

## OUTLINE – BIG PICTURE

- Authorship not ascribed to Peter until the late 2<sup>nd</sup>, early 3<sup>rd</sup> C. AD: authorship still debated; enough evidence that Peter wrote the letter towards the end of his life, between 65-68AD.
- 1 Peter, written to encourage Christ's 'sheep' who were suffering persecution from outside the church.
- 2 Peter focuses on church's internal problems. Peter condemns the evil motives of the false teachers & reaffirms the truth of Christianity (authority of Scripture, primacy of faith, & certainty of Christ's return).

### 1. PRECIOUSNESS (1-4)

- 1 Peter 1:19, Christ's *precious blood*.
- 1 Peter 2:4-7, Christ as *precious Living Stone & Cornerstone*.
- 2 Peter 1:1, *precious faith*.
- 2 Peter 1:4, *very great & precious promises*.

### 2. PURPOSE (5-11)

- Those who follow Christ should live fruitful, godly lives, in tune with the Saviour.
- A godly life is the evidence of a true *calling & election* & will keep us from stumbling.
- Saving faith produces a godly life & assures us of a *rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ*.

### 3. PASSING (12-15)

- Peter believes his life will soon pass away. He is determined to establish the believers in God's truth & leave behind a reminder of the importance of living for Christ.

### 4. PROPHECY (16-21)

- Peter reminds us of another form of God's Word, the written Word, given by the prophets.
- We also have God's Word, the Bible, which guides us into His truth.
- The *prophecy of Scripture* did not stem merely from the prophets themselves. Their writings came from God, as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## LIVING A GODLY LIFE

- Those who follow Christ should live fruitful, godly lives, in tune with the Saviour.

### 1) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE GODLY?

- Godly = pious or devout: being like God = reflecting God's divine nature & character.

### 2) WHY MUST WE LIVE A GODLY LIFE?

- A Christianity which wants to have the best of both worlds will actually have the best of neither.
- Choosing to be at home in this world will mean not having a home in the next (2 Peter 3:10-12).
- Live lives of holiness (*separating ourselves from sin*) & godliness (*devoting ourselves to the worship & service of God*).

### 3) HOW DO WE LIVE A GODLY LIFE?

#### A) TOTAL DEPENDENCE (3-4)

- God's power (*dunamis*) supplies all we need to live a godly life.
- God allows us to *participate in the divine nature* in order to keep us from sin & help us live for him.
- This power comes when we are 'born again'. God, by his Spirit, empowers us with his own moral goodness.
- The power to live a godly life comes from *our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory & goodness*. We don't need a special kind of higher knowledge for salvation.
- God has made himself known to us through his glory (*the excellence of who he is; his nature & character*) & goodness (*the excellence of what God does; his wonderful deeds*).

#### B) TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY (5-11)

- Persist in working on our character in order to be effective, productive, clear-sighted Christians (5-8).
  - We are responsible for living a godly life.
  - Faith = action, growth in character, & the practice of these moral disciplines.
  - James 2:17, *in the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead*.
- 1) This 'list' in v5-7 is not exhaustive: see also Gal 5:22, Col 3:12, 1 Tim 6:11.
  - 2) Don't focus on lists; focus on pleasing God & living a godly life.
  - 3) It's not a case of working our way through the list.
  - 4) Living a godly life involves deepening our relationship with God & with others.
  - 5) Motive is crucial: not guilt or self-centredness, but to please God (1 Peter 2:9)
  - 6) Living a godly life is hard work.
  - 7) These virtues/qualities are not optional.
  - 8) Living a godly life is an ongoing process which continues until we reach eternity. The reward of living a growing, Christ-honouring life is the personal *rich welcome* we will receive by Christ, our Saviour, into His eternal kingdom. 2 Peter 1:10 (Mt 25:23) (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Living a godly life involves total dependence on God (Christ's Divine power) which is more than adequate to strengthen our resolve. However we are also totally responsible to live this godly life.