

Week 27

1 Peter / Petroj B

If 1 Peter's purpose was to comfort believers in the face of difficulties (probable persecution), then 2 Peter's purpose has more of a tone of warning in the face of false teaching. The authorship of this book is the most contested of the New Testament, because the writing quality is so vastly different than 1 Peter. But most people think 1 Peter was written by an amanuensis/scribe to whom Peter dictated the letter. Peter may not have had the benefit of a scribe and that would explain the poor Greek, or he may have had a bad scribe, or someone claimed to be Peter and was not. (1:1)

Assuming Peter wrote this letter, it was near the end of his life, 64-68 (see 1:13-14). This time period is among the worst for Christians in Rome. These years mark the end of the rule of Nero which was profoundly unstable and disturbing. Nero, it is believed,¹ burned Rome in 64 to make room for his building projects. He blamed Christians for this. A horrible localized persecution developed. Nero committed suicide in 68. The times were uncertain, and you see in this letter Peter speaking of the world as the believer's/church's enemy. This makes sense given the times.

Monday, Apr 24

2 Peter 1:1-14 - Faith Calls for Virtue

For Reflection: These verses includes a list of 7 Christian virtues. Goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. *Which of these virtues come easiest for you and which come hardest?*

Lagniappe: Galatians 5:22-23

Tuesday, Apr 26

2 Peter 1:15-21 – On Authority

For Reflection: At the end of his life, Peter was experiencing sabotage.² . It seems clear (16) that people were accusing him of making the gospel up. *How do you react to sabotage, or people misrepresenting/slandering you?* Peter simply points to verifiable experience (there were other witnesses to the event of which he was speaking) and to scriptures.

Lagniappe: John 1:14

¹ See: Tacitus *Histories*

² We see in Paul's letters that he also experienced a lot of sabotage.

Wednesday, Apr 26 2 Peter 2:1-10a – Truth Benders

For Reflection: *What is God's opinion of false teaching?* Of all the sins Jesus observed he says the most about the sins of self-righteousness, and greed. Peter now is talking about using the pulpit to oppose the gospel. God seems to have a particular distaste for religious sin. Apparently, grace and judgment can coexist.

Lagniappe: 1 John 4:1

Thursday, Apr 27 2 Peter 2:10b-22

For Reflection: Talk of false teachers might possibly remind some of inquisition and interrogation. Of course, that came about 1200 to 1800 years after this was written. This is simply an admonition to be careful about believing just anyone. Which is not any different than you hear today except now we are worried about fake news rather than false teaching. All of this presumes there is a knowable truth, this is not universally believed today. This concern is of false prophets/shepherds/teachers is covered in just about every genre in the Bible. *How do you discern between truth and falsehood? What "tells" do you look for?*

Lagniappe: Matthew 7:15 and James 3:1

Friday, Apr 29 2 Peter 3

For Reflection: *What is you patiently, or not so patiently, waiting? If this Day of the Lord happened this year, would that be a good thing or a bad thing? Are you in a good place with God?*

Lagniappe: Micah 1:1-4

Saturday, Apr 30 , Jude

For Reflection: My favorite part of Jude is the doxology that concludes the chapter. But that is not why Jude was written. We are reading Jude this week because Jude and 2 Peter share a concern with false teaching. *In verse 3, the readers are called to contend for the faith; with that challenge in mind, has a vibrant faith been something you have had to contend/fight for?*

Lagniappe: Deuteronomy 18:20-22