

# Is Peter's Letter to You?



**Bro. Kory Cunningham**  
**2nd Peter 1:1-2**

I'm pumped because we're starting a brand new series this morning through 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. If you're new with us, we just got through with 1<sup>st</sup> Peter and now we're going into 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. We love to preach through books of the Bible verse by verse because we want to hear what God has said, not just what we think or what we think you should know. We want to know what God says and what God wants us to know. So we are going to go through 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter and the theme is living forward.

You know, in about every teenage movie there is always the same scene and the scene is Mom and Dad are going out of town and they tell their teenage boy or teenage girl... *Hey, we're going to leave you at home alone.* That's not a good idea, parents. If you're a parent, don't ever do that. You've seen enough movies, right? They say something like don't invite anybody over—order pizza, do homework, watch your sister, and don't do anything and don't have anybody over. The parents leave and then what happens? A few kids come over. Then the whole school finds out and comes over and there is a giant party. In that scene, everyone is there and no one is thinking about how Mom and Dad are going to come home at some point. It's fun, it's awesome, and they're in the moment. It's all about

right now. Nothing matters but right now and they don't realize that this isn't their house. They don't own any of these things. They aren't in control. There is somebody that owns these things that is actually coming back. They've told them to do certain things and they aren't doing those things. Then the scene always happens where Mom and Dad pull in or the cops show up. Something always happens because they forgot to think through what was going to happen tomorrow. They only thought about right now.

Maybe that could be some of you this morning. You're living life for right now. It's about your life, what you want to do, your pleasure, your dreams, your hopes, and you're forgetting you don't own your life, God does. You didn't make it or create it; it was a gift given to you. But guess what? Your heavenly Father is coming back. So I want to urge everyone, including myself, is to not live for just right now because right now doesn't count for right now—right now counts forever. God is coming back. Christ is going to return and there is going to be judgement for those who are outside of Him, and there is going to be a place of righteousness for those who are in Him. There is a future, a tomorrow that is coming, so we don't want to live for right now we want to live forward. We want to live right with the belief that Christ is coming back. Therefore, we've got work to do, we have things to do; we are going to do what HE has told us to do, not just what we want to do. So we are going to see that theme in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter.

See, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter was about elect exiles and the big message was you don't belong here. You are exiles, you are sojourners wandering through this culture and this land, but guess what? You're chosen by God. You are God's people in the midst of a culture that often is running from Him. But you, as elect exiles, you're not just living for today you're actually living for tomorrow. There is a future coming. There is a Kingdom coming. Christ is coming back; therefore, that should change the way you live today and that's really what 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter is going to impress on our hearts.

Now, before we get into today's sermon I want to read 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:11–13 as we think about this theme. Peter says, "Since all these things are thus to

be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” Peter is saying all of these things that you see right here, right now, are all going to be over at some point, but we’re a people waiting on a promise, and the promise is that Christ is going to return. Notice the question. If that is true, what sort of people ought we to be? In other words, if we are going to a place where righteousness dwells, then what sort of a people should be right here and right now? We should be people who are about holiness and righteousness and following the Lord—in other words, if we are going towards righteousness we should be living forward in that. We should be living righteous right now based on what Christ has done. So this is going to be the theme of the book—Christ is coming back and righteousness is where we are going; therefore, live right now not just for right now, but live forward, live for the coming Kingdom of Christ. Now let’s get into the book.

We are going to open up to 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter chapter 1, and we are going to think through this question, is this letter to you? As we read this intro, I want you to ask yourself if this letter is written to you because Peter addresses a certain people. I want you to try and figure out if you’re in that group of people, and if not, how do you get in that group?

## **Scripture**

***"Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,***

***To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."***

I don’t know if you’ve ever gotten mail that actually belonged to your neighbor, but when we first moved to Redbud Road we moved into David and Gina’s house, my aunt and uncle, and they moved across the road. For

