

## SECOND PETER “GROW IN GRACE” INTRODUCTION AND 1:1-8

### **Getting Started**

Think back to the study of 1 Peter that we just finished. Was 1 Peter a *practical* book or a *doctrinal* book?

Leaf through 2 Peter for a moment. Into which of those two categories would you place this epistle?

### **Writer**

Many modern “scholars” say that 2 Peter was not written by Simon Peter at all. They claim that the epistle was actually written in the late 100's AD and then forged with Peter's name so that it could gain more credibility. To back up their position, they say that 2 Peter is seldom quoted by the early church fathers. They sometimes point out that the writing styles of 1 and 2 Peter are different. Remember that at the end of 1 Peter, we find that Silas was there with Peter (likely as a scribe). We find no such companion in 2 Peter. Could that have accounted for the stylistic differences?

Regardless of all of that, who wrote this letter? Check the internal evidence...

1:1 -

1:16-18 -

3:1 -

### **Date of Writing**

Read 1:12-15; 3:1. What can you say about when this letter was written?

### **The Theme of the Letter**

You'll find a good summary of the letter's main message in its final verse.

### **The Recipients of the Letter**

Just from what we've discussed this morning, to whom was 2 Peter written?

## The Reason for Writing this Letter

### **The Greeting**

Read 1:1-2.

(1:1) “servant” (cf John 13:1-17)

“apostle”

How does Peter underscore the divinity of Jesus?

What does Peter mean when he says that their collective faith came “through the righteousness of their God and Savior Jesus Christ?”

“a faith as precious as ours”

(1:2) Note the word order: “grace and peace”

“knowledge”

Read 1:3-4.

(1:3) “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness”

“called us by his own glory and goodness”

(1:4) In what way do we “participate in the divine nature” of God?