

## **Letters From God** **The Epistles of John and Peter**

(To the churches serving in the “perilous times” and the beginning of sorrows”)

“Religion today is not transforming people; rather it is being transformed by the people. It is not raising the moral level of society; it is descending to society’s own level, and congratulating itself that it has scored a victory because society is smilingly accepting its surrender.” — A.W. Tozer

II Peter: Written just before Peters martyrdom in AD 67 mostly likely from Rome during the reign of emperor Nero. It is a letter written as a reminder of the truths of Christianity and the heresies of false teachings.

### **2Peter 1:1**

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

### **2Peter 1:3-8**

3According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Christian Faith bound in 7 Graces:

Virtue

Knowledge

Temperance

Patience

Godliness

Brotherly Kindness

Charity

In Jesus Christ the head of the church and body of Christ we have been supplied through knowledge of Him all things needed to make us profitable and fruitful servants. It is through our knowledge of Jesus Christ that we may, ye are even promised that we should abound in the graces bestowed upon us by our loving Father, with all diligence in pursuit of being profitable servants in fruitful service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **Warning of False Prophets**

#### **2Peter 2:1-3**

1But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

pernicious: causing insidious harm or ruin; ruinous; injurious; hurtful: pernicious teachings; aperticious lie. 2. deadly; fatal:

Wolves in sheep clothing howling their blasphemous heresies from the pulpits of the false churches, *Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

3And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

“make merchandise of you”

They bring their messages for filthy lucre sake and barter the souls of men with the devil. The devil rewards them with their earthly lusts and they in turn sell the souls of men into hell with their apostate teachings filled with the traditions of men and making void of the word of God.

There is a time in which the souls of men will be treated as merchandise in the Babylonian system. There is also a time when the merchants of that great city will mourn that no one will buy of her merchandise.

### **Revelation 18:10-11, 13**

10Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

11And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

13And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

### **Jeremiah 23:1, 16-17**

1Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

16Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Harken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, *and* not out of the mouth of the LORD.

17They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

These wolves in sheep's clothing speak not the word of God. They are eager to heap upon those with itching ears the flattery they seek and speaking peace in an unrepentant life and no judgment from a Holy God. - *"for men will readily rally around anyone who can give the least appearance of plausibility to any doctrine which will teach that they can be assured of happiness and heaven at last, though their hearts and natures are unchanged, and though they live without God in the world"* -Alexander Hyslop.

### **Woe to the church and the people that say the Burden of the Lord**

#### **Jeremiah 23:33-34, 36,38-40**

33And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee, saying, What is the burden of the LORD? thou shalt then say unto them, What burden? I will even forsake you, saith the LORD.

34And *as for* the prophet, and the priest, and the people, that shall say, The burden of the LORD, I will even punish that man and his house.

36And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God.

38But since ye say, The burden of the LORD; therefore thus saith the LORD; Because ye say this word, The burden of the LORD, and I have sent unto you, saying, Ye shall not say, The burden of the LORD;

39Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, *and cast you* out of my presence:

40And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.

Woe to the apostate church that teaches obedience to God is a burden, that His righteousness and Judgment is a burden. That Truth is a burden, that teaching against sin is a burden. Woe to those that have itching ears with no thirst for the living water and knowledge of God. That have no conviction of sin and no repentant heart. Those who see the spiritual sacrifices to a Holy God as a burden. The truth of God stings their ears and dulls their heart to the righteousness of God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **The Church must be in Fellowship with Jesus Christ**

I John written in AD 90 under the reign of emperor Domitian and when gnosticism (knowledge superior to virtue, evil in the world precludes God being the only creator, incarnation impossible because deity cannot unit with anything material such as body, there was no resurrection of the flesh) was gaining support. Letter filled with contrasts: light and darkness, love of world and love of God, children of God and children of the devil, spirit of God and spirit of antichrist.

1That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2(For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

5This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

Jesus Christ was from the beginning (Genesis 1:1) He is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. (Revelation 22:13) We have sure witnesses and a true testimony in John, Peter and their fellow apostles that had heard,

had seen with their eyes, and had touched the Lord Jesus Christ. Their testimony was first hand being witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry, whereby we may be comforted and have joy and our fellowship may be full in the Lord Jesus and His headship of the church. The Lord is light and the church must walk in that light, any church that does not walk in the teachings and fellowship of Jesus Christ is an apostate church and is in darkness.

### **1John 2:14-17**

14I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

15Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

With the Word of God we overcome the wicked one. The foundation of the church must be Jesus Christ and His Word. We are appointed to serve the Lord Jesus in the world but not to become part of the world. *John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.* We are a spiritual house. *1Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

### **The Spirit of Antichrist**

#### **1John 2:18-23**

18Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

19They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

20But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

21I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

23Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: *(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

In the last days church serving in the perilous times and beginning of sorrows there will be many claiming to be christian that are not. They will go out from the sound teachings of the true church and seek after the false doctrines of humanism and the doctrines of devils (demons) *1Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;* The wheat will be separated from the chaff, the goats from the sheep and the true church with Christ as the cornerstone will walk in the light and the false church with the false professors will be in darkness.

The church must be busy about the work set before it by the Lord Jesus Christ our mission is clear to spread the gospel while there is still time, for we know that there will come a time when work and service can no longer be done and the lost will be doomed - *John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

#### **1 John 4:1-3**

1Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

It is through the knowledge of God that we are equipped and prepared to try the spirits. The true church walking in fellowship with Jesus Christ is able to walk with discernment in the knowledge of God, which is able to keep us from the temptations of the world. Girded with the sword of the spirit which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17) we are more than prepared to contend for the faith (Jude 1:3) and walk in the light, being profitable servants for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The greatest weapon in the world is the Bible in the hands of a person that truly believes it. Our faith is equal to the amount of trust we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“It is by Faith God dwells in the heart and rules in the life” -*Empires of the Bible*

JESUS SAVES