the first six months, we got letters addressed to the Williams and we aren't the Williams; we are the Cunninghams. So we would have to take the mail across the road and give it to the Williams because it didn't belong to us, it belonged to the Williams. Here in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter, we have a letter addressed to a certain group of people and the people are those who have faith, those who are made righteous in Christ. That is who the letter is to. As we go through the sermon this morning, I just want you to ask yourself... does that describe me? Am I a person who has put my faith and trust in Christ, and if so, do I have the righteousness of Christ? Have I been made righteous in the Lord Jesus? If so, then this letter is for you. Everything we are going to walk through in this sermon is directed towards you. If not, then you're reading someone else's mail. Now, that shouldn't lead you to despair, it should lead you to repentance, to say I want to be a part of that group; I want to be made righteous in Christ. I have great news this morning. You can repent and believe in the gospel and you will have the righteousness of Christ. You'll be put in that "to those" group. So, this morning, the big question is this: is Peter's letter to you? We are going to think through that. We are going to chew on that. We are going to ask ourselves that question, because if it's not, if you're not a believer, you need to repent and believe. If you are a believer then let's see what Peter has to say to us.

First, let's talk not about us but about the man who is writing the letter. Notice that it says, "Simeon Peter." You might be thinking... *who is Simeon Peter? I know Simon Peter.* Well, Simeon is the Hebrew spelling of Simon Peter's name. It's kind of like the first day of school. You have the role and the teacher says, "Is Joshua here?" The student says, "Um, it's Josh." The teacher says, "Is Joseph here?" Another student says, "It's Joe." The teacher says, "Is Houston here?" Another student says, "It's Hugh." There are all these variations of names. They have given name, but it's not the name they go by and it's not how they spell it. It's the same thing with the writers in the Bible. You have all sorts of different spellings, different names, and different things they go by. So this is Simeon. Some of your translations, like the NIV, just have Simon because some manuscripts put Simon, but we are talking about the same person. So it's either Simon or

Simeon depending on where he is at and how you spell it in that place. This is his given name from his momma and his daddy. It's who he's always been.

But he's not just Simeon, he's not just Simon, he's Simeon Peter. And we know that 'Peter' wasn't the name given by his mom and his dad, it was the name given to him by Jesus. You're probably very familiar with that scene where Peter gets it. Jesus says... *Who do people say that I am? Who do you think that I am?* Peter says... *You are the Christ. You are the Son of God.* Jesus says... *You are exactly right and I'm going to call you Peter now. I'm going to change your name, and that change of name means you are this pebble, you are this stone, and upon you I'm going to build my church, meaning that confession of what you said, now I will use you to build my church.* We see all throughout Acts that Peter is one of the apostles who helps build the church. We see here that he is writing letters to help build and encourage the church.

We know a lot about Simon Peter because he's a very colorful figure. When you read the gospels, his name appears the most. He is spoken about the most. We have the most information about Peter. Peter is fun because he gets it right a lot, but he gets it wrong a WHOLE lot. He's the guy who just keeps stumbling and fumbling. Sometimes we think... *yeah, Peter, just keep your mouth shut. Just think for a moment before you speak.* Maybe you're a little like Peter. One of the things about Peter that we see at the end of the gospels is he is a train wreck. At the end of the gospels, he falls and he falls HARD. Leading up to the cross, he is saying... *I'll always be faithful to you Jesus. I'll never abandon you.* And then, right up to the cross Peter denies Jesus three times—the worst thing you can do—denying your maker, denying your Savior, denying Jesus! He denies Him three times.

So, we have Peter who falls in front of us. We see it, we've read it, and we've felt it. But I love what Kent Hughes says about 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, "In 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, we see a man who fell who now finishes, and I just love that." See, Peter fell. He blew it, fell on his face, crashed and burned, and denied Christ. He did the unthinkable. But do you know what we have? We have

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter is him in a prison in Rome waiting to be executed and he's writing his last thoughts to the church. Do you know what he's doing? He's finishing well. He's remaining faithful. He's keeping the faith. He's finishing. I don't know about you, but that brings really good news to me because we are a people who often fall. We often stumble. We often mess up. We often get it wrong. Do you know what this tells me? Even if you fall, you can still finish. That is Peter's story! Some of you in this room have fallen in a BIG way, a major way, and in your mind, you're telling yourself you can't be used of God because you have this past. You've done this thing so you think you're disqualified if anybody knew or if people found out. Or, you think people already know and they already know that you're disqualified. You think you can't be used of God. Listen to who is writing this letter. It's a man who fell and a man who is now finishing. No matter how you've fallen, no matter when you stumble or when you fall, by the grace of God you can finish. We're reading a letter from a man who fell but also finished. That is Peter.

