

**Listening to the Lord**

in

**II PETER & JUDE.**

***GOOD NEWS FROM GLORY***

***to LEAD US TO GLORY***

*(Against False Teaching that leads to Disgrace and Judgment.)*

**The True and the False in Revelation and Christian living -**

**and the final state of those who chose each.**

These notes are set out under key words and phrases, in verse order. They are intended as study aids as you work through the Scripture, verse by verse. Always remember to deal with the Lord directly, in prayer, as you work, using any study aids as tools to this end. (I try to use simple, plain language.)

E. Read

Explanation of Signs

"BRETHREN/Brothers" is KJV/Niv. LXX is Septuagint Greek version of OT. [RT] is Received Text. [Nes] is Nestle Text. WEV is Vine's Expository Dictionary. # marks an important word defined for future use. #2:5 means that this word has been defined in Chapter 2, verse 5.

**Please Note - 1:3 - means II Peter chapter 1, verse 3.      **Ju.3 - means Jude verse 3.****

# OUTLINE

1:1-11	The SOURCE and GOAL of the Gospel .....	4
1:12-21	The MEANS by which the Gospel Came .....	18
2:1-22	FALSE TEACHERS - Their Nature and Destiny .....	24
3:1-18	The FINAL COMING of Christ - Its consequences .....	38
Jude 1-24	FALSE TEACHERS - How to Respond .....	50
Appendix I	HELL, as Man's Choice .....	66
Appendix II	Knowing the Saviour -but Lost? .....	67

## INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Peter is writing to unnamed Believers whose early struggles and enthusiasms were behind them, as they were already established in the truth, 1:12. He warns against settling down in the world, 2:7-8, becoming idle and unfruitful in their knowledge of the Lord, forgetting they were purged from their sins, 1:8-9, being led astray by false teachers, 2:1-3, or discouraged by mockers 3:3. He throws out the challenge of the full and perfect provision in Christ of EVERYTHING needed for Life and Godliness 1:3, the certain destruction of EVERYTHING this world can give 3:10-14, and the possibility of their triumphant entrance into the glory of the EVERLASTING Kingdom, 1:11. It's a Letter, and Farewell. Cp Moses in Deu 29:33 exhorting Israel in view of problems that would arise out of present trends. It sets out a summary of the Gospel Peter preached, as he would like it to be remembered for all time, 1:13-15.

This book challenges us who are individually, and as local Assemblies, "Established in the truth" and middle-aged. Our "First Love" Rev 2:4, and struggles to break free from sin are largely forgotten. We're in danger of forgetting God's purpose for us. The signs that this world is ripening for destruction seems to blind our eyes, dull our minds, to the reality of Christ's return, and paralyse our hands and tongues. We need "EARS TO HEAR" and GRACE to RESPOND.

The Language used isn't the elegant Greek with which Dr Luke wrote to "His Excellency, Theophilus," Lk 1:3; Acts 1:1. Nor the Synagogue Greek of Rabbi Paul, trained in technical religious arguments, Acts 22:3. It's the clumsy Greek of a Galilean fisherman. Silas wrote 1st Peter for him, 1 Pet 5:12, which may explain differences in style/vocabulary, but there are many similarities between them. \*\*1.

\*\*Footnote 1. Matters dealt with in both Epistles include: Scriptures are inspired, 1 Pet 1:10-12//1 Pet 1:11-21. Election I 1:2//II 1:10. New Birth I 1:23//II 1:4. Need for Holiness I 2:11-12//II 1:5-9. Sinful angels in prison I 3:19//II 2:4. Noah and Family protected I 3:20//II 2:5. Immorality & Judgment I 4:2-4//II 2:10-22.

The use of unusual words may reflect local usage. The wise child of God takes the Written word of God from His hand, and listens to what He says in it. Time spent on trying to follow the arguments which secularised, paid, scholars raise about authorship etc is largely wasted, OR worse still distracts us from what God has said by setting us thinking about the speculations and rulings of mere men, Mt 15:5-9. (If you feel you must delve into such things, KJ Kistenmaker, "The Epistles of Peter and Jude," Evangelical Press, gives a balanced view of them, and a detailed commentary.) The appropriate sections of "Believers' Bible Commentary," William McDonald, and Michael Green's Commentary on 2 Peter & Jude, give help that's more direct and simple.

By its own testimony, 1:14-15, and by common report, II Peter is one of the later books of the NT. The early epistles, written while Paul, Peter, etc, were travelling and preaching widely, were soon well known and authenticated personally by the writers over a wide area. Late epistles, written as death approached, lacked this publicity and spread more slowly, while the church was being persecuted, and its Scriptures burned. In effect they had to authenticate themselves by the nature of their contents, and universal acceptance took longer.

II Peter and Jude represent written forms of the oral ministry of the Apostles, 3:2; Ju.17-18, on the subject of Apostasy, the Second Coming and Judgment. Peter seems to have been martyred by Nero 64AD, and some argue that even if the epistle contains material genuinely spoken by Peter it must have been written much later when Paul's epistles were collected and well known, 3:15. But I Th 2:13; 1 Cor 2:13; 14:36-37; 2 Cor 13:3 show Paul proclaimed they were Scripture as he wrote them, and they'd be well known before 64. Or a younger associate could have written out correctly remembered messages. \*\*2. As far as preserved records go 2 Peter is first mentioned by Origen about 200AD. But not included in Syrian Translations until 500AD. It was the most questioned book of NT, perhaps because of Gnostic books claiming association with Peter "Apocalypse of Peter" etc.

## JUDE

Jude is in the canon list in the Muratorian Fragment AD 175. Some like to speculate on the relationship between II Peter and Jude, in terms of one copying the other, etc - an empty and rather insolent exercise. The writers lived at the same time, ministered to the same people (Jewish Christians,) and saw a need to warn them using the same Jewish background. God chose to give us Matthew, AND Mark, II Peter AND Jude, the similarities and differences being to our profit. Jude has two distinctive features - He often sets things out in THREE S, and his OT quotes come straight from the Hebrew, not the LXX.

\*\*Footnote 2. Years ago I read the experience of Beverley Nichols who as a young reporter interviewed a senile politician. Nothing of value was said, until at the mention of the name, the man accurately repeated Lord Beaconsfield's first speech in Parliament made fifty years previously.

## 1:1-11 The SOURCE and GOAL of the Gospel

(What God has Provided, and how we should respond so as to ensure a triumphant entry into Glory.)

