

<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b><u>Introduction to 2 Peter</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to questions surrounding authorship, there had been disputes as to whether 2 Peter should be accepted as part of canonical scripture. The authenticity of the letter had not been accepted until the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> C. Not only is the content inspired by the Holy Spirit, it is also inspiring. Let us explore the hidden treasures in our next three gatherings!</li> <li>• 3 reasons leading to the hesitation of the authenticity of the author: 1. Peter was not capable of writing such superb Greek; 2. Peter who is the leader of the Apostles would never borrow words from a much lesser writer, Jude; 3. This letter differs in both writing style and diction to 1 Peter. St. Jerome believed that the two letters could have been written by two different secretaries, therefore, their writing styles and diction varied; it would be common practice to borrow materials from other apostles. Most scholars believed that 2 Peter was written after the death of Peter by a disciple, 70 to 95 years after the era of the Apostles.</li> <li>• Peter’s “second letter” (3:1) indicates that this is the second letter after the first letter, 1 Peter. The recipients of this letter are, same as the first, Christians scattered in northern Asia Minor.</li> <li>• Overview: “To remind you” of God’s “truth” (1:12); Chapter 2 makes reference to materials in Jude, highlights the danger of “false teachers ... who will ... bring in destructive heresies” (2:1), warnings against false prophets and false teachers (2:1); must live in “holiness and godliness” while waiting for the coming of Christ (3:11). This letter cautions readers against the authorities, whom do not believe in the second coming of Christ and the Final Judgement, and advocate for a life of debauchery and hedonism.</li> <li>• Themes: Affirmation of Christ’s second coming, Final Judgement, the establishment of new heaven and new earth; while awaiting the coming of Christ, we should live in holiness and godliness; place our trust in God’s words, “no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever come by the impulse of man, but men moved the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (1:20-21); God grants us the grace of becoming “partakers of the divine nature” (1:4).</li> <li>• There is no doubt that this letter is shaped by the Greek culture, for instance, the concept of “partakers of the divine nature”; however, the teachings are built upon OT and the traditions of early Christians, as well, the letter is written in unique style to proclaim and defend teachings of the Apostles.</li> </ul>	<p>CBS, CCSS</p> <p>CCSS 130</p> <p>CCSS p 132</p>
<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><b><u>Overview</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In this chapter, Peter explains our true identity as one who has “become partakers of the divine nature” (1:4), and conversion (what will happen</li> </ul>	<p>1:1-11</p>

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**Session #6: Overview of 2 Peter; God’s Might and Grace**

	<p>when Christ returns, v 12-21).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salutation: Christ has inspired us with the truth about life after we have come to know Him, “granted to us his precious and very great promises”, so that we may “escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion”.</li> <li>• Therefore, we must “make every effort” to be fruitful through faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. These virtues help us bear fruits so that when others see them, they will be reminded that they have been “cleansed from [their] old sins”. Therefore, “you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you an entrance” into God’s kingdom.</li> </ul>	<p>1:1-4</p> <p>1:5-11</p>
<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><b><u>Salutation, Affirmation of God’s Grace</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ” – the meaning of “apostle”. Why doesn’t the position of “apostle” exist in today’s Church? The names of “Servant”.</li> <li>• Through the knowledge of Christ, we have received “all things that pertain to life and godliness”, and live according to God’s will. Either Jesus called us “by his own glory and excellence”, or he called us “to his own glory and excellence”.</li> <li>• Christ “called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises”, this includes all the inspired truth in NT; especially how the OT prefigures God’s promises and the words of Jesus. He does that so that we “may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature”. What does “partakers of the divine nature” mean?</li> <li>• “For this very reason make every effort”. How do we “make every effort”? Peter lists the 8 virtues, rooted in faith, progressively, ended in love. Knowledge – according to and rooted in faith, “knowledge seeks understanding” (St. Anselm of Canterbury); devotion or godliness; honour God in everything we do and respect everyone we meet; brotherly affection – through the affection between brothers and sisters within a community, we may glorify and reflect God’s love on earth.</li> <li>• “... be the more zealous ... for if you do this you will never fall”. Since we have received such grace, we must make our best effort to live in holiness. Remember, we must not only rely on works but also faith, so that God’s grace can supplement our shortcomings. We “will fall” indicates that the grace of salvation may be lost.</li> </ul>	<p>1:1-4</p> <p>1:1, SN1-3 See: Group Discussion QA1</p> <p>1:3, CCSS</p> <p>1:4, CCSS, CSB Heb 1:1</p> <p>CCC 460, 1692 Jn 10:10, SN4</p> <p>1:5-7</p> <p>1:10, CCSS 146 Rm 3:25, Jm 2:17 CSB</p>

**Special Notes: See Chinese handouts**