

Standing on the Promises of God

II Peter 1:1-4

Introduction:

- Date written: about 66-68 A.D.
- Some have said that Peter didn't write this letter because the subject and style is somewhat different than 1 Peter.
- The purpose of I Peter was to encourage Christians who were suffering, the purpose of II Peter is to warn of false teachers
- "Convinced that the best antidote for heresy is a mature knowledge of the truth, Peter exhorts his readers to have a proper appreciation for prophecy, to live holy and godly lives while awaiting Christ's coming and to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord." (Kirby)
- We remember that Simon was his given name at birth; Peter was the special name given to him by Jesus in Matthew 16. Praise God, Christ has given us a new name written down in glory!
- If you study the Greek text you will find that the word Peter and the word Rock on which Christ was to build His church are two similar, yet completely separate and distinct words, each having a different meaning. The word Peter in Greek is petros, which means "a piece of rock; a stone; a single stone; movable, insecure, shifting, or roll-ing." The word rock is petra, which means "a rock; a cliff; a projecting rock; mother rock; huge mass; solid formation; fixed; immovable; enduring."
- Now the question is, on which of the two, petros or petra, did Christ establish His church? Was it on petros, a movable stone, or petra, an immovable rock?
- V. 1 His standing as a bondservant was more important to him than his status as an apostle.
- There were only 12 Apostles- Paul would come on the scene as a specially appointed Apostle. (See Rev. 21:14- I believe Matthias, not Judas or even Paul's name is what will be engraved)

- In either case, our focus is Christ. Notice how these verses clearly emphasize the deity of Christ- v. 1-2

I. LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH

- a. I John 1:7-There is unity- Peter wrote to those who had the same salvation he had experienced, which he called “a like precious faith.” This faith was obtained, and not by the efforts of man but by the righteousness of our God.
- b. What is the Faith
 - i. It has been passed down from Christ, to the Apostles down through the ages
 - ii. Like- the common faith- the irreducible truths of our faith- what we might call the Fundamentals of Christianity (The Bible is true and literal, Virgin Birth, Deity of Christ, Christ’s atonement for our sin, Salvation by grace through faith, etc.)
 - iii. Precious faith
- c. Precious used in Peter- 1:7,19, 2:4, 6-7, II Peter 1:1, 4
 - i. Things that are precious to God ought to be precious to us too! Psa 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.
 - ii. Psa 126:6- He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.
 - iii. Eccl 7:1- A good name is better than precious ointment...

II. ALL THINGS THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST- V. 3

- a. God has given us all that we could ever need! All sufficient!
- b. The danger today is that people “know” a little about God, and His word, but they do not believe that is enough.
- c. We need grace and peace- but it only comes through the knowledge of Christ
- d. We have all that we need! According to Christ’s power, not our own
- e. Accessed through our knowledge of Him! Ignorance isn’t bliss
- f. “Divine power! What stupendous issues are grasped in that term, divine power! It was this which digged the deep foundations of the earth and sea! Divine

power, it is this which guides the marches of the stars of heaven! Divine power!
it is this which holds up the pillars of the universe, and which one day shall shake
them, and hurry all things back to their native nothingness.” (Spurgeon)

- g. The world is trying to erase the knowledge of God. Or at best, make it seem as if there is that knowledge is not foundational, or important

III. EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES- V. 4

- a. Psalm 138:2 reminds us that God honors His word even above His name. We never have to doubt any promise of God. Instead we should let God be true but every man a liar (Romans 3:4).
- b. For these reasons, God’s promises are both exceedingly great and they are precious
- c. Phil 4:13, 4:19
- d. God did not just give us fire insurance from Hell- but provision to partake in His holiness!
- e. God is above and beyond the corruption of this world. It should also be that way with those who are the partakers of the divine nature.
- f. Heb 12:10- For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.
- g. These precious promises allow us to be partakers of the divine nature!
 - i. Sinless perfection, it’s a sinless provision!
 - ii. The prevailing philosophy in most churches today is a cheap grace, that waters down our faith to allow for sinful living
 - iii. We can escape the corruption and lusts of the world!
- h. Make your application: worry, doubt, fear, depression, anger, pride, lust, etc. Jesus doesn’t do these things! Access Christ’s life in yours! Praise God, “Christ Liveth In Me!”

Conclusion:

- These promises were given to people that desperately needed them, and so they were obtained. Do we still need them today in our world? Do we shift over into self-reliance, and doubt? May we stand on these exceeding great and precious promises!