1:1. SIMON PETER A SERVANT - #Doulos- bondslave- Consciously the property of his Master, with no rights, no will of his own except to do his Master's will. Totally at his Master's disposal, under His direction. Like Paul he was a bondslave by choice, after the style of "I love my Master.." Ex 21:5-6. In the LXX Doulos- Bond slave is used of Moses, Deu 34:5, Joshua, 24:29 David 2 Sm 3:18 etc. ALL Christians should see themselves as such, Rom 6:22 1 Cor 6:20 2 Tim 2:24

APOSTLE - Apostolos- One sent as authorised, personal representative/spokesman, with all the authority of his Master as long as he obeyed Him. The privileges and authority of a bondslave depended on (a) The status of his master- the slave of the Emperor could dictate to kings! (b) His faithfully and selflessly representing his lord. Are WE willing to be "Bond slaves of Christ?" Willing to give up ALL our rights, preferences and prejudices to selflessly serve our fellow believers, Jn 15:1-14, in joyful obedient fellowship with our self-denying Lord? This is the price of fruitful, effective preaching and teaching under the protection and empowering of the One to whom all power/authority in Heaven and earth is committed, Mt 28:18-20

OBTAINED- Lagchanō Allotted by casting lots, as in Lk 1:9, Jn 19:24 Received as a GIFT from/by God, as He chose. AS PRECIOUS FAITH as ours- Those who had no direct contact with Christ on earth were as privileged as the Apostle. Each of us has received the same promises, the same grace to believe, and are saved on the same basis of grace alone, Acts 11:17; Eph 2:8-13; 1 Pet 2:10 We have the same Heavenly Father, the same indwelling Holy Spirit, and the same all-sufficient finished work of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as the Apostles Peter and Paul, as Wesley, or Luther, or Muller. Our talents may be a thousandth part of theirs but in the hands of our infinite Lord, even the smallest talent will be effective to His glory. He has CHOSEN THE WEAK, 1 Cor 1:27-31. We dare not be content to drift along. The key may well be the word PRECIOUS - the value we place on the Cross of Christ. It's PRECIOUS in the sight of God, and in the sight of His effective servants. Is what has been credited to our account lying idle in the bank while we fail to draw on it and use it? God plans no second-class citizens in His Kingdom. If we make ourselves such it is in defiance of Him.

FAITH- #Pistis- Firm persuasion, a conviction based on hearing, Rom 10:7. It's not believing everything we're told, but listening to what's said, being persuaded it's true, and acting on it.

Although it's used in NT always of Faith in God, Christ, etc, the word FAITH is the ordinary word used in everyday living. In this uncertain world characterised by human freewill, all we do - write cheques, post mail, buy and sell - is "by FAITH." Some of us do so confidently, some with timid uncertainty. Christ himself, as revealed in the Word of God, by the Holy Spirit, is the One we respond to IN FAITH/Obedience. Our trust, that we live by, is in the promises of God, AND personally in CHRIST Himself, 2 Cor 1:20. Such Faith is the right response of heart and mind to God's revelation of Himself and His will - "The Faith," Ju.3 - the trust that brings conversion and is the attitude of the believer's continued life in Christ, Gal 2:20. This produces Faithfulness in the Believer, and is the foundation on our side, of all fellowship with God, Heb 11:6. Faith enables us to know God who is invisible, accept His truth, give ourselves to Him, and live in fellowship with Him, to His Glory, and the blessing of ourselves and others. FAITH is always completed by action "By FAITH Noah.."

THROUGH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS- #Dikaiosune- Righteousness. The character and quality of being right/just - Rightwiseness. God's righteousness is consistent with His holiness, wisdom, love. Behaviour acceptable to God/compatible with His character is RIGHTEOUS. The Death and Resurrection of Christ provides the righteous base for the Salvation which is ours in Christ. Faith is reckoned to the Believer as RIGHTEOUSNESS, and it inevitably changes the life towards RIGHTEOUS living. Here it seems to refer to the FAIRNESS of God's action in placing ALL Believers/Responders to the Gospel, on an equal footing.

OF GOD - There's nothing uncertain, underhand, or makeshift in our Salvation. We have the security of knowing that all God does, perfectly reflects all that He IS - infinite, eternal, wise, holy, righteous love. In justifying us, He Himself is just, Rom 3:26. He righteously places the perfect righteousness of Christ on us at conversion, and will complete the process of making us effectively righteous in every aspect, at His Coming, when he will present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, Ju.24. The use of one article for God and Saviour suggests both refer to Jesus, as the same structure, Lord and Saviour does in 1:11. Cp Jn 20:28.

AND OUR SAVIOUR JESUS- Known personally to Peter as Jesus, in daily fellowship, as God the Son become flesh for our salvation, and as such he proclaimed Him as SAVIOUR. CHRIST - The anointed, who fulfilled, and fulfils, perfectly, all that had been promised. God's perfect provision, THE Christ, and at the same time LORD of all. The One we serve and are secure under, who with the Father and Holy Spirit is GOD - the Source of our being, and the object of our worship. OUR - not that anyone can possess God, but that He is the God and Saviour to whom we belong and whom we worship. The Lord himself is central in this Epistle - fruitful knowledge of Him is the mark of the Saints, denial of His Lordship is the mark of the false, corrupting rebels, 2:1. Peter delights to repeat His titles in relation to everything, and we should join him in this, think out for ourselves what His titles mean in each situation. A great deal for time and eternity depends on us, in our hearts, setting Him apart as LORD, 1 Pet 3:15-16, and being ready always to explain the hope within us, winsomely.

1:2 GRACE - #Charis- The unmerited, generous, wise response of God to our need. Originally it meant something pleasing, Lk 4:22 It's used of kindness on the part of the giver, Acts 7:10 and the receiver's appreciation of/ thanksgiving for it, Rom 6:17; 1 Tim 1:12 Paul uses the word over 100x mostly for the GRACE of God that receives us freely in loving-kindness and provides all we need in that same spirit. GRACE GIVES freely, and what it gives is claimed and used by Faith. LAW DEMANDS, and exacts full penalty for failure to meet those demands. Grace is the basis of all God's dealings with us. The wonder of it will cheer our hearts/strengthen our hands more and more as we think on it. A helpful illustration of Grace is that it is the basis on which we raise our own babies. A baby doesn't work to earn its daily keep. We don't limit our care for our children to when they're GOOD, or when we enjoy doing so. Mothers (and others) care for a baby because it NEEDS care, they LOVE it, and it BELONGS TO THEM. Of course "Maternal Grace" is imperfect, its resources are limited, and it contains selfish elements, but it provides a faint outline of the attitude of God to those born into His family, Isa 49:15-16

Think of the RESOURCES God draws on, not sparing even His Son. And His GOAL - our being like His Son - to which all things around us work, in His enfolding Love, Rom 8. That's the measure of HIS Grace. Think too of the ways in which a baby brings joy to its parents. Is my response to God's Grace bringing joy to Him right now? Will I seek to? All thought of settling accounts is anathema to grace - have I the attitude of a slave? a hireling? or even a pet cat who feels no obligation to respond to Grace? Grace sets us free to enjoy what it provides, to grow, and to become what it purposes for us. Let's put our roots down into it, and GROW, especially in glad, uncomplaining, appreciative fellowship with the abundant Giver of grace so that Grace becomes the atmosphere of all our relationships with others.

PEACE - Eirene- A harmonious relationship, freedom from fear, and the sense of rest and contentment that brings. The fruit of GRACE given, received, and lived in, is PEACE enjoyed. Our PEACE with God is secure in Christ crucified, Rom 8:1, through the blood of His Cross, Col 1:20. So we have Peace with regard to the past, Peace in our present circumstances, and Peace as we face the future, Rom 5:1-5, as the Lord shares His Peace with us, Jn 14:27, and He has overcome the world, Jn 16:33. As we live in the grace of God, knowing Him as the God of grace it enables us to face uncertain and threatening futures, confident that we're in God's hand.

