



# **2 Peter**

Term 3 Teaching Series



## Overview

As Peter nears his death (1:13-14), he writes to fellow Christians who have “received a faith as precious as ours” (1:1) in order to remind them of what they know to be true, primarily the promised return of Jesus. He does this for two main reasons: first, in order to protect them from false teaching that has infiltrated the church (2:1) and secondly, to motivate them to continue living godly lives (1:5-9, 3:11). Just as Peter reminds his original readers, so he reminds us that Jesus really is coming back and “in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells” (3:13). So while we wait for that day, how are we to live as Christians? Peter says we should make every effort to live “holy and godly lives” (3:11).

## Structure

### **2 Peter 1: Remember you have everything you need.**

God has given us everything we need for a godly life through Jesus, so we ought to make every effort to live effective and productive lives.

### **2 Peter 2: Remember there are false teachers among you.**

False prophets are a danger to God’s people and will face eternal judgment, so be careful not to be led astray and miss out on God’s rescue.

### **2 Peter 3: Remember that Jesus is coming back**

The day of the Lord is coming as God promised it would, so live holy and godly lives until it does.

# 2 Peter 1



If you were leaving BPC, what would your parting words of encouragement be?

*Let's find out what Peter's parting words are...*

## **Read 2 Peter 1:1-4**

What does he say they have received:

v1:

v2:

v3:

v4:

What is the significance of these being given rather than earned?

## **Read 2 Peter 1:5-11**

Define each of the characteristics we are to add to our faith.

How does what God has given believers enable us to “make every effort” to practice these qualities?

Discuss the tension between having “everything we need” and needing to “make every effort.”

Describe the life of someone who is being effective and productive compared to someone who is nearsighted and blind:

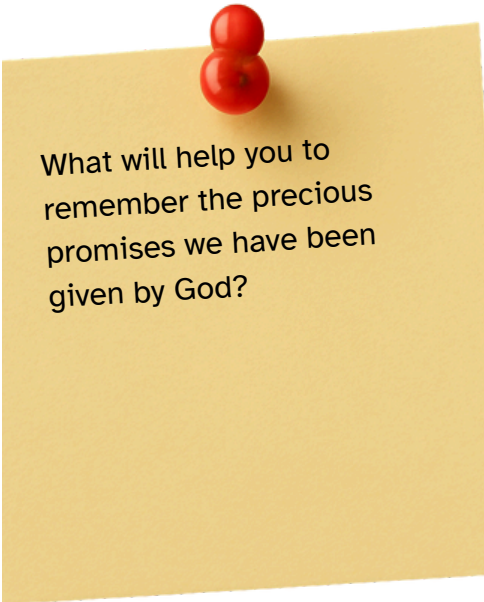


### **Read 2 Peter 1:12-21**

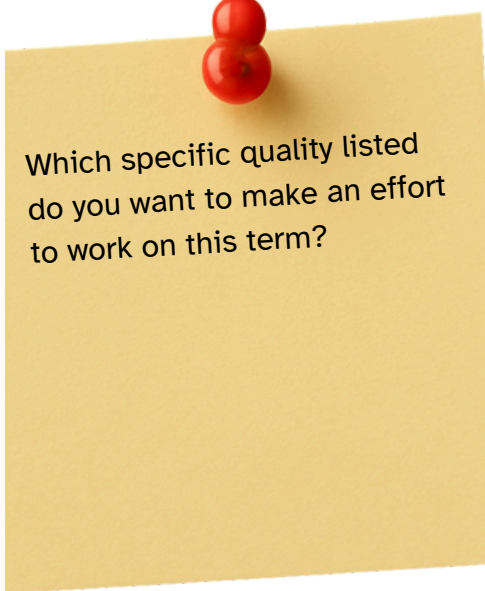
Why does Peter choose to remind his readers of what they already know in his final letter before he dies? How is that helpful for us to hear (especially if you've been a Christian a long time)?

What are the reasons and evidence Peter gives for why they can be confident that what they believe is not a cleverly invented story?

