<b>Bible Course</b>
<b>Acts to Revelation</b>
Lesson 63

## Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **II Peter**

Since the time of the writing and sending his first letter, Peter had become increasingly concerned about false teachers who were infiltrating the churches in Asia Minor. Though these false teachers had already caused trouble, Peter expected that their heretical doctrines and immoral life-styles would result in more damage in the future. Thus Peter, in an almost last will and testament (1:13–15), wrote to warn the beloved believers in Christ about the doctrinal dangers they were facing.

Peter does not explicitly say where he was when he wrote this letter, as he does in 1 Peter (<u>1 Pet. 5:13</u>). But the consensus seems to be that Peter wrote this letter from prison in Rome, where he was facing imminent death. Shortly after this letter was written, Peter was martyred, according to reliable tradition, by being crucified likely upside down (*see John 21:18*).

Peter says nothing in the salutation about the recipients of this letter. But according to 3:2, Peter was writing another epistle to the same people to whom he wrote 1 Peter. In his first letter, he spelled out that he was writing "to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia" (1 Pet. 1:1). These provinces were located in an area of Asia Minor, which is modern Turkey. The Christians to whom Peter wrote were mostly Gentiles (see II Peter 1:1).

Adapted from John McArthur

1. What was Peter increasingly concerned about? \_\_\_\_\_\_

2. It is likely that Peter wrote this letter from \_\_\_\_\_\_ where he likely died by \_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Peter was writing to mostly (Circle one) Jews / Gentiles located in which general area?

After a brief instruction of himself, Peter reminds his readers of God's provision for Christian living and knowledge. Peter desired that they read and keep this in remembrance after his death, making their calling and election sure.

4.	Simon is a Hebrew name meaning "he was heard", while Peter is a Greek name meaning
	"Rock". Peter is a and an of Jesus
	Christ.
5.	What has Christ given to His Church? Peter lists:
	a things that pertain to
	and God's
	b. Exceeding great and precious Provision
	that ye might be partakers of the
	nature.
	c. Escaping the corruption in the
	through
6.	Peter notes that if given all these things, the Church is to add to
	their faith the following:
7.	Peter uses the example of a childless couple. If a believer adds
	these things to faith he shall not be nor
	in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. If these things are lacking, Peter calls them
	, and cannot see far off. These people have forgotten that they
	were from their old sins. Where the Holy Spirit works, He also
	gives the fruits of thankfulness. If they are missing, one cannot be sure of their election.
	Therefore Peter says to give to make your calling and election
	sure. Note: First is calling (inward call) then knowledge of election. One's election is
	sure in the witness of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16) and if these fruits of the Holy Spirit
	(Galatians 6:22) are visible"if ye do these things, ye shall never
	"

	negligent but in the truth.	
	negrigent out in the truth.	
9.	Peter says he will always put this to our remembrance as long as he is in	n this tabernacle.
	What does he mean?	
		Jesus
	showed Peter that he would soon put off this	He admonishes
į	the readers to remember what he taught.	
10.	Peter is aware that the devil will say, these are only cur	ningly devised
	, but Peter reminds his readers that	he was an
	of the majesty of Christ. Peter makes specia	al note of seeing
1	this on the Mount of Transfiguration. Here Peter says he heard a	voice from the
	glory, "This is my So	n in whom I am
,	well Yet, despite this wonderful experience	e, Peter says of
	God's Word (Bible), "We have a more word of	prophesy." The
	Bible is like a light shining in a place (our hear	ts), until the day
-	and the day-star (Christ) arise in our hearts.	
11.	This Scripture is not of any interpretation.	4
	Wait a minute you say, "What do all of the commentaries do, or	
	even our ministers? They give the interpretation of the text don't	
1	they? No, hopefully it is not a private interpretation. A	Source of
	commentary that is true to the Word of God interprets scripture with	knowledge:
	scripture. For this prophesy came not in old time by the	Inspired
	of man, but men	Scriptures
	of God spake as they were by the Holy	
	Ghost. This last text in 2Peter 1 is the most commonly quoted for	
	our belief in divine of the Holy Scriptures.	•

Meditation: To them who have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:1.

There may be strong faith where there is no true faith; persons may pretend to have the assurance of faith, may believe that their sins are forgiven, without one grain of "precious faith." Who believes more than a deist does? He believe he has wisdom to guide and power to save himself, without either the word or the grace of God. Who has stronger faith than the self-righteous Pharisee had? He believed he had a right to go to God, to plead his works before God, and to assure his heart that he was accepted of God: he wanted no righteousness from God. This is just such a faith as all unregenerate men have. It is not a precious faith; it is not obtained through the precious righteousness of Christ; it doth not make his glorious person and everlasting righteousness precious to the heart; it does not cause such to renounce the filthy rags of their own righteousness, and to delight in God, as justifying the ungodly through the righteousness of Christ, and sanctifying the unholy through the Spirit of his grace.

That faith is ever to be suspected, as only a rank weed which grows in the corrupt soil of human nature, the possessors of which do not see the evil of sin which is in them, the curse it has brought upon them and that nothing can relieve their conscience, support their mind, to bring hope to their heart and joy to their spirits, but the one spotless righteousness of Christ, in which sinners stand perfectly justified before God. He who dares open his mouth in objections against justification and sanctification solely by His righteousness, gives fearful evidence that so far from having obtained "like precious faith" with the apostles his heart is not yet convinced of sin.

"Precious faith" will show itself by its fruits inward as well as outward: the heart will bow to God's sovereign will, receive his doctrines of grace, in the love of them and not carp and cavil against them; it will glory that salvation, from first to last, is not of works but of grace; and it will experience, that "the grace of God which bringeth salvation," most sweetly and powerfully teaches to "deny all ungodliness and worldly lust, and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present evil world." Most sweetly says one, "Surely there can be no greater honor to Christ than this: in the sense of sin, wants, stains and blemishes, to wrap ourselves in the righteousness of Christ, and with boldness to go, clothed in his heavenly garments, to the throne of grace." This is the glory of faith. Lord, grant it may be ours.