Enjoying peace with God sets us free to have peace within ourselves, knowing that He, in all His wisdom and Love, chose our heredity, our childhood setting, and our present environment, for His own purposes of Grace. Ps 139. Rom 8:29-30. And we can trust Him to complete the work He's begun, Phil 1:6. Knowing His loving care for us encourages us to open up all our cares to Him, with prayer and thanksgiving, so we live within the garrison of His peace, Phil 4:6-7. Occupying our minds with that which is good in His sight we learn to live in fellowship with Him "The God of Peace," Phil 4:8-9, and truly "Rejoice in the Lord."

Living in the Peace of God, and keeping in mind His grace to us, challenges us to live at peace with others, forgiving as forgiven, Mt 18:21-35 That God deals with us in Grace frees none of us to be unbrotherly, and we enjoy His Fatherly care, only as we behave in fellowship with Him, Eph 4:31-5:2 In LXX Peace is used for the Hebrew word Shalom- the wholeness of full abundant life enjoyed by God's people because of their relationship with Him and each other. As a greeting it points to the good life God has provided and the need to avoid quarrelling.

BE MULTIPLIED UNTO YOU - Not added in small pieces THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE - #Epignosis- Epi = full, Gnosis- from Ginosko = PERSONAL Knowledge gained by sharing life with someone, not Oida = INTELLECTUAL Knowledge, gained by reasoning. It's not our grasp of Doctrine, or our mastery of the skills of Christian living that's the key. Life begins for us when we come to know Christ personally as our Saviour, Jn 17:3, and every step of progress is the result of coming to know Him more fully. Not by Philosophical speculation or mystical experiences, but knowledge of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scriptures. They are unveiled to us when we turn to the Lord, and as we gaze at Him in them, opening our hearts, minds, hopes, fears and plans to Him we reflect our Lord, His Grace and Peace to others, 2 Cor 3:15-18 FULL knowledge of the Lord is our goal, so our initial knowledge needs to grow. In marriage it's sad when growing in knowledge of each other is neglected, and the partner is taken for granted. How much sadder when Infinite Love is so slighted, Rev 24. Informational knowledge gained in Bible Study mustn't become an end in itself. We need to seek His mind and will in the Scriptures, and walk and talk with Him - "We would see Jesus." The more we realise who He is, and move into closer fellowship with Him, the more real and extensive the Grace and Peace of God become to us.

OF GOD AND OF JESUS OUR LORD - #Kurios- One who has Power/ Authority. It was used as a polite address as we still use "Sir." It was a title of the Roman Emperors. The LXX and NT use Kurios to translate Jehovah/ Yaweh, Lk 34, 4:18, etc. \*\*3 After Thomas used it in saying "My Lord and my God" Jn 20:28 it's used only of Jesus Christ as in Acts 2:36 10:36 Phil 2:10-11. (Or angels, Acts 10:4; Rev 7:14.) As Kurios can be used equally of Jehovah, and Jesus, it assures us that the Father and Son are equally God - to honour One is to honour the Other, Jn 5:23 - so that every knee will bow to Him and every tongue confess that He is Lord, to the Father's Glory, Phil 2:11.

\*\*Footnote 3. All OT human names were carried over into the NT with some modifying - eg Elijah becomes Elias. Instead of doing this with His own Name Jehovah, God chose to have it translated into Greek as Kurios. So we rightly translate it a step further into English as LORD. This makes nonsense of the claim that we should always call God Jehovah.

1:3 Everything we need for LIFE AND GOD LINESS- Eusebeia- Originally the word meant concern to fulfil one's responsibilities towards gods and men. A useful word in bringing the Gospel to Greeks as a step towards reverent obedient Love for God, and unselfish love for neighbours, Lk 10:27-28 God has made unlimited provision for Godly living to flourish, and to be fruitful, so that we can live in fellowship with Himself to the full potential of the abundant life He won for us, Jn 10:10 How ashamed we'll be at His coming if we've been content with the drudgery of legalism, or the froth of experiences -living as spiritual paupers when ALL WE NEED is in Christ Himself, ready, as the Manna, to be gathered daily.

ACCORDING TO HIS DIVINE POWER- #Dunamis- Ability power, capacity. Salvation comes with all God's Power supporting it. Just as His Power SAVES us/gives us life, in the first place Rom 1:16 it ENERGISES us to live in fellowship with Christ. The Gospel is the power of God to save us from the penalty of sin and its power, its damnation and defilement. And by the Gospel, God the Holy Spirit indwells us and empowers us for WITNESS, Acts 1:8, and for Work, Worship, Growth.

GIVEN THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE- #1:2 The knowledge of experienced fellowship that comes from seeking and finding the Lord Jesus in His Word, Jn 17:3. OF HIM THAT CALLED US- See Peter's 1st Epistle - Called out of darkness into light, 2:9, to follow His sufferings, 2:21; to repay insults with blessings, 3:9, to eternal Glory, 5:10

TO- Dia- Through [RT]/ By His own- Idia [Nes] GLORY - #Doxa- Visible glory. The honour that comes from what the person has done. Used of the Nature of God and His actions which display it, Jn 1:14; 2:11; 11:4, 40 etc. God's glory is seen in Creation, in the life of Christ, and should be seen in our life, and eternally in the Church, Eph 3:21. Though Christians may be despised in this world, "Glory and Virtue" has reached down to them, and given them something of Itself that will be their joy and His joy eternally. Both TO and BY are true. The SOURCE of the Gospel Call is the Glory & Goodness of God. But equally the GOAL of the Gospel call is that we should behold His glory, Jn 17:24 and be transformed into His likeness, when we see Him as He is, 1 Jn 3:2. This is what God is already "Working in us both to will, and to do." Phil 2:13

VIRTUE/Goodness #Arete- Excellence From Aristos- The Best. Used of the virtue of a runner- his speed, of a knife- its sharpness. So here, all that Christ is, expressed in what He does - Love, moral righteousness, steadfast faithfulness etc.

1:4. GIVEN- Freely in Grace not earned. GIVEN- not generated by our human hearts/mind/wills. GIVEN- by His authority, of His Glory and Goodness. GIVEN- openly and equally to all, on the same terms, not reserved for any special class of gifted/devoted believers. GIVEN- in His Word, by His Apostles and prophets. Not lent, or rented out to us, but GIVEN, once and for all, to be received here and now. Blessed glorious word "GIVEN!" And, Blessed be the Name of God the GIVER!



EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS- Timios-Used in 1 Peter of the blood of Christ, more precious than Gold, 1:7, 19. Christ the Living stone, 2:4, 7. PROMISES- Epangia- Originally a Court Summons, so formally proclaimed promises, legally binding ones. The OT Promises are fulfilled in Christ, Acts 13:32-42 and God in His Word solemnly guarantees what He'll do, be, and give, to us in Christ. His Promises include: Freedom from sin's power, Rom 6:14; Sufficient Grace 2 Cor 12:9; Power to obey His commands, Phil 4:13; An escape route when tempted 1 Cor 10:13; Forgiveness and cleansing for confessed sin, 1 Jn 1:9. To talk of what is promised with the Lord, and fellow believers, thinking on the One who Promises, and the cost of Him on the Cross, helps us to claim them. Claimed/acted-on promises become gifts/blessings received, and the result glorifies God, 2 Cor 1:20. As with Electrical equipment, the power is ON in Christ, but they become effective as we pull on the switch saying "You've promised this Lord, and I say Amen to it- Yes please I want it make it happen. Thank-you" Until then promises are uncashed cheques.