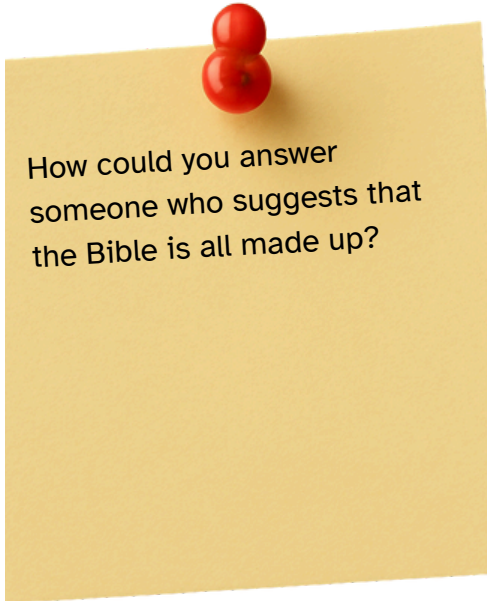
### **So What?**



What will help you to remember the precious promises we have been given by God?



Which specific quality listed do you want to make an effort to work on this term?



How could you answer someone who suggests that the Bible is all made up?

# 2 Peter 2



How would you reply to someone who says: “there is no coming judgment, everyone will be forgiven by God in the end, so it doesn’t matter how you live.”

## **Read 2 Peter 2:1-3**

*Remember:* What did Peter say about prophecy at the end of chapter 1?

How does this compare with how Peter describes the false prophets?

What seems to be the strategy of these false teachers?

## **Read 2 Peter 2:4-10a**

Peter uses three Old Testament stories to illustrate a two-fold point (*bonus points if you can identify where they come from*). What is his point and how does it serve as a warning to the false teachers?

What encouragement can we gain from characters like Noah and Lot, as we seek to live for Jesus in a secular world today?

## **Read 2 Peter 2:10b-16**

These false teachers are leading people astray by their teachings but also in their lifestyle. List some of the examples of their sinful deeds.

Brainstorm examples where you see this same kind of unrighteousness in today's world and share which areas you are most easily seduced by.

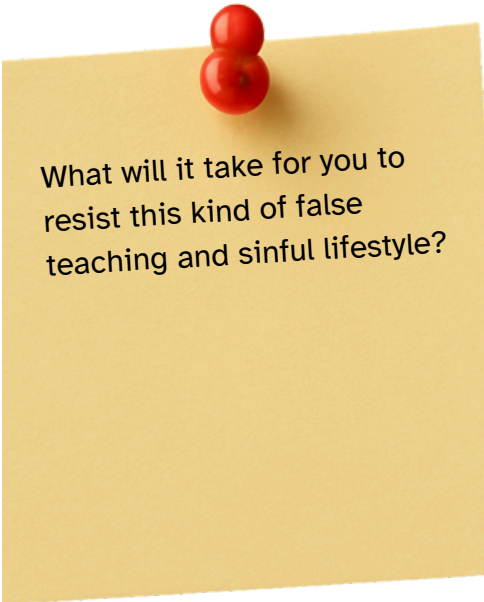
### **Read 2 Peter 2:17-22**

Peter's language here is very intense (eg. "blackest darkness"). Why do you think his language is so strong?

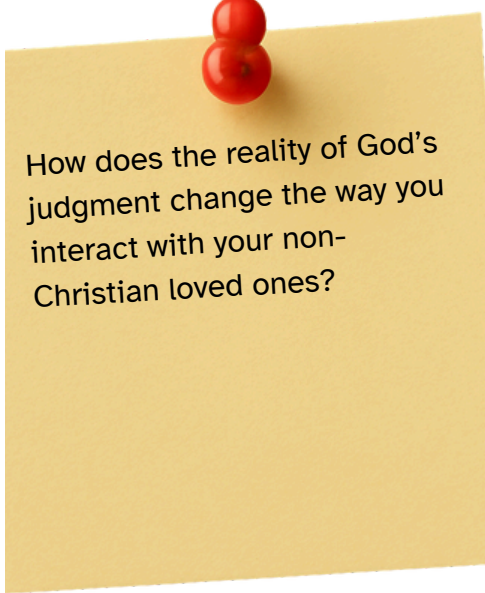
Why is the impending judgment made extra devastating in 2:20?

What would be some warning signs that you or a brother/sister in Christ is being led astray by false teaching today?