But notice Peter writes to us with two titles. He says this about himself in verse 1, "Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ." So Peter is saying he is a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ. Think about the second one first. Let's think about the apostle. We know what that is. Jesus selected twelve apostles that would be these men that He selected, trained, sent out, and entrusted them with the gospel message. He entrusted them so that when He went to Heaven He could be like...*hey, you guys who are my apostles are going to be my representatives. You're going to build my church, you're going to have authority, you're going to make decisions, and I'm going to leave you guys in charge.* Peter is one of the twelve. God became a man and chose Peter, a fisherman, and now he is an apostle. That is kind of a card of authority, power, and privilege, right? Peter could just say...*hey, guys, it's Apostle Peter here.* That is the trump card! You can't argue with the Apostle Peter. Whatever he says goes. If there was an argument...*Well, ok. You're the apostle.* You can't do anything past that.

But notice Peter doesn't just say I'm an apostle, he says first, "Simeon Peter a **servant** and apostle of Jesus Christ." He calls himself a servant first. And actually, the word is "doulos" which actually means slave. I am a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ. In other words, I belong to Jesus, I'm owned by Jesus, and I'm serving Jesus. Therefore, I'm serving the church of Jesus. He saw himself first and foremost as a servant. In his old age, thinking about all that he's done, he looks over his life and says I am first and foremost a servant of the Lord Jesus. See, Peter is a servant AND apostle.

And I would just ask is that how you consider yourself in the Kingdom of God? See, we all have titles. You are mom, dad, son, daughter, cousin, worker, employer, boss, trainer, coach, teacher, or student. We all have these titles we go by, but in front of that title, do we have servant and dad or servant and mom of the Lord Jesus Christ? In other words, does servant identity who we are? Do we see ourselves first and foremost as a servant of Jesus belonging to Him, therefore, serving the people around us? Would people in your circle identify you as a servant, or as someone who loves to be served? If we asked your closest friends if you are a servant or if you love to be served, how would they answer about you? Because it seems like about Peter, they would say Peter is a servant! He served us. He cared for us. He loved us. He gave his life for us, and he saw Jesus doing the same thing. Jesus didn't come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. That is what Jesus said. So we are servants AND. Whatever title we have, put servant before it and then see that we belong to Jesus. Therefore, we are going to serve everyone around us. That is Peter. He is a man who fell who is now finishing. He is a man who has all the privilege, authority, and power over the church, but he sees himself first as a servant of the church belonging to Jesus and serving those around Him.

Now let's see who Peter addresses. Notice what he says, "To those (So he's writing to a group of people) who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ." He's writing to "those" and we're asking the question do I belong to that group?

Am I in that word "those"? Do I belong to that group or am I outside of that group? Is this letter to YOU or is it to your neighbor? Are you on the wrong mailbox? Are you in this group? Well, how do we know if we are in this group? He says he is writing to those who have obtained a faith. Instead of that word, "obtained," some of your translations say "whoever" has received a faith. That is also a good translation. That word can actually mean you get it by casting lots. You didn't earn it, you didn't buy it, you didn't work into it, and it's not given to you because you deserve it. It was instead a gift by lot or by chance. In other words, divine intervention has given you this faith that you have. You own it, you possess it, but you received it. It is the gift of God that you have. You have faith. What does it mean to have faith? It means you're the John 3:16 people. "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." To have faith is to be the John 3:16 people. It is to believe in Jesus; therefore, you're not going to perish, but you're going to have everlasting life because you're trusting in Christ. In other words, have you obtained faith? Have you obtained that belief that Christ is your Lord and Savior and by doing so, He's changed your life? That is who he is writing to- people of faith. He's writing to people who have their faith and trust in the Lord.

But notice what Peter says about faith. Look down with me. He says, "...of equal standing with ours." What does that mean? So, remember, who is this? It's the Apostle Peter. The Apostle Peter is writing to a group and saying... *Hey! Hey, group! You have equal faith, equal standing, with ours.* I think that "ours" is the apostles- those who were with Jesus, who walked with Jesus. Your faith is on equal playing field with our faith, with the apostles. Now why would he bring this up? Why would he say this? Well, because I think early believers would have thought that the apostles were closer to God or that they had an end road to Jesus. I get this because I'm a pastor. I will have people, I kid you not, who say to me, 'Hey, preacher, could you pray this to the Lord for me because I feel like you have a direct line of access? You have his ear. He knows you. You have an office at the church! So, you have a phone where you can call him. You pray for me because somehow your faith has to be greater and has to be higher.'

