

WEEK 23

2nd Peter and Jude discussion and 1st John background

2nd Peter discussion

Theme

Ryrie: truth of Christianity as opposed to heresies of false teachers.

S the S: grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Bible discussion questions

What did you think was the theme of 2nd Peter ?

What picture do you have of the church/believers after reading 2nd Peter ?

How is that the same/ different from our experience today?

Which passages encouraged you? Which passages challenged you?

In 1:3-4, Peter has given us the “secret” of life and godliness—how do we access it?

knowing him; we can’t gain it by anything we do, he has given it all to us.

So I assume that the more we know him, the more we will have what we need for life and godliness.

What prevents us from being ineffective and unproductive? 1:5-8

In 1:9-11, what will happen if we do these things ?

What kind of legacy does Peter want to leave behind ? 1:12-15

Why does Peter say you should believe him (rather than the false teachers)? 1:16-18, 2:3

What does he say about prophecy in v. 19-21?

I can’t help but imagine Peter looking at his own surroundings as he writes 2:4.

He gives several examples in 2:4-8, then in verse 9 says “if this is so...”---- what were the examples to show us?

How does he describe the false teachers in 2:10-19?

What is the way of Balaam? see Numbers 22 if not familiar with the story

hiring yourself out to do “religious work” which isn’t right, for personal gain

What makes us slaves? 2:19

whatever has mastered us

What do you think 2:21 means?

What does Peter warn the believers to look out for in the last days? 3:3-4

What is their error, in v. 5?

How does he answer them in v. 8-9?

How does he describe the Day of the Lord in 3:10?

Knowing that the Day is coming, how should we act?

What do we look forward to ? v. 13

What commendation does Peter give Paul in 3:15-16?

What surprising thing does he say about Paul’s letters in v. 16?

What is his final word to the believers?

Jude discussion

Theme

Ryrie: exhorting believers to contend earnestly for the faith, and condemning heretics

in no uncertain terms

S the S: stir up the believers against evil teachings

Bible discussion questions

What did you think was the theme of Jude ?

What picture do you have of the church/believers after reading Jude ?

How is that the same/ different from our experience today?

Which passages encouraged you? Which passages challenged you?

What three great things does 1:1 say about who we are?

called, loved, kept – what a great synopsis of the Christian life!

Who has infiltrated the church, in v.4?

What is his warning in v. 5-7?

About the archangel Michael and Satan and Moses, this is from a commentary:

Satan, as having the power of death, opposed the raising of [Moses' body] again, on the ground of Moses' sin at Meribah, and his murder of the Egyptian. That Moses' body was raised, appears from his presence with Elijah and Jesus (who were in the body) at the Transfiguration: the sample and earnest of the coming resurrection kingdom, to be ushered in by Michael's standing up for God's people. --Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown

What is "the way of Cain"? Gen. 4

trying to please God his own way, and rejecting the way God had told him

and given him to please Him

What other OT examples of judgment are given to describe how these false teachers

will be judged?

people of Israel (v.5), angels (v. 6), Sodom and Gomorrah (v.7), archangel Michael (v. 9),

Balaam (v. 11), Korah (v.11),

What examples from nature does he use to describe them? v. 12-13

What effect are they having on the church? v.19

What should we do, rather than follow these false teachings? v. 20-23

What do you think mercy mixed with fear is? v.23

Why can they have confidence? v.24

1st John background

Timeline

79 Titus becomes emperor

81 Domitian becomes emperor

90 1 John – John is bishop of Ephesus

Who was John?

brother of James the apostle (not the letter writer), son of Zebedee

a fisherman—again this says that he didn't "make it" into a rabbi's school as a disciple

He lived to be about 100 years old! The only one of the Twelve apostles

who didn't die a violent death. Some have said that this reflects on the fact that he was the

only one who was at the foot of the cross, not denying Jesus at the end.

How important is church? When John was too weak to walk, he had himself carried in.

He used to say continually to his people, "Little children, love one another."

When someone asked why he said this so often, he replied "Because it is the

Lord's commandment, and if this be done, it is enough."

About the epistle

Apostle John lived in Ephesus before (60's or 70's) and after his Patmos exile, and died there.

He wrote his gospel and epistles from there, and possibly also the book of Revelation.

He was the bishop of the Ephesian church.

Written in sermon style to the churches in Asia Minor

About the church

Gnosticism was making headway in the churches.

spiritual life was the only important thing, it didn't matter what your flesh did

Scripture can only be understood by a select few

incarnation isn't believable, because deity would never unite itself with anything

material like a body.

there is no resurrection of the flesh, because material things are "bad" and

spiritual things are "good"

When Domitian became emperor and demanded worship, the Ephesians wanted to make

Ephesus the center of Domitian worship for the world. They built a giant statue

Of him and put it in a place where it could be seen by everyone.

If you didn't swear allegiance, you could be killed.

Other info

Emperor Domitian—used “Lord and God” as his regular title

as cruel as Nero—frequently spent time with someone and was especially kind to them, while

his victim had no idea that he had ordered their execution the following day

Difficult passages

1:6 walk in the darkness means a lifestyle of sin

2:18-19 these anti-Christ's had been in the visible church, but were not believers

3:6 this is the standard, the goal—not to have a lifestyle of sin

obviously we can still sin, as he points out in 1:8-10

5:16-17 “sin that leads to death”----not a single sin, but multiple acts that can sometimes be

so severe that physical death can be the judgment of God (Ananias and Sapphira);

or referring to sins that may lead to capital punishment

1st “pray” means ask; 2nd “pray” means request with authority, as if we were

more merciful than God

After the epistle

10 years after the death of John, Christians were so numerous that the heathen temples

Were practically deserted.

