

THE COMMONS LEADER GUIDE

October 14th
Week 2 - A Final Warning

MAIN SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 2-3

MAIN POINTS

- God will judge the unrighteous and deliver the righteous (2:4-10).
- Obedience leads to true freedom (2:17-22).
- Christ will return and renew the world (3:13).

BACKGROUND

In Ch. 1, Peter stresses the importance of accurate *knowledge*, which is rooted in knowledge of Christ, and challenges his readers not to live as passive believers in Christ, but as active followers of Christ. In Ch. 2-3, Peter gives final warnings to his readers.

Peter already began in Ch. 1 to combat skeptics who deny Jesus' resurrection and authority, pointing to his eyewitness testimony of Jesus' transformation on the mountain as evidence. In Ch. 2, Peter addresses two other objections: (1) There won't be a final judgement and (2) God doesn't care about morality. Peter gives three examples of God's divine justice that show how no one is too high to be judged (v. 4), God doesn't grade on a curve (v. 5), and even the prosperous can be judged (v. 6). Therefore, they can have certainty the ungodly will be judged as well as certainty God will deliver the righteous (v. 7-10). Peter also points out that freedom in Christ isn't license to sin, nor does sin actually produce the freedom it promises (v. 19).

Finally, in Ch. 3, Peter addresses one more objection: Jesus will not return. But Peter points out that God has already intervened in creation (v. 5-7), and God's concept of time is beyond our comprehension. Therefore, God is not slow to fulfill his promise, but patient. He will return and renew the world, and it is in this hope that believers can rest and live godly lives in eager anticipation!

RESOURCES

[Enduring Word Commentary - 2 Peter 2](#)
[2 Peter 2 - The Rise and Fall of False Teachers](#)

UPCOMING COMMONS EVENTS

LATE NIGHT - **Oct. 16th**

COSTA RICA DEADLINE - **Oct. 30th**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ 2 Peter 2

1. How do you think the message of false teachers is "secretly destructive"? (v. 1)
2. Peter uses strong examples from history (fallen angels, the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah). Why do you think he appeals to these stories? What do they teach us about God's justice and mercy?
3. What "false voices" or influences do you think Christians need to be especially alert to today?
4. How can we balance being discerning without becoming suspicious of every teacher or leader?
5. In v. 2, Peter says "many will follow" false teachers. Why do you think their message is often attractive or convincing?
6. Peter calls them "springs without water" (v. 17). What does this image say about what they promise versus what they actually deliver?
7. In v. 19-20, Peter says they "promise freedom" but are themselves "slaves of corruption." What are some examples of freedom being distorted into something that actually enslaves?

READ 2 Peter 3

1. Why do you think people doubt or mock the idea of Jesus' return (v. 3-4)?
2. What point do you think Peter is making in v. 5-7?
3. How do v. 8-9 change how you view God's timing and seasons of waiting?
4. How does the promise of a "new heaven and new earth" (v. 13) shape the way we see our world?

APPLICATION

1. Peter calls believers to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (v. 18). What practical step could you take this week to keep growing in your knowledge of Christ?
2. What's one area of your life where living in light of eternity would change your perspective or priorities? If your priorities are off, what do you need to change in your life to set them right?

