

For Easy Reading and Enjoyment

THE SIMPLIFIED CATHOLIC NEW TESTAMENT - PARAPHRASED

2 PETER CHAPTER 1

1 *This is Simon Peter one of the twelve disciples of Jesus*, a servant, that is, one who gives himself up to the will of Jesus the Messiah, an apostle and ambassador of Christ. *I am writing to you* that have obtained like precious faith, the same Christian faith as us the apostles, through the righteousness that God gives us by our Saviour Jesus Christ: **2** *God's free undeserved love peace, prosperity and well-being be multiplied and increased unto you through the *spiritual* knowledge that brings you into a better acquaintance of God, and Jesus our Lord and Master,*

3 *According as his divine power and mighty strength hath given and bestowed upon us all things that pertain, belong and relate unto life, (an active, vigorous and devoted life to God). We become more like Him through the *spiritual* knowledge that brings us into a better acquaintance of Him. He has called us to glory, (the character and ways of God as exhibited through Christ) and*

virtue (the moral excellence and manifestation of God's divine power in character and conduct): **4** *It is by that same mighty power and spiritual knowledge* that we are given exceeding great and valuable promises: that by these we might partake of God's divine nature, having escaped the moral corruption and decay that is in this world that operates through men's lust, that is, evil desires.

5 For this reason, give all diligence and persistent effort to supply your faith (the conviction of truth) with virtue (the moral excellence, the divine power manifested in character and conduct); To virtue seek to know and enquire spiritual understanding (knowledge); **6** To spiritual understanding seek self-control (temperance); and to self-control *add* patient continuance, endurance, and perseverance (patience); to perseverance *add* godliness (the reverence of God that is characterized by acts of godliness); **7** To godliness *add* brotherly kindness and love; and to brotherly kindness *add* agape love. **8** If these qualities exist in you in abundance, they will keep you from being unproductive and without fruit in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** But the person that is deficient in these things is

blind to the truth, and can't see the obvious, that he was cleansed from his former sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, give diligent persistent application to make certain about God calling and choosing you: for if you do these things, you will never fall, trip or err from the salvation that God has promised you: **11** For so the act of entering into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, shall be supplied and furnished unto you abundantly.

12 Therefore I will not neglect to put you always in remembrance of these matters, though you know them, and are established and made stable in the present truth. **13** Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this human body, to arouse your thinking by reminding you: **14** Knowing that shortly I must leave this body behind, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me. **15** Beyond what has already been stated, I will exert myself and be diligent so that you may be able after my death to have these things always in mind after I am gone.

16 For we have not followed deceptive, made up tales and clever stories, when we told you of the power and return of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we saw his majesty with our own eyes. **17** For Jesus received from God the Father honour and glory, when there

came a voice to him from the glorious God, saying, **“THIS IS MY DEARLY LOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED.”** **18** We ourselves heard this voice from heaven, when we were with him in the holy mount, *known to many as his transfiguration; (Mt. 17, Mk. 8 & Lk. 9).* **19** We hold, and continue to hold a more sure, steadfast, stable, firm, and dependable word of prophecy – the Word of God spoken by the prophets; you would do well to pay close attention – there words are like light shining in a dark place until the daylight breaks through the darkness of night, and the day star (Christ) arises in your hearts:

20 Understanding this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation or private opinion. **21** For no prophecy of Scripture was ever made by an act of human will: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved and prompted by the Holy Ghost.

2 PETER CHAPTER 2

1 But there were false prophets that arose among God’s people, even as there shall be false teachers in the midst of you. They secretly, that is, in a way that it will be hard for you to see that they are wrong, bring

in damnable *teaching* which leads to destruction and spiritual ruin. This heresy, which means they pick or choose, especially a self-willed opinion, will deny or contradict the Lord and his Lordship. Although the Lord purchased them at the cross, *they will go their own way* and bring quick destruction, ruin and loss upon themselves both physical, spiritual and eternal. **2** A large, indefinite number of *people*, the masses, shall follow and yield to the false teachers deadly ways, this will lead to many experiencing ruin and loss both spiritually and eternally. Because of this the true way will be scoffed at and ridiculed. **3** Through covetousness, greed and the desire for more, the false teachers shall tell falsehoods and lies to try to get hold of your money.

4 *Warning:* God did not spare the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus), the abode of the wicked dead. He delivered them into chains of darkness and blackness. *There they are* reserved and guarded until their judgment and condemnation. **5** *Neither did He* spare the old world and its inhabitants on the earth, but saved Noah with seven others. Noah's message was righteousness, being right with God. *This message* was followed by the flood and brought judgment upon the world

of the ungodly. **6 *Warning:*** God turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes and brought judgment and punishment against them by their destruction. This is an example and warning to those that continue to live ungodly, filthy lives of evil. **7 *Promise to the godly:*** The Lord delivered and rescued the righteous man Lot (a man of right standing with God). He was afflicted and oppress with the evil and wickedness that he saw and heard. **8** (For that righteous man who lived among the heathen, from what he saw and heard, was afflicted and oppressed day after day by their lawless and ungodly deeds).