That is not true at all. I don't have any more access than any of you and that is what Peter is trying to explain to these people. Their faith is of equal standing with the apostles. Think about if you knew Peter. How much more the temptation would be...*Hey, Peter, I have this thing that's happening. I know I normally pray to talk to Jesus. You actually knew Him, right? You did that whole walk on water thing with Him where He was out and you were out. You were like, hey, then you sank a little bit and He grabbed you. You were there, right? You are one of His boys. He knows your name. What if I give you this prayer request and you call on Jesus and be like, "Hey, Jesus, it's me, Peter. Could you help my boy out?"* Surely the apostles have direct access and everyone else is kind of like mediocre, second tier, or third tier. What is Peter saying? If you're in Christ, you've obtained a faith just like ours. It's not that the apostles have this special privilege. Everyone has this special privilege into the throne room of God through Jesus Christ. We are all on a level playing field. Yes, Jesus knows Peter's name, but do you know what's crazy? He also knows your name if you're a believer in Christ. So when you cry out you are one of His people. You are one of His friends. You have an equal standing just like the apostles.

Now, how can that be? How is it that we have an equal standing with them? Because our faith based on a greater righteousness. It's not ours, not Peter's, but based on the righteousness of Christ. Notice with me what it says. Look down in your text. It says this, "To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by (notice that word by) ...by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ." How have we obtained this faith? How have we obtained this salvation? It's BY the righteousness of Christ. That's what your faith is in. That's what your salvation is in. It's not in your works, it's not in trying; it's through the righteousness of Christ. If you're a believer, you've been made righteous in Christ. You have the righteousness of Christ. So you are standing before God in Christ's righteousness. That is why your faith is equal to the apostles. That is why my faith is equal to the apostles, because we all stand not in ourselves but we stand in Christ.

When you think about that word “righteousness” all throughout the Bible, think about three different types of righteousness.

## **Types of Righteousness**

1. Unrighteousness
2. Self-righteousness
3. God’s righteousness

Number one there is unrighteousness. You see that all over the Bible, all over culture, all over our world, and all over your life. Unrighteousness is breaking the commands of God. It’s not following God. It’s living for yourself over Jesus. It’s going with the passions of your flesh wherever they lead you. You’re in control. You don’t care what the Word says. You’re going to do whatever you feel, whatever you desire, or whatever you love. That’s what you’re going to do. That is unrighteousness—doing things that are not right, good, and true in God’s eyes. Some of you in this room are living in unrighteousness. It’s how you live. You live for you, for your pleasure, and no one can tell you what to do. It’s your life. It’s how you want to do it. You know the thing is wrong but you don’t care. You’re leaning in because it’s what you want to do. You’re in the camp of unrighteousness.

But, there is another type of righteousness in the Bible. It’s not unrighteousness, but it’s self-righteousness. And that takes us all the way back to the garden. Self-righteousness is when Adam and Eve put fig leaves over themselves to cover them up. They worked hard to present themselves to God and it didn’t work. And ever since we’ve been using fig leaves to try to cover our guilt, shame, and sin up. It’s the Tower of Babel. We are going to build for ourselves. We are going to get to God our own way. It’s works righteousness. It is self-righteousness. We see it in the scribes and the Pharisees in the New Testament. It’s what Jesus dealt with over and over again. You look good. You’re going to church. You’re fasting. You’re memorizing Scripture. You’re teaching kids the Bible. You’re doing everything right, but you’re like this white washed tomb. On the outside, it’s sparkling and the flowers are growing, but on the inside, you are dead.

It's works righteousness. It's self-righteousness. It's getting to God by doing good or getting to God by being religious.

There is a third type of righteousness in the Bible and it's God's righteousness. It's true righteousness, true justice, true goodness, and true holiness. It is not just on the outside; it's actually on the inside out. It is the right way and it is God's own righteousness. I love what Paul says in Romans chapter 3. It says this in verse 21, "But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe..." It says but now the righteousness of God has been revealed apart from the law. In other words, you can't get it by keeping the commandments and doing what's right because you're always going to mess up. You're always going to fail at keeping the law. There is a new way to be righteous in God. The righteousness of God has come to you in Jesus by faith in Him. In other words, Christ IS our righteousness. If you are saved, if you are a believer you are righteous in the Lord Jesus Christ. You're not self-righteous or works righteous, but you're righteous in Christ. There is a new way to be made righteous, and it's in Jesus Christ and that's exactly what Peter is telling us. We have this faith of equal standing by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

