

Precious Faith, Precious Promises

2 Peter 1.1-4

In his first letter, Peter urged Christians to suffer for Christ; faithfulness will be rewarded when Christ returns. But his second letter confronts a more insidious threat: An attack from *within the church* – false teachers who deny that Jesus is even returning! Peter urges us: Hold on to hope!

The Christian's Faith (1-2)

- *A like precious faith*
- Received in the context of *the righteousness of Christ*
- Grows *in the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ our Lord*

The Christian's Promises (3-4a)

- *He has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness*
- *He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises*

The Christian's Ambition (4b)

- *Become partakers of the divine nature*
- *Escape the corruption that is in the world through lust*



Digging Deeper

1. Second Peter is a letter about God's promises, and our hope...and those who want to steal that hope from us. Many Christians today have never heard any teaching about the second coming of Christ, or His future kingdom. They have no hope. This was a problem in the early church too. To get a general idea of these false teachings, read Acts 15.1; 1 Cor. 15.12-34; Gal. 1.7; 2.4-5; 2 Pet. 3.3-4; Jude 17-18.
2. We all need to reinforce our 'forward faith' regularly – we believe in what Jesus *did* (He died on the cross and rose from the dead), but sometimes we have a harder time believing what He *will do!* Read these passages to strengthen your 'future faith': John 11.17-27; 14.1-3; Acts 1.9-11; 1 Thess. 4.15-17; 5.1-9; 2 Thess. 1.5-10; 2.1-3; Titus 2.11-13; Heb. 10.24-25; Jas. 5.7-9; 1 Pet. 4.7; 1 Jn. 2.18; Rev. 1:1.
3. Jesus warned of false prophets who would 'come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves' (Matt. 7.15). In Acts 20.29-30, Paul warned of 'savage wolves' who would 'arise from among your own selves' (from in the church). They even disguise themselves as apostles of Christ (2 Cor. 11.13-15)! We know there are church and religious leaders who do not believe the Bible, and teach a kind of 'pop psychology' and 'feel-good faith'. Why do you think this kind of teaching attracts so many followers?
4. Peter indicates in verse 4 that in order for believers to escape from the corruption and lust in the world, they would need to hold on to the 'precious and magnificent promises' of God. Jesus Himself warned that our expectation of His return would determine the way we lived. Read the parable of the wise servant in Matt. 24.45-51. What motivates the faithful slave? What motivates the evil slave?