THAT through them you MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF/participate in- Koinonias- Having in common, sharing, as "PARTNERS with the sons of Zebedee," Lk 5:7 etc. THE DIVINE- Theios (Not Theos-God) Deity and Humanity are united only in the person of Jesus Christ. Greeks used Theios to mean that at the back of the visible universe there was a God-like Something, as in Paul's quote "We are God's offspring," Acts 17:29. NATURE- Physis- The nature/natural powers of a person or thing- wild olive branches, Rom 11:24 children of wrath, Eph 2:3. Peter is talking about us sharing/having fellowship with God, as God intended, Gen 1:27. In the Gospel God offers/grants, not deity, but a sharing in His Life, Glory, immortality, a life abundant in Christ for every child of God, Jn 10:10. Cp Rom 5:2; 8:16-21; 1 Jn 3:2. God the Holy Spirit in us creates a spirit of sonship in us -moving our hearts to respond in love and obedience, Phil 2:12-15 and opens Scripture to us as we open our lives to it, transforming us into His likeness, 2 Cor 3:18, so that increasingly we share life with God.

We're born of God, new creations in Christ, with a new heredity, family likeness and expectations, Jn 1:13; 2 Cor 5:17. Citizens of Heaven, a new social setting Phil 3:20. God lives in us/our life is hid with Christ in God, Col 1:27; 3:3. We're equipped as our Lord was, to live on earth in obedient fellowship with/love of God, and sent on the same mission, Jn 15:9-12, 17:18. All that comes to us is designed to shape us into the likeness of Christ, Rom 8:28-32. Such a burden of Glory is beyond our natural desire, but there was born into us at conversion a SPIRIT OF SONSHIP, Rom 8:14-17. We dishonour the God of Glory if in the pride of our flesh (which passes as humility) we water down the plain words of Scripture, murmuring "by legal fiction/ in some limited sense," etc. Each of us knows how hopelessly below God's standard our actual living has been, but we dare not call God a liar by giving up. Instead let's read the promises OFTEN - thanking God for what He has made us in Christ, and stepping out in obedient faith to LIVE UP TO OUR HIGH CALLING IN CHRIST, relying on Him to keep His Word, as Paul did, Phil 3:13-14.

HAVING ESCAPED/and escape THE CORRUPTION- #Phthora- The effect of death on the body, Acts 2:27. THAT IS IN THE WORLD- Kosmos- The Ordered World of Creation, Rom 1:20 etc. OR the present world system as deliberately alienated from and in opposition to, God, Jn 7:7 etc; That there is a Rottness, a Corrupting influence in this World system, and in human nature, is tragically obvious. In Christ we can break out of the cycle of inherited/experienced sin.

Caused by Evil desires- Epithumia- strong desire. Epi= Intensive. Pathema- Affliction, desire. Desires distress us either by remaining unsatisfied, OR by being wrongly yielded to - bring guilt, shame, or punishment. In the NT it's used in a GOOD sense only in Lk 22:15, Phil 1:23, 1 Th 2:17. Epithumia/Lusts aren't always coarse, but they corrupt by being alternatives to the worship, service and love of God, and like the thorns of Lk 8:14, crowd them out. In Creation, all desires were God-given, and Adam and Eve followed their every desire sinlessly, satisfyingly, and to the glory of God, until their rebellion cut them off from God's holiness, wisdom, love and power. Snatching at independence, they centred their lives on the "idd-god" of Self. Fellowship with God in fulfilling His purpose and will, was replaced by living to please themselves. This left them at the mercy of Satan's lies, and enslavement by their own desires, Jn 8:34. Jeroboam is an example of such rebellion, 1 Ki 12:25-33. Adam and Eve were like a plant, safe and flourishing only as long as they were rooted in God at that one point of obedient, trustful fellowship. In grasping for independence and self-sufficiency "To be as GODS," not dependent creatures, they uprooted themselves. They could no longer draw on the resources of GOD. They couldn't plant themselves back into fellowship with God. Only in Christ Crucified and Risen, is the link restored, and the Spirit's fruit, Gal 5:22 (in effect a fresh supply of the character of God) able to be granted us.

We start out in life with the finite resources Adam/Eve took with them into rebellion. However we use them they end with earthly life. And since the Fall, hidden within every desire, and every response to every opportunity life brings - physical, intellectual, emotional, aesthetic, or spiritual - is the corrupting influence, the virus, of the "idd-god" SELF. If what I do to please myself happens to be the will of God/ for my long term good and that of others, it's only a coincidence. This is why young couples may plan an idyllic marriage that ends in the bitterness of divorce, Idealistic religious or political endeavours end in demonstrating that "All power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely." The desires we're born with are essential to full human life, but the possible patterns of use/abuse range from the beautiful and ennobling, 1 Tim 4:1-5, to the shameful and self-destructive. Satan's World-system makes the latter more attractive. Only in Christ can we escape the corruption. In Him we're like a Tomato grafted into virus-proof stock. The natural root can be cut off/ "Counted as Dead" and with no contact with the infected soil the natural plant is safe from corruption, Rom 6:1-14, Gal 2:20 etc. The new nature given at conversion, doesn't commit sin, 1 Jn 3:1-9. Corruption is inevitable for all we inherit from Adam, body, soul, and spirit if we sow to the Flesh= do what we feel like, but we can be dead to that, and sow to the Spirit, in the new nature, to reap a harvest to be enjoyed for ever,

Gal 5:13-26 6:7-10 See also Jn 15:1-15; Rom 6:1-8:39 12:1-2; Eph 1:11-2:10 3:14-20 4:17-5:5; Col 1:9-23 3:1-4:2; 1 Th 5:12-24 Heb 2:10-18 1 Jn 1:5-2:2

1:5 AND for THIS very reason- Because of the glorious possibilities open to us in Christ in contrast to the corrupting influences of self-pleasing GIVE ALL DILIGENCE/make every effort- God commands only what is POSSIBLE for us, and ESSENTIAL for our good Our eagerness to respond will determine whether we're fruitful and bring joy to His heart, Jn 15:7-8, or whether the perfect provision of "Everything we need for Life and Godliness" is wasted on us, 2 Cor 6:1. We're challenged to put ourselves fully at His disposal so we learn to draw on all the resources provided. To make His goal for us our goal, whole-heartedly, is, for Christians, happiness and fulfilment, Phil 2:12-13 When God lights our lamp, we're to see to it that we stock up on the oil that keeps it burning, like the wise virgins, Mt 25 God doesn't make us holy, or anything, without our will. Faith in God commits us to works, Eph 2:8-10 Jas 2:14-20- to energetically apply God's provision to the reality of human needs, ours and others

GOD'S WORD says this. My heart/mind often give a self-pitying, defeatist view, tempting me to quit. And our most earnest efforts on the wrong basis, only frustrate the Grace of God, Gal 2:20-21. At His Judgment Seat we may feel like someone who has saved at doing the washing by hand because the washing machine wouldn't work, complained, been sorry for themselves and finally got the repairman in, only to be shown the machine was switched off at the wall. The provision is there for every need. God's will can be done (although there's no guarantee that we will KNOW or FEEL that we're doing His will) if only, moment by moment, we will hand ourselves over to Him for the attempt to do His will, not arguing our point of view, our rights, or preferences.

