

An In-Depth Study of the Second Letter of Apostle Peter

[Part 2]

2 Peter 2:4-9 [NIV] *“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard), if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.”*

We have here a passage of scripture that will be very difficult for those who have been only fed a message that God is love and **not** also told that our Creator God is also a Lord over and judge of all His human creation.

It is the same God who executed judgements as recorded in the Old Testament whom we all will face at the return of Jesus Christ as our judge.

2 Corinthians 5:10 [NIV] *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

This statement is true even if we do **not** like to acknowledge it.

This day of judgement will come to everyone of us as human beings, all of whom have been given life to be moulded into his “*likeness*” – character. [**Genesis 1:26**]

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 [NIV] *“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man.** For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”*

How is God able to do this? Read **Psalms 139:1-16**. God is aware of every thought, word or action we make in our lives.

How should we react to all this knowledge?

1 Corinthians 11:31 [NIV] *“But if we **judged ourselves**, we would not come under judgment.”*

The Greek word used twice in this scripture is “*krinō*” which primarily denotes to separate, select or choose, hence to judge and pronounce judgement.

Jesus Christ, our future judge, expanded on this time and we have record of this in **Matthew 25:31-46** [NIV].

These words of Jesus Christ should be as fixed in our minds as much as His love and mercy.

Remember always that Jesus Christ is our **only** Saviour but He is also our **only** judge.

Matthew 7:1-2 [NIV] *“**Do not judge, or you too will be judged.** For in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

We are **never** in a position to judge the life of another person for we do **not** have the insight that Jesus Christ has. Read **Psalms 139:1-16** again.

We can only, with the help of God's Word, the Christian Bible, judge ourselves as long as we are willing to accept the discipline that God wants to use to mould us.

2 Peter 2:10 [Good News Bible] *“Especially those who follow their filthy bodily lusts and despise God's authority. **These false teachers are bold and arrogant, and show no respect for the glorious beings above, instead they insult them.**”*

I believe this translation captures the true thoughts of the Holy Spirit inspired writer, the apostle Peter.

We are still in the subject of false teachers and leaders and continue with the subject of heavenly beings, God's ministering angels.

2 Peter 2:11-12 [NIV] *“yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. **But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.**”*

Referring to these people as “beasts”, shows they are acting as if they do **not** have the “human spirit” [**Job 32:8**] that separates us as humans from the rest of God's creation, [**1 Corinthians 2:11**].

The Greek word translated “glorious beings” is “*dōxa*”, also used in **Jude 8**.

2 Peter 2:13-14 [NIV] *“They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, revelling in their pleasures while they feast with you. **With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed, an accursed brood!**”*

The false leaders in the Christian church as still being condemned by the apostle Peter.

“*With eyes full of adultery*” the Greek literally means “*to look on every woman as an adulteress*”. They look on every woman lustfully calculating if and how she can be persuaded to agree to gratify their lusts.

Matthew 5:28 [NIV] *“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

Jesus Christ reminds us that the eye is the broker of sin.

Such people have come to the place where they cannot look on anyone without lustful calculation.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 [NIV] *“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose **consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.**”*

Such people have a conscience that is dead, by being seduced by evil spirits.

Hebrews 10:19-22 [NIV] *“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.**”*

The only way out of this downward spiral into more evil, is to cry out to our High Priest in heaven, Jesus Christ.

That is faith in Jesus Christ as our only Saviour, combined with a deep study of His words, as recorded in the Christian Bible.

Ephesians 5:25-27 [NIV] *“Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her to make her holy, **cleansing her by the washing with water through the word**, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”*

It is God’s Word, the Christian Bible, that can wash clean our consciences.

Titus 3:3-7 [NIV] *“At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. **But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”*

This cleaning is done by the Holy Spirit working with and in our minds and human spirit. [Proverbs 20:27].

2 Peter 2:15-16 [NIV] *“They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of **Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness**. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey, a beast without speech, who spoke with a man’s voice and restrained the prophet’s madness.”*

Balaam was asked by a pagan king to curse Israel but for a time Balaam obeyed God and would not curse Israel.

Eventually his evil desires for importance and wealth won out and he cursed Israel. [**Numbers chapters 22-24 and Numbers 25:1-3; Numbers 31:16**]

Just like Balaam these false teachers are using religion for personal advancement and wealth.

This is a sin that God does **not** take lightly. Especially –

2 Peter 2:17-19 [NIV] *“**These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them**. For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are **slaves of depravity, for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.**”*

These false teachers especially target those who are young in the faith, promising freedom by really enslaving them once again.

What these false teachers say is of **no** eternal values but appeals to the sinful human nature of their students.

“*Blackest darkness*” – I wonder if this refers to the many “*black holes*” that have only recently been discovered to exist in every galaxy?

A person is a slave to whatever controls their minds and passions.

Many people believe that freedom means doing anything they want, but no-one is completely free in that sense.

If we refuse to follow God’s Word, the Christian Bible, we become enslaved by our own sinful desires.

How can we be truly free?

John 8:32-36 [NIV] *“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever. **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**”*

The truth sets us free.

When we accept the words and promises of Jesus Christ, accepting him as our only Saviour, we are set free from the slavery of sin, that only leads to death.

John 14:6 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”***

Jesus Christ introduced Himself as the truth.

Romans 8:1-2 [King James] *“There is **therefore** now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**”*

Note the word “therefore”, so to understand what is about to be said we need to read what led up to this statement.

Only when we are walking after the Holy Spirit, that is allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us in the way we should be living, can we in our present life, be free.

This is the only way we can be “in Christ”.