9 The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from the enticements to sin, and to reserve the unrighteous unto the day of judgment to be punished. **10** Especially people that walk after the flesh, that is, their sinful nature, in the desires and pollution *that defile their souls*. They hate to be under authority or lordship. Daring men, self-pleasing and arrogant. They are not afraid to speak evil of spiritual beings. **11** Angels (God's ministering spirits) which are greater in power and might *than these men*, do not speak evil, abusive or slanderous statements of judgment against these spiritual beings, before the Lord.

12 These people, governed by the instincts of their fallen nature, are destitute and contrary to reason. They act like mere animals who have been born to be caught and killed. They speak evil of things they know nothing about. They shall utterly perish and be destroyed in their own corrupt deeds. **13** And shall receive a recompense for their unrighteousness. They openly do evil. Dirty spots and moral blemishes, delighting themselves with their own deceitfulness, believing what is not true, misleading *others* while they eat meals with you. **14** Having and continuing to have eyes full of adultery, they are unceasing in their sin. They bait, allure, entice and deceive unsteady souls. Their hearts are fixed on greedy practices; people whose misfortune is to fall, cursed children: **15** Who forsook and departed from God's way, and wandered off following and yielding to the way and conduct of Balaam the son of Bosor. Balaam loved the pay he could get from doing wrong. **16** He was reprov'd and reprimanded sharply for his iniquity: a voiceless donkey spoke with a man's voice and forbid the insanity of the prophet.

17 These *false prophets and people like them* are waterless wells, rain clouds blown away; to whom the darkness of the

nether world is reserved forever. **18** For as they speak and continue to speak arrogant and boastful words devoid of truth, they entice and deceive through the desires and cravings of the sinful nature. Through unbridled lust they lure back into sin those who have just escaped from their sinful living. **19** While they promise freedom from law and needless restraints, they themselves are slaves to corrupt living: for of whom a man is overcome, that man is a slave to whatever controls him. **20** For if after they have escaped the pollutions and defilements of the world through knowing the Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ. If they are again entangled, mastered and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were in the beginning. **21** For it had been more advantageous for them not to have become acquainted with the way or course of righteousness, than after they have known it, to turn their backs on the holy commandment(s), that is, the teaching given unto them. **22** But it is true what the proverb says, **“THE DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT; AND THE PIG THAT IS WASHED RETURNS TO WALLOW IN THE MUD AGAIN.”**

2 PETER CHAPTER 3

1 This second letter, dear friends, I now write unto you; to arouse your mind and stimulate your wholesome thinking by reminding you: **2** To recall what the holy prophets said long ago, and the commandments of our Lord and Saviour given from us *to you*, the Lord's apostles: **3** First of all I want to remind you, that there shall arise in the closing days of this age, scoffers and mockers, living only to satisfy their own flesh, **4** And saying, **"WHERE IS HIS RETURN THAT WAS PROMISED BY JESUS? FOR EVERYTHING REMAINS THE SAME SINCE CREATION DAY."**

5 For this they deliberately forget, the heavens came into existence by the word of God long ago, and the earth was brought up from the water and was surrounded by water: **6** Whereby the world of that time, perished beneath a great and mighty flood: **7** By God's own word the present heavens and earth are reserved and destined to be consumed by fire, reserved until the Judgment Day when there shall be the utter destruction, perishing and ruin of ungodly men.

8 *Dearly* beloved, be not ignorant and unaware of this one thing, one day is like a

thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like tomorrow to Him. **9** The Lord is not slow or delayed concerning his promise to return, as some people understand slowness; but is longsuffering, patient, slow to anger and to punish us. He is not willing that any should perish or be lost, but that all should come to repentance by having a change of heart and mind. *In this way, people turn from Satan and his ways unto God and His ways.* **10** The Day of the Lord, is a time when the present world and all its evil will be brought to an end, Jesus will return and judge mankind. It will happen like a thief comes in the night. The sky with all things visible in it shall pass away with a loud noise, and the heavenly bodies shall dissolve with intense heat and fire. The earth and all it contains will also burn up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be destroyed, what sort of persons should you be and continue to be? *We should* be living godly in all manner of life, conduct and behavior. **12** Looking for, expecting and waiting for the hasting, and quick arrival of the Day of God, the return from heaven of Jesus, during which the heavens being on fire shall be destroyed, and the elements from which all things have come, shall perish and become destroyed by

melting and the burning of fire. **13** In spite of that, we, according to God's promise, look for a new universe and world, wherein is always present, righteousness, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, justice, correctness of thinking, feeling and acting.

14 Wherefore, my dear friends, seeing that you are anticipating and waiting for these things, exert one's self, endeavor, give attentive care and heedfulness, that the Lord might find you pure, faultless and living in peace. **15** And consider that the Lord is waiting and is patient because he wants people to be saved; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; **16** As also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things; in which some of the things Paul writes are hard to understand, which they that are ignorant and fluctuating, twist and pervert the truth into falsehood, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction and spiritual ruin.

17 These things being so, dear friends, since you already know these things, be on guard and keep watch, for fear that you also, being carried away with the acts and behavior of lawless men, fall down and lose your own secure position. **18** But grow and increase in grace, loving-kindness,

knowledge and understanding of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ. To him be glory and praise both now and forever. Amen.

Copyright © 2011

May be copied and used for Bible Study and Discipleship Purposes. Not to be Sold.

BibleStudiesforCatholics.com