

After You're Saved

When Jim took a job with a major insurance company, he made an impression—but not a very good one. He dressed casually, was not too punctual, and lacked intensity.

Then he went to another state for training. Boy, was he ever different when he came back to the office! He wore a sport coat to work every day. He had the company logo pin displayed on the lapel. He had learned company policy from a huge notebook and he studied all the updates. Most of his conversation was about the job and the opportunities it offered him. As you can imagine, he started to do very well in the company.

There are some similarities between Jim's experience and becoming a follower of Jesus. You see, trusting in Christ is the beginning of a whole new lifestyle. If you are a new believer, or you know someone who is, here are the natural steps that should follow on your spiritual journey:

Declare your faith. Let others know that you have become a believer in Christ as your Savior. You will find fellowship in surprising places with other believers you may not have known about (Romans 10:9-10).

Witness with your life. As you begin to live for Christ, you will be presented with opportunities for unbelieving family members and friends to learn about Jesus. Let them see the changes He has brought into your life (Ephesians 4:23-24).

Commit yourself to God. Dedicate yourself to pleasing and obeying Christ on a day-by-day, moment-by-moment basis (Romans 12:1-2).

Study the Word and pray. As you read the Bible and communicate with the Lord in prayer, you will experience steady spiritual growth (Psalm 119:11; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:15).

Connect with believers. Ask God to help you find a church where the gospel is preached, and where you can experience mutual encouragement (Hebrews 10:25).

As you take these continuing steps of faith, you will develop spiritual muscle tone and strengthen your faith. Before you know it, God will be using you for His glory. —DE

REFLECTION

- Becoming a believer means big lifestyle changes for some people. Am I ready to start making those changes?
- Have I taken any of the above steps? Which will be most difficult for me? What will I do about it?

Live for Christ. Walk with Christ. Talk about Christ.

Central Mountains Baptist Church

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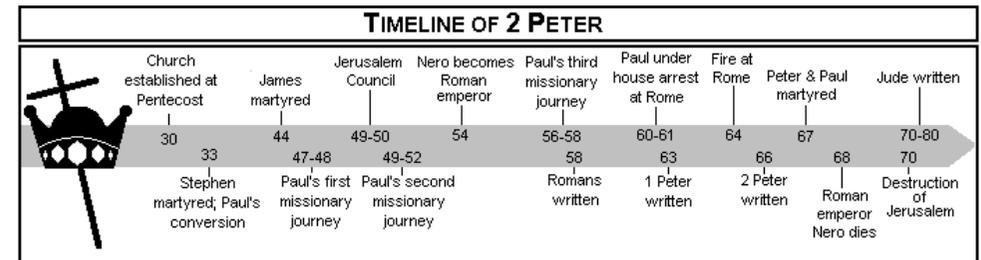
2 Peter

Today we start a new series in 2 Peter called "Overcoming Error". Here are some charts to help put 2 Peter into context.

A Comparison of First and Second Peter

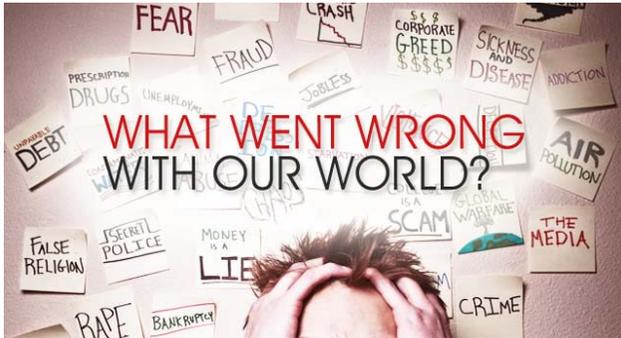
1 Peter	2 Peter
Theme: Hope in the midst of suffering	Theme: The danger of false teaching and practices
Christology: The sufferings of Christ for our salvation and example at His incarnation	Christology: The glory of Christ and the consummation of history at His return
The day of salvation when Christ suffered, died and rose from the dead	The day of the Lord when Christ returns in judgment
Redemptive title: Christ	Title of dominion: Lord
Be encouraged in your present trials	Be warned of eschatological judgment
We need hope to face our trials	We need full knowledge to face error
Numerous similarities to Paul (especially Ephesians and Colossians)	Almost identical similarities to Jude (compare 2 Peter 2 with Jude 4-18)

TIMELINE OF 2 PETER





2 Peter: Overcoming Error Sufficient Supply.



(Matthew 5:13) ""You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."
(2 Peter 1:12-15)

In 2 Peter 1:1-3 Peter gives us four descriptions of a Christian:

1. We are _____, verse 1

(Exodus 21:5-6) ""But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' {6} "then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever."
(1 John 5:3) "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."



2. We have a most _____, verse 1



(Romans 4:5-6) "But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, {6} just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:"
(Matthew 13:44-46) ""Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. {45} "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, {46} "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

3. Our experience is of _____ and _____, verse 2

(Ephesians 2:8-9) "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it

is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast."

(John 1:16) "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace."

(2 Corinthians 9:8) "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

(Isaiah 26:3) "You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You."

(John 14:27) ""Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

(Philippians 4:6-7) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; {7} and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."



4 We have a total _____ in Christ, verse 3

(John 1:14) "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

(Jeremiah 2:13) ""For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns; broken cisterns that can hold no water."

(Galatians 5:22-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

(Hebrews 4:12) "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

