



Stand Firm
Studies in 2 Peter

Stand on God's Promise
2 Peter 3
Lesson 16

Introduction

Peter sums up his letter by warning his readers to remain steadfast; to diligently guard against being led away by the error of the wicked and to grow in the grace and knowledge of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He seeks to remind them to remember the words of the Old Testament prophets and the commandments of the Apostles as a means to stand firm in their faith.

Now Peter turns to address the root of their immoral error; their lack of expectation of future judgment. False teachers played down a future judgment, thus leading people to sin like the false prophets of old, (remember Balaam, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.) Delay should never be taken as an indication that judgment is not coming.

The way to recognize the errors of the heretical teachers was to diligently compare their teaching to God's Word. Peter's readers are to resist the false teachers by growing steadily in Christ.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

Treasures of the Heart

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

2 Peter 3:1-9

1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?



2 Peter 3:10-13

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.



2 Peter 3:14-18

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; **15** and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, **16** as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; **18** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.



Look - What do you see?

Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn – What does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

2 Peter 3:1-9 _____

2 Peter 3:10-13 _____

2 Peter 3:14-18 _____

Live - How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less).

2 Peter 3:1-9 _____

2 Peter 3:10-13 _____

2 Peter 3:14-18 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. **Summarize your findings in your own words.**

Looking for Jesus. . .

Standing firm in the midst of persecution is accomplished through the power and knowledge of God. See if you can state what the knowledge of the Lord teaches us and how it will help you stand firm. There is not just one answer. **State these truths in your own words.**

What does the knowledge of God teach us? (Be specific)

How will knowing God more help you stand firm?

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

2 Peter 3:1-9 _____

2 Peter 3:10-13 _____

2 Peter 3:14-18 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

"In order that they might know how to stand, and to be preserved from falling, he gave them this direction: 'grow in grace;' for the way to stand is to grow; the way to be steadfast is to go forward. There is no standing except by progression." Spurgeon

