¹⁸ For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. ²⁰ If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome (by the sin), they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.*

1. The warning is against those who are on the inside and lead people astray. What damage they cause to God's Kingdom.
2. False teachers are often engaging, entertaining, appealing (none of which is wrong) but lack authenticity, integrity, and conviction.

3. False teachers market heresy. Other options
4. False teachers are more concerned with appearance than substance.
5. False teachers exploit others with deceitful words.
6. False teachers are filled with greed.
7. False teachers are morally and spiritually corrupt—evil.
8. False teachers focus on the rhetorical—more about style than substance

2. False Teachers will be Punished by God

2 Peter 2:3b–11 (NIV84) ^{3b} . . . *Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.* ⁴ *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;* ⁵ *if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;* ⁶ *if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;* ⁷ *and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men* ⁸ *(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—* ⁹ *if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.* ¹⁰ *This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings;* ¹¹ *yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord.*

1. God condemns the wicked.
2. God preserves the righteous.
3. God did not spare the angels who rebelled.
4. God will judge those who are foolishly fearless, rebellious, bold, and arrogant.

3. False teachers must be resisted

1. Follow the pure Word of God.
2. Develop discernment with the assistance of the Holy Spirit.
3. Do not yield to ungodly influence. **Ask**—Does this appeal to my flesh or my spirit?
4. Look at the fruit of the teachers life and evaluate clearly.
5. Daily renew your commitment to follow God and say no to all sinful temptation immediately.

Titus 2:11–14 (NIV84) ¹¹ *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.* ¹² *It teaches us to say **"No"** to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,* ¹³ *while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,* ¹⁴ *who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*