

“All Things for Life and Godliness” – 2 Peter 1:1-4

- Author: The apostle Peter (v1). Critical scholars claim that the style/structure is notably different from 1 Peter, but one possible explanation for this (beyond normal variation) is that his secretary here is not Silvanus (1 Pet 5:12) but someone else (suggestions include John Mark or Jude).
- Date/Provenance: Written shortly before his death, probably from prison in Rome (2 Pet 1:12-15).
- Original Audience: The scattered believers throughout Asia Minor (2 Pet 2:1, cf. 1 Pet 1:1), given by the Holy Spirit to *all* “elect exiles” who are not yet home w/Christ (2 Pet 1:20-21, 3:14).
- Purpose: To strengthen the faith of those in danger of being swayed by false teachers with the truth (2 Pet 1:19-2:1), so we live holy lives in confidence of God’s future judgment (2 Pet 3:11).

- 1 – Peter calls himself by his old name “Simeon” – which likely is meant to remind readers of his human weakness (Lk 22:31, Mt 14:28-31, 16:21-23, 26:33-35, Jn 18:10). Though he is an apostle and an eyewitness to the suffering and glory of Christ (2 Pet 1:16-18, Mt 17:1-8), he was granted *repentance* of many failures and was *blessed* in ministry (Jn 21:15-25, Acts 1-12, cf. 1 Sam 13:14).
- Peter, like so many other leaders of God’s precious flock (Gen 26:24, Deut 34:5, Josh 24:29, Ps 89:20, Rom 1:1, Jude 1:1), saw himself not as a ruler but a *servant* of our One Ruler, the Lord Jesus. App: Serving in Christ’s church *necessitates* an others-focus (Mk 10:43-45, Phil 2:6-7).
- In the second half of v1, Peter calls attention to the way truth faith is obtained: it is *received from God*, rather than something we contribute to our salvation (Eph 2:8-9)! Peter also says this faith is “faith with equal standing to ours” because in the gospel we are reminded that *all* are dead in sin (Eph 2:1, Rom 3:23) and justified by the great *object* of our faith (“The Christ, the Son of the Living God” - Mt 16:16), including the “Rock” (Peter) himself (Mt 16:18, cf. Mt 7:24-25, 1 Pet 2:6). App: It is not just a sincere faith that saves, but faith in a specific person...the God-man, Jesus.
- 2 – The original audience is the same as 1 Peter, the “elect exiles” in Asia minor...by the Holy Spirit’s design, for each of us today as Peter reminds us later in this same chapter (2 Pet 1:21).
- 3 – “All things for life and godliness” highlights the *sufficiency* of the Word of God for our lives as believers, whatever temptations, trials and issues stemming from human weaknesses we face. App: This is encouraging news, do not accept other myths from secular counselors, self-help gurus or those who claim to have “new revelation” to change your life (1 Cor 10:13, 2 Tim 3:15-16).
- 4 – The *promises* of God (v4) are precious (have a great value!) because they relate to the gospel that justifies, sanctifies and glorifies. Specifically, sanctification includes “partaking in the divine nature” insofar as we are now new creatures united to Christ, being made “holy as He is holy” (v3, 1 Pet 1:15-16). Remember the Creator/creature distinction.... In no way does our human nature change to divine nature (that would be a great error, see *Westminster Confession of Faith* 26.3). v4 clearly gives the context of being delivered from the “corruption of the world because of sinful desire.” App: Remember your mortal enemies...and your Shield/Deliverer from the sting of death, Jesus Christ (1 Jn 2:16, 1 Pet 5:8, Gal 5:17, Ps 18:30, Prov 30:5-6, Jn 8:31-32, 1 Cor 15:54-57).