

LESSON 34: 2 PETER AND JUDE

OCTOBER 18, 2017

OVERVIEW

- . The relationship of 2 Peter and Jude
- . The second letter of Peter
- . The letter of Jude

THE RELATIONSHIP OF 2 PETER AND JUDE

- . Two of the most neglected books in the Bible
 - . 2 Peter was rejected by Erasmus and questioned by Martin Luther and John Calvin because they doubted it was written by Peter
 - . The question over authorship stems from a very different writing style between the two letters
 - . Others argue the reference to Paul's letter in 3:15-16 indicates an advanced date for this book – beyond Peter's lifetime
 - . The letter was not actually ascribed to Peter until the late second century
 - . The similarity in content with Jude makes some think the content of 2 Peter was taken from Jude or visa versa
 - . Most believe Jude was written by the brother of Jesus
 - . Jude was a very common name often interpreted in Hebrew as Judah or in Greek as Judas
 - . This book has been either overlooked or ignored because of its length and that Jude was not an apostle
- . The two books are often studied together because the content is so similar
 - . There are only three verses at the beginning of Jude and seven at the end that does not have extensive parallels in 2 Peter
 - . They both warn against false teachers and teachings
 - . They both warn of the consequences of rejecting God's truths
 - . They both recite biblical examples of God's wrath
 - . They both warn that persisting in doing wrong will lead to destruction
 - . In both there is a call to persevere and to keep our eyes of the reward to come

THE SECOND LETTER OF PETER

- . The recipients
 - . There is a strong suggestion that this letter was written to the same people as 1 Peter – the gentiles of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia
 - . What Peter wants to do in this letter is remind the readers of what they have already learned from the apostles and warn against false teaching of people who were pretending to be prophets but were not
- . Making salvation sure – 2 Peter 1:3-11
 - . Peter is concerned here about presumption – assuming all is well between ourselves and God when in fact it is not
 - . “Be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure” – 2 Peter 1:10
 - . We do this by examining our lives to see if they show evidence of God’s work
 - . Peter reminds us that we have received everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us to faith
 - . God has not held back
 - . He has given us everything we need to lead a Holy life
 - . There is no excuse for our not getting on in spiritual growth and sanctification
 - . To help us understand what this looks like Peter gives us a list of spiritual qualities that should be developing in every Christian
 - . Faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love
 - . This journey begins with faith and ends with the deepest kind of God’s love
- . God’s sure revelation in scripture – 2 Peter 1:12-21
 - . Peter’s experience – 2 Peter 1:16-18
 - . Peter talks about his eyewitness experience at the transfiguration
 - . “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased” – Verse 17
 - . The testimony of scripture – 2 Peter 1:19-21
 - . Despite Peter’s eyewitness experience, he talks about God’s word in the Bible as more certain and even more important than being an eyewitness
 - . The Bible was written by men describing their own experiences expressed in their own vocabulary
 - . However, the most important thing is that the Holy Spirit carried these men along in their writing so that what they put down is what God Himself wanted to be said
- . Warning of false teachers – 2 Peter 2
 - . The nature of false teachers teaching – 2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22
 - . They will teach destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord

- . They will slander celestial beings and they will be blatantly immoral
- . Many have known the way of righteousness but have turned from it
- . They appear to be wise, liberated and very interested in Christians they teach
- . Often times the message of false teachers was to appeal to the lustful desires of sinful human nature and lure them back into it
- . The false teachers of Peter's day were not only in to the sinful pleasures of the day but their words tickled the ears of the listening, making the false teachers popular and helped them make money off their teachings
- . To this day there are those who will profess that you can have a Spirit led mind but not be in control of the body
 - . Some will say that if the body is still acting in a sinful manner that it must be for some unexplained reasons
 - . Peter is very clear that God has given us everything we need in order to conduct ourselves in a manner that is Holy
 - . If we continue to knowingly sin it is because we choose to and we must recognize the danger this presents in our relationship with God
- . Living in the last days – 2 Peter 3:1-17
 - . Addressing the delay of Christ's return – 2 Peter 3:1-10
 - . With the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day
 - . The Lord is not slow in delivering His promises as some understand slowness
 - . Instead He is slow with us not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance
 - . We need to take God's judgment seriously
 - . We also need to look beyond judgment to a new heaven and a new Earth
 - . We need to have faith and believe in what is at present unseen

THE LETTER OF JUDE

- . Jude was most likely the brother of Jesus and a brother of James
 - . He was not an apostle, which is why many of the early church leaders ignored this book
- . Warning against false teachers – Jude 5-16
 - . Jude begins with three examples of God's judgments in past history
 - . He talks about God's judgment on the chosen people of Israel and came out of Egypt yet perished in the wilderness because of their unbelief
 - . These examples serve as an example of the judgment that is coming and how no one is immune
 - . Jude's denunciation of the false teachers
 - . He uses three examples in scripture to reference the true nature of the false teachers

- . Taken the way of Cain – Genesis 4
- . Rushed for profit into Balaam's error – Numbers 22-24
- . Been destroyed in Korah's rebellion – Numbers 16
- . God looks at the heart before he regards the sacrifice
- . Jude singles out Enoch, the prophet who spoke out about the ungodliness of his day
- . The burden of Enoch's prophecy is that God is going to judge the wicked, the very thing Jude and Peter have been saying
- . The call the persevere – Jude 17-23
 - . Christians, in the face of such wickedness and false teachings are called to persevere
 - . We are reminded that the apostles warned us of such scoffers in the last days
 - . The church will always be troubled by false teachings and those who follow their own instincts instead of God's Spirit-given revelations
 - . We must build ourselves up in the faith by praying, be in awareness of God's love and be merciful to those around us
- . The persevering God – Jude 24-25
 - . Our success and safety will not lie in our own powers to persevere but in the persevering powers of God, who is able to keep us from falling
 - . Because of God all things are not only possible but certain
 - . All glory must go to God
 - . We will never experience the fullness of God if we are not willing to give God all the glory
 - . If we praise God for everything, we will know the fullness of God's joy moment by moment

NEXT LESSON: NOVEMBER 1, 2017 – ACTS 21:16-28:31