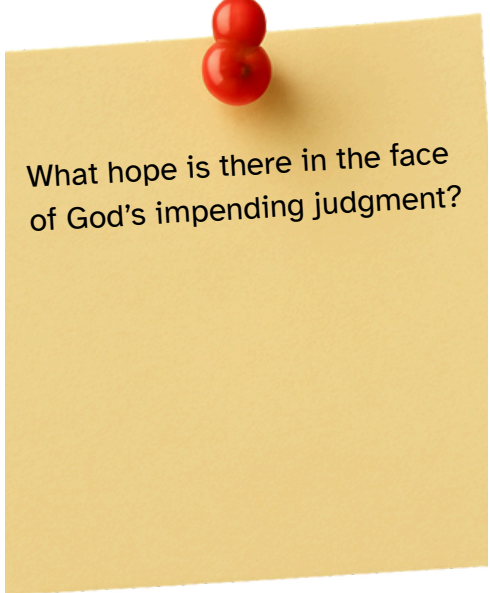
### **So What?**



What will it take for you to resist this kind of false teaching and sinful lifestyle?



How does the reality of God's judgment change the way you interact with your non-Christian loved ones?



What hope is there in the face of God's impending judgment?

# 2 Peter 3



What is something you are looking forward to this year and how has it changed your actions in the lead up? (eg Christmas coming leads to buying presents)

## **Read 2 Peter 3:1-7**

What seems to be the key issue Peter is addressing here?

What have these “scoffers” forgotten?

How does this prove it is important to be reminded of what we already know?

What are the messages or distractions in our world (and in your life) today that most often take our eye off the coming of Jesus?

## **Read 2 Peter 3:8-10**

Has God forgotten his promise to return?      Yes    or    No

Then, why has he not come back yet?

According to Peter, God is waiting patiently and yet when he does come it will come like a thief (ie. unexpectedly). How is that both a comfort and a warning?



## Read 2 Peter 3:11-18

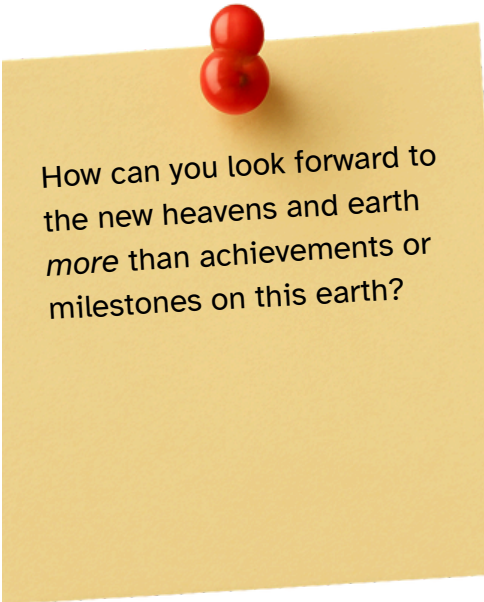
What are we, as Christians, all looking forward to?

How should knowledge of the future shape how we live in the present?  
(*Be as practical as you can*)

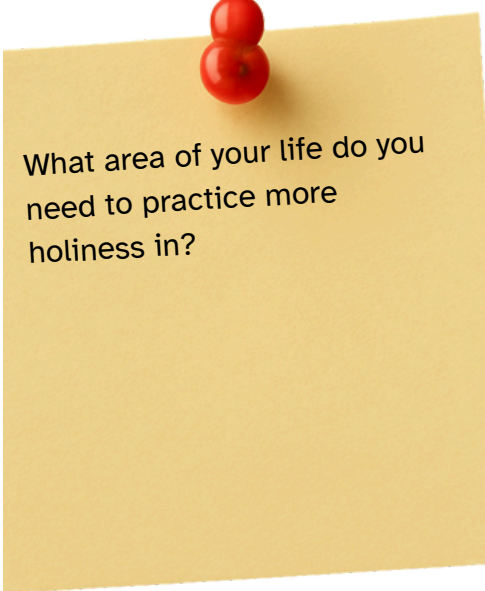
What does it look like to live “holy and godly lives” in the present while we wait for Jesus’ return in the future? (You might like to revisit 1:5-8)

Discuss how at BPC we could help each other to “be on guard” (3:17) and “grow in grace” (3:18) as a church community, not just as individuals.


### So What?



How can you look forward to the new heavens and earth *more* than achievements or milestones on this earth?



What area of your life do you need to practice more holiness in?



Make a plan to memorise Scripture to help you remember God’s promises.