So, I just want to ask, is that you? Do you have faith in the Lord Jesus? By your faith, have you been made right in Him? In other words, have you given your sin and by the gift of faith have you received His righteousness? That is what the life and death of Christ is all about. He lived the life you couldn't. He died the death you deserved. He rose again on the third day and ascended to the Father's right hand. And He says if you will repent and believe in me I will take your sin- all of it- and I'll give you my righteousness as a gift, not just good righteousness, but God's righteousness, perfect righteousness. Do you know why you need that? Because at the end of the book we are going to a new Heaven and a new Earth where righteousness dwells. That's God's righteousness, not self-righteousness. That is where we're going and we get it by the gift given to us in Christ.

Do you have faith in the Lord? Have you been made right in Him? Has He taken your sins? Do you have His righteousness? Are you now living in that righteousness? If you are, this letter is for you. If you're not, then you're reading the wrong mail. But you can be a part of this letter by repenting and believing in the Lord.

Notice what Peter says about Jesus. It says, "...of our God and Savior Jesus Christ." That is an explosive statement. See, I hear critics all the time say that Jesus never claimed to be God. Or, the Bible doesn't really say He's God—Christians made that up and you can't really find it anywhere. What did Peter just say? He says we have a righteousness by "our God and Savior Jesus Christ." Notice there is not an article or a pronoun before Savior. He doesn't say our God and our Savior meaning those two might be different- like we have a God and we have a Savior. No, our God is also our Savior. And who He is? He is Jesus Christ. The only way you can read that is that Peter is saying that Jesus, who is our Savior, is our God. The same thing Thomas said in John 20. He said you are my Lord and my God.

Now, a critic may be like... *Umm, Peter, it seems like you just called Jesus, God. Are you sure about that? I think you got it wrong. I don't think he's God.*

How do you think Peter would react to that? This is all speculation, this is not Bible, but I think Peter would probably react like this...

Umm, yes. I was with Him. Have you read about Him? He was born of a virgin. How many other virgin births were there? Nope, it's just Jesus. And His dad is God. Anybody else? Is anybody else's Dad God? Nope, it's just Jesus. So, virgin birth and God is His Father. That makes Him distinct. That makes Him God. But, not only that, we actually followed the guy around. Do you know what He did? Things we can't do! He took a little boy's lunchbox, multiplied it, and fed 5,000 people. He just did that! Can you do that? No. Why? You're not God. He is. He could know what we were thinking. He knew what our hearts were feeling. Can you do that? Nope! Who can? God. Do you know what He did? He would calm storms.

He would speak and they would cease. Do you know who does that? The God who speaks creation into existence can calm the storms. That is who Jesus is. We saw Him heal people. We saw Him raise people from the dead. We saw the transfiguration. Let me just get to Jesus being God! His deity showed forth through His humanity. We were there on the mountain. We clearly know, saw, and believe He is God. And, by the way, He actually told us that he was going to die and rise again. Do you know what happened? He died. Then do you know what happened after that? He rose from the dead! Does anybody else go into their own grave and then come out the other side and say, "Hey, check out me. Now I'm going to float away to Heaven." That is not just a good prophet. That is not just a good teacher. That is OUR GOD and OUR Savior.

It's very clear. Peter didn't accidentally write a wrong sentence and need to change that. Peter knew Jesus who he followed IS God, and that changes everything. That means Christianity isn't just one of the religions among all of the religions. It is THE religion among all religions. Jesus, as God, is the ONLY way to the Father. He IS literally salvation. In other words, he says our God and our Savior. I love in Luke chapter 2 when Mary and Joseph bring their baby to the temple, Simeon sees the baby, and he holds him. Do you know what he prays to God? He says thank you for letting my eyes see your salvation. Do you know what he's looking at? A baby. How is a baby salvation? It's because salvation is not a plan. It's not X plus Z equals Y. It's not do this and do that, or go here and do this. Salvation is a person and His name is Jesus. Jesus is our Savior. We are saved BY Jesus. We are saved THROUGH Jesus. In our salvation, we are put into Jesus. Peter says, "Our God and our Savior." In other words, Jesus is the one who saves us.