ADD - #Epichoregeo- To supply abundantly, 2 Cor 9:10 Gal 3:5; Col 2:19. It's not a word from Maths, as if the adding were a mechanical exercise in addition. It may convey a special meaning. Epi= upon Choros= Chorus, Hegeomai= To lead. Cp Choreographer. When a Greek hero returned in triumph he was greeted with a "Chorus" of people singing, dancing, and miming, who proclaimed/demonstrated what he had done, highlighting it and making it obvious to all. And led the crowds in praising and proclaiming his worthiness Cp The songs of Moses, Ex 15 Deborah, Judges 5. The one who LED the chorus, and in later times the one who PAID for it, was called the Chorego.

This suggests our ADD ING involves cost and creative input. We're not just to copy others mindlessly or heartlessly, and we're to put all we've got into it. We don't compete for the limelight, or occupy the centre of the stage. Our LORD does, "We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord," 2 Cor 4:5. All we are and do as His children/servants, is like a Greek "Chorus," to proclaim/demonstrate/act out for all to see and hear, who HE is/what He has done - make it visible, credible, by what WE say and do. We're to respond to all we know of Him, and what He has done for us, and in doing so LEAD others to join us in appreciation, thanksgiving, praise, and worship of the

altogether worthy One. We honour Him by taking all He has won for us, in glad, obedient faith, Ps 116:13 We don't need to be exhibitionist "song and dance" people. Even in the OT dancing was never commanded by God, and it was open to misinterpretation, even when spontaneous/well-intentioned, 2 Sam 6:16-22 But the use of Chorego here does challenge my tendency to timid, cautious formality in worship and witness. Our "Adding" progress in Christian maturity isn't a dour, stubborn, self-righteous determination to slog away at becoming "more good" than our neighbours, so they admire our strength of character, but are glad they don't have to bear that compulsion. It's a matter of opening our life to the Lord and His Salvation, and growing into joyful Christ-likeness. As we contemplate the wonder and glory of our Lord's being and working, something more spontaneous, cheerful, even exuberant, than we're used to may be called forth, as long as it draws attention to HIM alone, and does not detract or distract from His Glory.

TO FAITH- #1:1. The content of what we believe, and the attitude of Faith, are God's foundational gift, Eph 2:8. Faith is the conviction that what God says is true. It accepts God's provision in the Gospel, uses what God has provided, with an attitude of obedient confidence, and as a result is faithful. We commit ourselves to His promises, and launch ourselves into obeying His commands, Jn 7:17; 15:7-11. The list begins with our taking God at His Word, and Love is its end.

VIRTUE/Goodness #1:3. Exercising our FAITH/Grace-given ability to respond to the promises and commands given us in God's Word, produces in daily life the VIRTUE/Goodness of Christ-likeness.

KNOWLEDGE - #Gnosis- As linked with Ginosko, #1:6 it's knowledge gained from fellowship with God, and the skill to use it in fellowship with Him so that we do His will, Eph 1:17-21; Phil 1:9-11. Well-meaning efforts out of step with the knowledge of God and His will given in His Word builds with wood etc, 1 Cor 3:12-15. As we abandon the darkness of discontent, worry, jealousy, self-will, pride, etc we can walk trustfully in the Light, 1 Jn 1:5-9. Christ is in our hearts by Faith, and as our fellowship with Him is lived out we experience His transforming love, Eph 3:16-21, make right decisions, as in Heb 11 and, sharing His heart's concerns, grow in knowledge of Him.

1:6 TEMPERANCE/Self-control- Enkrates- To have a strong grip of oneself. from Kratos= strength. The self control needed for an athlete to become a winner, 1 Cor 9:25 Cp 1 Cor 7:9; Titus 1:8. Christians aren't exempt from/deprived of desires, but are to control and make good use of them in obedience to the Word, enabled by the Holy Spirit, Gal 5:1-25. Growth in fellowship-knowledge of Christ requires us to 'down'/ be dead to all promptings of self (pleasing or disgusting) that we can't share with Him, Rom 6:3-14; 8:1-17. Discipline under the Spirit of God is needed in Bible Reading/study, prayer, business and family life, and what we think of as being more specifically God's service. See Rom 5:3-4.

PATIENCE/Endurance- Hypomone- Cicero defined it as voluntary, daily suffering of hard and difficult things for the sake of honour or usefulness. This grows under trials, not triumphs, Jas 1:3. Trials incidental to service, 2

Tim 3:10 chastisement, Heb 12:7; or undeserved affliction, 1 Pet 2:20 Active perseverance in well doing, Rom 2:7; fruit bearing, Col 1:10-11; and in running our race Heb 12:1. The mastery of one's desires, and the training of one's abilities in the Lord's service, require stubborn perseverance that places eternal joy/comfort before present ones. To "Hang in there" against the pressures of the world around and the flesh within, calls for unwavering trust in God, His Word, His purposes, and His triumph, Heb 12:2-3; Jas 1:6-8.

Adam's one step of rebellion was from a high-top height of fellowship with God. We were born at the foot of the diff. God in Sovereign Grace has decreed that one step, receiving Christ, brings with Him all He is for us. We're fitted for Glory instantly. Hallelujah! In that same Sovereign Grace He continues to work in us, and calls us to work it out in a fallen world in patient fellowship with Him, Phil 2:12-16. When by His grace we hear His "Well Done!" it will be spoken by a God who gives each what they earned, Rom 2:6; 1 Pet 1:17, etc. The need for patience in self control is obvious to any gardener who has to deal with Oxalis, Twitch, Dandelion, etc, among established plants. The ROOT of self remains. Each victory is temporary. Cut it back in one form, eg Self-indulgence, and it springs back in another form as Self-righteousness, pride, etc. When the Father in grace prunes that back, a crop of resentment, self-pity, discouragement, etc will spring up. There's no "hormone spray" to deal with it, although legalists, or special-experience vendors, raise false hopes or proclaim false victories, 2 Cor 11:13-15. Satan is happy when by promising more than God does results in false assurance, or crippling disappointment. As long as we're in these bodes, control of self requires constant watching, humble obedience, and prompt confession, but the reward is great.

GODLINESS- #1:3- As self is disowned, given over to the Cross persistently, Gal 2:20 Godliness/ Fellowship with God/ Godlikeness flourishes. His character is made visible in the life of His child as the indwelling Spirit enables us to walk in fellowship with Him, 1 Tim 4:8. When you see a flowering cherry with both white and pink flowers you will find that the desired Pink-flowered/New Nature is being crowded out by the Old/White-flowered stock nature which should have been kept cut back. The cost of doing that cutting back will seem small, when we look back from Glory.

