

Standing in the True Grace of God

Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

2 Peter 1:20–2:3

Read 2 Peter 1:20–2:3. Reread 1:20–21.

1. Why does Peter emphasize that “above all” (v. 20) the readers must understand the origin of Scripture? (2:1; 2 Tim. 4:3–4)
2. Where does Scripture originate? (v. 21; 2 Tim. 3:16)
3. Man played an important part in the production of Scripture. God used the specific skills, backgrounds and situations of the authors to transmit his words. Peter wants to make it clear that in this process, certain things did not happen. What are they? (vv. 16, 20–21)
4. In verse 21 Peter uses the language of sailing to describe how the prophets were “carried along by the Holy Spirit” in the same way that a ship may be carried along by the wind. How is this imagery helpful in understanding the cooperation between the human and divine authors of Scripture?
5. The Bible is “God-breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16). How does studying it help us to draw closer to God?
6. Why do you think the Holy Spirit is so helpful in the understanding of Scripture? (v. 21; 1 Cor. 2:6–14)

Reread 2 Peter 2:1–3.

7. What two groups of people is Peter contrasting by using the word “but” in verse 1?

8. Peter tells his readers that there were false prophets among the Israelites, and that there will be false teachers in their midst, too. What do the warnings God gave the Israelites concerning false prophets tell us about his attitude toward them? (Deut. 13:1–5)
9. According to 2:1, what denial lies at the heart of the heresies of false teachers?
10. How do these false teachers seek to influence the church? (v. 1)
11. What did Jesus say would distinguish a prophet as false? (Matt. 7:15–23)
12. What is this “fruit” that marks a false teacher? (vv. 2–3; Jude 4, 8, 16)
13. What destructive effect can false teachers have on the reputation of the church? (v. 2)
14. In contrast to the origin of Scripture, what is the source of the false teachers’ message? (v. 3a)
15. What is the certain outcome of their denial of the truth? (vv. 1, 3)
16. The best way to spot a counterfeit is knowing the “real thing” intimately. How can you guard yourself against the false messages you may hear? (Ps. 119:11; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15)