Romans 8:5-11 [NIV] *“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”*

Only by yielding the Holy Spirit within us will we be free from the penalty of sin, eternal death.

If anyone tells you that you can be free in any other way, you can be sure that that person is a false teacher, whatever rank they may hold in the Christian Church, or however appealing what they offer may sound.

2 Peter 2:20-22 [NIV] *“If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.”*

Once we have received illumination of the truth, through the Holy Spirit [**John 16:13**], then if we reject it we have given up on the **only** way we can receive the gift of eternal life.

What God has offered humanity, to save us from eternal death, is beyond price, the shed blood of His Son Jesus Christ.

Luke 11:24-26 [NIV] *“When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, **it finds the house swept clean and put in order.** Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first.”*

Jesus is illustrating an unfortunate human tendency.

Our desire for reform does **not** last long.

It is **not** enough to empty our lives of evil, we must then fill it with the Holy Spirit to accomplish God’s purpose for our lives.

This weakness is well illustrated by the history of Old Testament Israel.

God would send to Israel a prophet or spiritual leader to encourage them to seek their Creator God and obey Him.

Yet as soon as the leader died, Israel would fall back into sin and rejection of God’s way of life, by following their own evil nature and begin again to worship false idols as their God.

Judges 21:25 [NIV] *“In those days Israel had no king; **everyone did as he saw fit.**”*

Without good God-fearing leadership this is what happens in every generation, including ours today.

2 Peter 3:1-2 [NIV] *“Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. **I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles.**”*

Every generation of Christians need to respond positively to what the apostle Peter is saying in these two letters.

Jesus Christ’s words, the Holy Spirit inspired words of His apostles and the example of ancient Israel as a chosen people of God who failed, must all be used to ensure we don’t fail to fulfil our calling by God in this generation.

2 Peter 3:3-4 [NIV] *“First of all, you must understand that **in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.** They will say, “**Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.**”*

How often is the second coming of Jesus Christ as our judge preached in Christian churches today?

This website seeks to be an exception to this lack of such preaching.

Just as John the Baptist prepared the people of Israel for Christ’s first coming, so this website seeks to prepare the people of this generation, for Christ’s second coming.

I will **not** set dates, for **no** human being knows.

But I will remind everyone who reads these articles on this website, that for them personally, Jesus Christ’s second coming will be directly after their personal death.

This is true for all human beings – Christian or non-Christian.

The term “*in the last days*” refers to all time after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Son of God and our Saviour.

2 Peter 3:5-7 [NIV] *“But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”*

Peter then reminds us also of the judgements of God, that were first given as a warning through the prophets but then executed without mercy, and totally.

Matthew 24:3 [NIV] *“As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and **what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?**”*

The early disciples knew for sure that Jesus Christ would return to this earth this time as ruler and judge.

The “*end of this age*” refers to the end of the “*last days*”.

Jesus Christ included in this message as warning against false prophets and teachers.

Matthew 24:36-39 [NIV] *“No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **As it was in the days of Noah**, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”*

Jesus tells us plainly we **cannot** know when the day of His return, it will come as a sudden surprise, as the flood did in the days of Noah.

Life will seem an unchanged routine of normal living to those who do **not** heed the warning given by God’s true servants.

Matthew 25:1-13 [NIV] *“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ “**Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.**”*

The parable of the ten virgins, refers to Christians who have been made pure and sin-free by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as a substitute for their own deserved death.

Does this indicate that 50% of the Christian church will **not** be personally prepared for Christ’s return, and the marriage Jesus Christ will celebrate with those Christians who are prepared?

Revelation 19:6-9 [NIV] *“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! **For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.**” (Fine linen stands for*

the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Note that it was **only** those who had made themselves ready who were part of the bride of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:8-9 [NIV] *"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. **The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**"*

God may seem slow to those Christians who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ, and long every day to be delivered from the pain and torment.

Psalms 90:1-10 [NIV] *"Lord, you have been our dwelling-place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men." **For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.** You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning, though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered. We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. **The length of our days is seventy years, or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.**"*

Compared with God's timetable for man's redemption, our short physical life is but a fleeting moment.

God is **not** slow in the work of redemption.

He is simply working to His own timetable **not** ours.

God is waiting for a certain number of people from every race and country in each generation to repent and be prepared by the Holy Spirit to be among the "firstfruits" of His Kingdom [created family].

We should **not** just sit and wait for the return of Jesus Christ, but realise that our lives are short and each of us has a work of witness to fulfil.

Matthew 24:45-46 [NIV] *"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns."*

We need to be personally prepared but also doing the Christian work that our Master Jesus Christ has given us.

God's master plan is that all humans in every generation will have the opportunity to repent and accept Jesus Christ as their only Saviour.

1 Corinthians 15:22-23 [NIV] *"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.**"*

This opportunity will come to all humans, but each in a time when they will most likely come to repentance.

For the majority it will be at the time of the great white throne resurrection [**Revelation 20:11-13**], when God's Word, the Christian Bible, will be opened to their understanding for the first time.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 [NIV] *"Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people*

are saying, “Peace and safety”, destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. **So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. **For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.** He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. **Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”**

This is how all true Christians should be living, as we prepare for the return of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:10-13 [NIV] *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”*

There are many prophetic pictures of what will happen on the return of Jesus Christ, when those humans alive at that time will get a “wake up call.”

Realising that the physical things on this earth will be burned up, we should be putting our faith and confidence in what is lasting and eternal.

Not spending our time piling up possessions, but striving to develop Christ-like character.

2 Peter 3:14-18 [NIV] *“So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.”*

This is the best advice that any servant of God can give to all who will listen.

There is nothing I can add to such words except, believe them and act on them.