1:7 BROTHERLY KINDNESS- Affectionate outgoing interest in others, not a "Holier than thou" withdrawal from them, is the mark of GODLINESS, Isa 58:6-7; 1 Jn 3:11-18; 4:7-12. Love between members of God's family is a natural development as we respond to God's Love, Jn 13:35; 15:12-17; Eph 5:25; 1 Jn 4:16-5:3. And our benefitting from God's Jn 3:16 love, should teach us to share His attitude towards the world at large. If we marry we have taken up the option of displaying our Godliness by our attitudes and behaviour within our human family, Rom 12:10; Eph 5:15-6:4; Heb 13:1; 1 Pet 1:22. To see their rightful claims on us (or those of our neighbours) in Christ as robbing us of time for pious prayer, study, etc is folly, 1 Tim 5:8.

LOVE - Agape- The Love that sets a high value on everyone, and works for their eternal good Rom 13:8; 1 Jn 4:16 Love that speaks the truth and is loyal to God and His Word, yet holds fast to the unattractive "lost," and pleads with and for them. Love which is willing to be crucified with Christ for their sake, but will not join them in crucifying the Son of God by remaining unrepentant, Eph 4:15-16; Heb 6:6. Without Love none of the others exist, 1 Cor 13:1-3, just as they can't exist without Faith. Cp Mt 5:43-48 Lk 10:25-37, Col 3:12-14; 1 Th 3:12 Unless we start with FAITH in God and His Word, Goodness etc things go wrong If we start with OUR ideas of showing Love, instead of obeying the written Word of God, the result won't be God-honoring. Some of us may wish to rush into imitating (as we imagine) "Jesus the sinners' Friend" and yet dishonor Him almost as much as those of us who by temperament, and upbringing, prefer to stand back self-righteously and criticize sinners. Unless our Brotherly Love grows out of a knowledge of God and His will, it will easily side with those we try to help, in their rebellion against God, and want more earnestly to save them from reaping what they are sowing, than to stop the sowing. We will sympathize with them in their desire for selfish "rights" against others, and their blaming of Society, etc for their situation. We'll take sides with them in their quarrels, and unintentionally confirm their natural inclination to believe that as God loves them, and understands how they feel, it will be all right for them to remain in their sin and rebellion. This betrays the Christ of the Cross. We dare not "Sit where they sit," Ezek 3:15, in the sense of helping them to be comfortable in a burning house, Ju.23 or put ointment on the cancer of their sin so that they are encouraged to defer surgery, Jer 8:11-12. To be loyal to the Lord in seeking the lost we join Him in His "Doing Good" AND in His proclaiming "Repent."

The "Fruit of the Spirit" list, Gal 5:22 is in a sense the mirror image of this -it BEGINS with God's LOVE poured into our hearts by the Spirit, Rom 5:5. Such love will never be the end product of any self-reliant legalistic attempts to add these virtues to our lives. LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONG SUFFERING... are God's Character received by faith, springing up and flourishing within, as we do our part by walking in obedient fellowship with Him.

1:8 FOR IF you possess these qualities in increasing measure- Growth develops the capacity for growth, Mt 13:11-12, Col 1:10 etc. THEY will keep you from being BARR EN / ineffective- As in standing IDLE / doing nothing, Mt 20:3. Cp Jas 2:14-20 Unless we move forward with God in the path of His will, we stay idle, unfruitful, blind, forget. Only life in fellowship with Him in obedience to His Spirit and Word can be effective. Failure to do what we know, and rejoice in what we have, produces barrenness. Inflow without outgo= Dead Sea Without our active co-operation all God's Grace to us is useless 1:2; 2:20 As we respond we reap an abundant, increasing harvest, Mk 4:19, Gal 6:7-10

UNFRUITFUL IN your KNOWLEDGE - #1:2 OF LORD JESUS CHRIST - Knowledge isn't an end in itself. Fruitfulness is the intended result of knowing Him, and of Faith in THE Faith. Failure to grow frustrates this. The RATE of growth seems more important than the STATE. Mature believers

who become luke-warm, and self-protecting, are less joyful and fruitful than ignorant, but enthusiastic young ones. Fellowship between young and old in CHRIST benefits both. We all need to know Him as LORD, as JESUS, and as CHRIST, and to live out our experience of each fruitfully.

1:9 BUT if anyone does not have them he IS BLIND- Tuphos. Both sad, and sinful. Those who fail to respond in Faith to what God says, are blinded by this world's God We, who have "Seen the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" need to keep looking to Him, 2 Cor 3:15-4:7. The Lord HAS given us sight, but those unwilling to follow/walk with Him, Jn 8:12, 1 Jn 1:5-9, find their pathway no longer lit up. To choose to be in darkness is to be effectively blind, Jn 3:19-21; 1 Jn 2:8-11, unable to distinguish between things, or use them rightly, Mt 15:14; 23:16; Rev 3:14-17.

CANNO T SEE AFAR OFF/As near sighted- Perhaps BLIND to spiritual realities and SHORT SIGHTEDLY pre-occupied with earthly things. Like Bunyan's man with the muckrake, so busy raking together the deaner straws of this world he paid no attention to the crown of eternal glory offered. Seeing only the food on his plate, the comfort of his home, the size of his bank balance. But the Greek word is literally "SHUT EYES" suggesting they deliberately close their eyes to the claims of Christ and the commands of His Word, brushing them off by saying "I can't see it that way." As in the overheard conversation of two students who had been witnessed to. "Do you reckon it's possible to admit there's a God without becoming a Christian?" "No way Man! that's why I'll never admit that there is a God" See Jn 9:39-41.

AND has FORGOTTEN- Lambano lethe- To take forgetfulness They're as innocent as the boy, who forbidden to go swimming still took his togs with him in case he happened to "Forget!" THAT HE has been cleansed- Jesus our Lord came to save His people from their sins. (Those who receive Him as their Saviour from sin and its consequences are baptised in water as a symbol that they're dead to self and sin, and alive to God in union with Christ crucified and risen.) Instead of joy in being cleansed from sins he's choosing to forget God's purpose in Salvation, and the realities of its terms. Choosing to "forget" the cost of his Saviour of that cleansing, the vileness of sin to the Father's heart, and the disgrace to His reputation of His child's actions. He drifts back into sinful ways, treats sin lightly, sows the seed - hoping to avoid the reaping, Gal 6:7-9, nibbles at the bait, yet hopes to evade the hook, Jas 1:14, perhaps thinking as he's safe from Hell his conduct matters little. We dare not let such thoughts get a foothold in us, or let our sympathy for others who are reaping the consequences of their sin move us to blame God. Our attitude must be mingled compassion and fear, Ju. 22:23 Gal 6:1. Tolerating sin isn't an option for Christians, Rom 6:1-23 1 Cor 10:1-13 We must never allow ourselves to forget that sins are sins, and the cost and consequences of sin to God, us and others We must tremble, trust, and run warily, eyes on the LORD, Heb 12:1-2; 2 Cor 5:9-11.

1:10 Therefore brothers- Equally born of God, equally privileged/ responsible. At critical points in his reasoning Peter appeals lovingly to his readers 3:1, 8, 14, 17. GIVE DILIGENCE/be all the more eager- Make the most of opportunities as they arise. Be on the look-out for them, and make progress that will safeguard against the errors of 2:1-3:7. Cp Eph 4:3; Heb 4:11.

MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE - Middle voice- make sure for yourself. All God does IS sure, but WE have assurance only as we live appropriately, Eph 4:1. The eternal security of the Believer and the solemn responsibility of the professed believer, go hand in hand. The Lord knows His own/every one who calls himself a Christian must shun sin, 2 Tim 2:19, 1 Jn 3:1-3. Rightful assurance that we ARE His, grows with our eager and earnest going on with the things of 1:5-7. It isn't a matter of vivid emotional experiences, visible success in Christian work, or personal confidence- these may earn "I never knew you," Mt 7:20-23. Salvation is shown by an obedient life, 1 Pet 1:15; 2:9, 21; 3:9, 5:10; 1 Jn 1:5-2:6, etc. But no-one elects himself into God's service, Jn 1:16, or earns a place in His family, Eph 2:8-10. Yet we aren't puppets. God's call forces no one to be His child, and no child is forced to become Christ-like. Sovereignty AND Freewill are stated together also in Acts 2:23.

God's Redemptive act comes from His Love, Acts 9:15; Rom 9:11; 1 Th 1:4. It arises in eternity, Eph 1:4, is applied in time, Rom 8:30 and is irreversible, Rom 11:29. Each is to make that certain to himself, and those around him, and so live in confident, God-honouring assurance that he is a child of God, 2 Tim 1:8-9. See also Eph 1:15-2:10; 4:1-7; Phil 3:8-14; Heb 4:9-16. His subjective assurance rests on the objective facts stated in the Gospel. God's giving the gift, and man's receiving it are inseparable, 2 Tim 2:19, 1 Jn 3:1-4, etc. Call and Election come from God alone, yet man's behaviour is visible proof/disproof of it. Is what we're given OURS if we don't take it/use it?

IF you DO THESE THINGS you will NEVER FALL - Some falling/sinning is inevitable. All is inexcusable, 1 Cor 10:13; Jas 3:8; 1 Jn 1:8-2:2. In the measure we live in obedient fellowship with God we won't stumble, or be a stumbling-block for others to trip over. Cp Peter's denial and Judas's betrayal. Those who set their heart on following the Lord as Peter had, and Judas had not, will NEVER FALL permanently. And if we walk in the Light, keeping our eyes on the Lord and take care to clear the stones from the road of daily living, we're less likely to fall, and will repent promptly if we do, Heb 12:14; 1 Jn 1:5-9. Wandering eyes lead to stumbling feet. Living a God-pleasing life keeps us from disgracing our Father, hurting ourselves, and making it hard for others to believe the Gospel we profess. If we ARE saved, knowing we can't lose our Salvation moves our hearts and strengthens our will to go forward with God, Ps 15:5-5; 37:23-24; Jn 10:27-29; Rom 8:1-5; 11:11; 1 Pet 1:3-2:3, and not FALL OUT of the ranks of God's heavenward-marching army, Ju. 24.



1:11 AN ENTRANCE MINISTERED ABUNDANTLY receive a rich welcome- Epichoregeo, as in 15. A hero's welcome for us into Glory! As in response to God's Grace we persist in trying to please Him, by making His call and purposes real in our experience/display His triumph 2Cor 2:14, so in turn we'll be publicly welcomed/display His triumph then. What we've put on/made our own, of Life and Godliness 1:3, will be acknowledged/displayed. Cp Mt 10:32 Degrees of reward will depend on our present loyalty to/fellowship with the Lord, Rom 8:15-21; 1 Cor 3:12-14; 15:58 2 Cor 5:10 2 Tim 2:11-13 Our contribution is of God's generosity, as it is when a Mother provides the material, and guides the hand of a toddler preparing a birthday present for Father, or vice-versa. But there is a real involvement of the child/servant of the Master, and a real joy shared by all concerned. We've no excuse for pride, as at best we're totally dependent on Grace Lk 17:8-10 But the Lord who administers that Grace has seen fit to insist that our actions now will determine His actions then, Mt 24:45-47, 25:21; Lk 12:8-9, 35-37. Let's avoid shipwreck, or fire-fled poverty, 1 Cor 3:15; 9:25-27.

INTO THE EVERLASTING KINGDOM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST- In its visible and tangible form, not just the unseen mystery in which we already share as Abraham-like pilgrims, Heb 11:10 And use our present blessings with our eyes on that Kingdom where righteousness dwells 3:13; Mt 7:21-27, and all sin/sorrow is banished, 1 Cor 15:50-57, Rev 21:1-5. There the Glory will beat on all our senses as we see the King in His glory, and are part of it. The thunder of His praises will fill our ears and we will be part of it. We will breathe the air of Heaven, drink of the river of life, eat of the varied fruit of the tree of life, His name in our foreheads, His service our delight, Rev 22:1-5. Perfectly fitted to share His Glory and Joy forever, Ju.24

The wonder of it is beyond exposition, it becomes more real to us by the simple, frequent re-reading of the words themselves. To think on glory, is a preparation for glory, but it's not just a matter of day-dreaming. We may benefit from a homely whimsical tale. On his way to his first Sunday School Tea a hungry boy, from a poor family, yielded to the temptation to sneak over a fence into a paddock of turnips. After enjoying a hearty meal of them, he arrived and gazing at the tables loaded with hot sausage rolls, cream cakes etc, lamented "And me so full of turnip!" As the turnip fields of this world catch our eye, it will help us if we repeat to ourselves again and again those tremendous words "An abundant entrance into the ETERNAL KINGDOM...." THAT is our destiny. THAT is the standard by which the opportunities of this life are to be judged.

## 1:12-21 The MEANS by which the Gospel Came

(Apostolic eyewitnesses, and Spirit-moved Prophets, provide a unified witness to it)

1:12-13 So WILL always remind you OF THESE THINGS even THOUGH YOU KNOW- #Oida- To grasp information with the mind What he's writing isn't new to them, 1 Pet 1:3-9, 5:1. But oral traditions tend to drift in the direction of men's natural inclination of the wisdom of their culture. They, and future generations, need to have the truths set out in writing so they can be studied at leisure in an unchanging form. And applied to the changing needs of the church and society. Formal creeds don't give this freedom. Above all else Christians need to seek God's help so that our mental grasp of the FACTS of the Gospel becomes Life-giving heart-fellowship-knowledge of our Lord, Jn 17:3. Calling people to remember what they know, and to what they are, is vital. Faith/works, Grace/effort were familiar truths to them but some teachers were advocating the abuse of Grace 2:19, Rom 6:1-7.

AND are firmly ESTABLISHED- In the theory of it, but that's no guarantee they were living it. They needed reminding 1 Pet 5:10 or they might be lured away by False Teachers 2:1. IN THE TRUTH you have Parimi- at hand alongside. It's good to have God's truth readily at hand, but obeying it builds us on the rock, Mt 7:24

TRUTH- Aletheia- Nothing hidden, or forgotten. The truth in words, that corresponds exactly to the reality it speaks of. God the absolute REALITY, has spoken in the Son/ in the Gospel that reveals Him, Heb 11:3. (The Gospel TRUTH stands in contrast to all the human, alternative "improvements," Gal 1:3-9, we will meet in 21-19.) They have built their lives on these truths, but they may now be holding them lightly, Heb 21:3. If so, the next generation will reap the material benefits, but the truths that produced those benefits may be viewed as tired and trivial. Each generation needs to hear them afresh from God/ from His Word. Col 1:5-6, Ju. 3

AS LONG AS I live IN the tent of this body- That our bodies are temporary is a sobering thought in youth, comforting in age, 2 Cor 5:1-4. We're not to despise our body, but as Nomads are happy to fold up their tent to move to better pasture, we'll gladly leave it when the glorious eternal day dawns. Abraham was a tent-dweller.