So let me ask this question. Is Jesus your God and your Savior? Is He your God and Savior? It's really easy to actually know that because if he is your God it will radically change your whole life. If He's your God then your whole life will revolve around Him- every decision, every thought will revolve around God. If He's not your God then your world will revolve around you. He will be a part of it out there in the distance as a good teacher and a guy that you think you need someday when Heaven comes.

But if He is your God, He will be the center of your life and you will revolve around Him. You will make decisions based on Him. You will love Him, grow in Him, and worship Him. He will be your God if He's your God and Savior. So does this letter belong to you? Have you obtained a faith in Jesus? Has He become your righteousness? And by doing so, is He your God and Savior? Can you really say He's your God, He's your Lord, He's your Savior, and He's saved you from your sins and you're following Him with your life? That's not an up here in your head question. That is, how does it actually and practically walk in your life? Are your sins being removed? Are you finding more and more life in Christ? Are you walking with the Lord Jesus? Is the letter to you or are you reading the wrong mail?

If this letter is to you, notice what Peter says in verse 2, "May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." That sounds good! Grace and peace are good words. Grace- God's favor and God's enabling power. Peace- the opposite anxious, stress, or worried. Just imagine having peace. Have you ever been watching something and the YouTube Zen commercial comes on? It's just woods and streams and I'm always like, "Can we watch that?" Then it goes back to what we were watching and I say, "No! Go back to the peace! Go back to the river. Is there a channel can I just watch that all day?" He is saying you can have peace! And notice it doesn't say added to you. It doesn't say grace and peace added to you as in added to your life. He says "multiplied to you." It's like multiplication- running over, abounding- grace and peace. The question is how do we get grace and peace? How do we get it multiplied in our lives? It says, "...in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." Grace and peace don't just happen. Grace and peace come through a channel and the channel is knowing God. As you know God, as you get to know God, and as you grow in the knowledge of God, do you know what will be multiplied to you? Grace and peace. The more you know God the more you'll be like God, the more you'll love God, and the more you'll have God's grace and peace in your life. You'll stop worrying about everything in your life and your eyes will be on the God who actually has all of life orchestrated. You can trust him rather than worrying about everything. You

can actually walk in the favor and power of God because your walking in His knowledge. You are growing in Him.

One of the themes throughout this book is the knowledge of God. I'll give you a teaser for next week. It says this in the next verse, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him..." So it's through the knowledge of Him that we get these things. Notice the very last verse of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. It says this in chapter 3, verse 18, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." So there is this idea of knowledge, having grace and peace multiplied through knowing God. Remember, Peter's going to die. He's walking out to execution and the last words he says are grow in the knowledge of Jesus. Know God and keep knowing Him because the more you know Him the more you'll be like Him.

So here are three questions that I want you to ask as we end.

### 1. Is Peter's letter for you?

Are you those people who have obtained a faith by the righteousness of Christ and Jesus is your Lord God and Savior? Do you have salvation? Have you been saved by the Lord? If not, if you're in unrighteousness or works righteousness, do you know what you can do this morning? Repent and believe in Jesus. Repent and believe in the gospel, that He lived for you, died for you, and rose for you so that He can take your sins and give you His righteousness. Repent and believe in the gospel. If you need help with that, we are here for you. You can be a part of this letter through belief in Christ.

### 2. If you are in Christ, are you seeking to know God?

That is one of the themes. Are you seeking to know God? Just really practically, that is not a mystical question. Are you reading your Bible? Are you putting your nose in the scriptures, reading the Bible, and getting to know God? If the answer is no, then grace and peace are not being

multiplied to you. You are not becoming like God. You're not knowing God. You're living for right now. You're not living forward. So, what do you do? You pick up your Bible, put your nose in it, start reading the Bible, and get to know God. It's probably on your phone! It's really easy! Grow in the knowledge of God.

### 3. Are you a servant?

Peter was a servant and an apostle. Are a servant and dad? Servant and mom? Servant and daughter? Does servant identify who you are because you're walking in God, you see him serving people, and you want to serve those around you?

Is the letter for you? That is the first question. Are you seeking after God? Are you seeking after the knowledge of God? Then, are you truly being a servant? You know, if you see those teen movies with that scene, everybody knows mom and dad are coming back that are watching. The only people that don't know are the people there. But everybody knows it's going to happen. You know, we are the people who actually know God is coming back. That knowledge should change the way we live. We shouldn't live for right now only. Instead, we should live for eternity. We should live forward.