

## Living as if... 2 Peter

### Review

- Peter's last letters
- We are foreigners and aliens
- Peter's identity and mission
- The faith (body of knowledge which includes a godly lifestyle)
- We have everything we need—The Holy Spirit—the Truth including God's Word

**2 Peter 1:1** (NIV) Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

**2 Peter 1:3** (NIV) His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

### Warnings: false teachers and prophets

- Jesus warned the disciples
- The disciples (Paul, Peter) warn us

**Acts 20:28–30** (NLT) <sup>28</sup>So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders. <sup>29</sup>I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup>Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following.

### Tactic #1: They deny Jesus and the Lord in various ways (2 Peter 2:1)

- Gnostics say He didn't come in the flesh
- He isn't the Messiah
- He isn't God
- Saying, "I don't have to obey Him"

**2 Peter 2:1–3** (NIV) <sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. <sup>3</sup>In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

**1 John 4:1–3** (NIV) <sup>1</sup>Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

### Tactic #2: They entice with sensuality, the flesh, sexual sin (2 Peter 2:2)

**2 Peter 2:10–13** (NIV) <sup>10</sup>This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; <sup>11</sup>yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord. <sup>12</sup>But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish. <sup>13</sup>They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you.

**2 Peter 2:17–20** (NIV) <sup>17</sup>These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. <sup>18</sup>For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. <sup>19</sup>They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them."

## **Tactic #3: Greed (2 Peter 2:3)**

**2 Peter 2:3** (NLT) In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.

### **1 Timothy 6:1–5**

**In the end times, people will search for a spirituality without truth, but instead based in self.**

**2 Timothy 4:1–4** (NLT) ...<sup>3</sup>For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup>They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

**2 Timothy 3:1–5** (NIV) <sup>1</sup>But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup>People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup>treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—<sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

### **Stay the course—God will come as He promised.**

**2 Peter 3:1–3** (NLT) <sup>1</sup>This is my second letter to you, dear friends, and in both of them I have tried to stimulate your wholesome thinking and refresh your memory. <sup>2</sup>I want you to remember what the holy prophets said long ago and what our Lord and Savior commanded **through your apostles**. <sup>3</sup>Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. [emphasis added]

### **God’s view of time is different than ours.**

- He is outside of time, so He knows me the same as He knew Peter long ago.
- He is waiting because He wants all to come, and some will if He waits.

**2 Peter 3:8–10** (NLT) <sup>8</sup>But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

### **Be alert and busy—faithful to the “Faith.”**

**2 Peter 3:11–13** (NLT) <sup>11</sup>Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, <sup>12</sup>looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. <sup>13</sup>But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God’s righteousness.

### **Jesus said be found doing what you were commanded to do.**

#### **Matthew 24:45–51**

### **Questions to ponder and discuss at home and in your life group:**

1. What passage will you meditate on this coming week? How will you abide in your relationship with Jesus this week?
2. What stood out to you about God, people, or the world?
3. What challenged your thinking and perspective? How do you want to respond?
4. How does what you are understanding impact your relationship with God? Or with your family? Or those in your life group? Or people you work/do business with?
5. What was for you from this message? What, from this message, is God pressing upon you to share with someone else?