TO STIR YOU UP/ Refresh your memory- We need this as our attention drifts, and truth may lose its power over us, Phil 3:1; 1 Jn 22:1-25 The Apostle must die, and with Him His oral testimony, so he gives an authoritative statement about the Second Coming of the Lord. Cp Paul's farewell messages in Acts 20:17-38 and 2 Tim 3:1-4:8 The prospect before the Christian is certain and glorious, but our enjoyment of it then, depends on our present attitude and actions.

1:14 15 KNOWING- #1:12 THAT soon I MUST PUT it aside AS OUR LORD.. made dear- Jn 2:18-20 He viewed death cheerfully, 1 Pet 5:10 He was keeping the night before he was due to die, Acts 12:6 It's comforting/ strengthening to know that whatever comes to us, comes from the Lord. No time was given in Jn 2:1 but the Lord may have given Peter more information later, as with Paul in Acts 18:9-10 Acts 23:11.

ENDEAVOUR /make every effort- Spoudzo- To act eagerly, earnestly, be diligent A good PETER word- his forthright impetuosity was an asset when submitted to the Lord, as are all our natural qualities

AFTER MY DECEASE /departure- Exodus Used of the Lord's death Lk 9:31 As with Israel leaving Egypt, Heb 11:22 death for the Christian is a positive move. In a sense we left our Egypt at conversion- Heaven claimed our heart/ became our home. But leaving our body/old nature in death, or at our Lord's coming will be a full and perfect liberation We're aliens, 1 Pet 1:1, ambassadors, 2 Cor 5:20 and must live by Faith. One day, we'll "COME HOME to the Lord," as 2 Cor 5:7-9, reads literally.

TO HAVE THESE THINGS- The truths of the Gospel, proclaimed by the Apostles and prophets. This seems to be in addition to this letter, so may refer to Mark's Gospel, which was said to have been written in co-operation with Peter to preserve his witness to the Gospel events ALWAYS IN REMEMBRANCE /remember- It's a privilege to have the Written Word of God available. Let's use it well and make it available to all.

1:16 FOR WE HAVE NOT FOLLOWED cleverly invented FABLES /stories- Mythos- myths. Man-invented stories designed to convey man's ideas. These often have no connection with reality, and none have any power to save, see 1 Tim 4:7; 2 Tim 4:4; Titus 1:14 Peter preached FACTS about his Lord, as an honest witness. And unlike heretics, he didn't select from the facts those that pleased him, and rework the story to suit himself or his hearers. In what the Apostles preached/wrote they were following their Lord. The Bible gives us the secure witness of the God-chosen writers of the God-breathed Scriptures! As we strive to give the meaning of it so that people will understand Neh 8:8, we must encourage hearers to read the Bible for themselves, Acts 17:11, so they have the security of hearing God for themselves.

WHEN WE told YOU about THE POWER- #1:3 AND COMING- #Parousia- Para= With. Ousia= Being. Not so much the FACT of His Coming as of His BEING PRESENT WITH US with the Glory of power, not in the Glory of Grace as in His first Coming Jn 11:4 Peter James and John were promised, and saw, a demonstration/sample of this power and glory in the Transfiguration Mk 9:1-7. So Peter could speak confidently of the Coming and the Glory ahead he's urging them to prepare for.

BUT WERE EYE-WITNESSES- Epoptes-The Greek word for those who were permitted to view the sacred objects and re-enactments of the cult mysteries. So, Peter was a privileged witness with the highest qualifications. The Gospel generally, and the Truth of His Second Coming specifically were based on facts SEEN, and HEARD, as a real life experience in which the Apostles blundered as humans do. There were THREE witnesses, which made their witness legal, competent and authoritative, Mt 18:16. The Apostles taught from their personal experience of the words and actions of Christ, 1 Cor 15:3-8; Jn 1:35; 1 Jn 1:1-3; 4:14, as the Lord intended, OF HIS MAJESTY - As in "Were amazed at His MIGHTY POWER, Lk 9:43.

1:17-18 FOR HE RECEIVED- Lambano to receive, or take. Taking and receiving are the same action viewed from opposite ends. This includes taking what is already one's own as here, and in Mt 25 the virgins TOOK their lamps. Peter was an eyewitness of what the Father gave/ the Son received- The Glory that was eternally HIS, though veiled for a time on earth. FROM GOD THE FATHER HONOUR AND GLORY - #1:3 See Ps 8:5; 1 Tim 1:17; Heb 2:7-9.

WHEN THERE CAME A VOICE TO HIM FROM THE EXCELLENT/ Majestic GLORY - Ex 16:10; Num 14:10. Jews avoided naming God to avoid risking offence Ex 20:7. THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, with Him I AM WELL PLEASED- Mt 17:5. The Father also acknowledged Christ's Sonship at His baptism as He began His ministry, Mt 3:17, and as the Cross approached Jn 1:22-29.

WHEN WE WERE WITH HIM on THE HOLY/sacred mountain- Holy because of what happened there. A direct statement from Peter covering only relevant points. Apocryphal writings fill out details from tradition.

1:19 A MORE SURE/made more certain WORD OF PROPHECY/the prophets. The whole OT. Abraham was the first named as a prophet, Gen 20:7. As often, the form of words God chose to use here carry two meanings.

A. The facts to which Peter bore witness confirmed as true/made explicit, what the Prophets had foretold, Heb 11. The Son was the full and final revelation and perfect Expositor, Lk 24:27. While the words of Prophecy being the words of God need no confirming Heb 6:13-20 records God confirming His promise to Abraham with an oath. So here the direct word of the Father confirmed it in the experience of the Apostles, and strengthened their Faith. While it's human to be more confident when our experience confirms what we understand God's word to say, no POST-BIBLICAL experience has any weight in comparison with the least statement of the Word of God LIVE BY IT ALONE!

B. Important as Peter's testimony was, the prophetic Word of God is more reliable than the most direct and vivid experience. The things the Apostles saw and heard were rightly understood only because their Bible-based understanding of God and His will gave them the key to their experience. (Those out of touch with God misinterpreted a similar experience, Jn 1:22-29) The two independent witnesses - The Apostles and Scripture - confirm the absolute truth of what Peter proclaimed.

There are many OT prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. The few foretelling His coming as the humble Suffering-Servant of the Lord, are used in the Gospels to prove Jesus was the Messiah/ Christ. The Apostles proclaimed the Gospel message as the fulfilment of these OT promises, Acts 2:22-32; 13:16-41; 17:1-3, etc. The Lord warned that the more numerous and plain OT promises that He would return in Glory and Power to Judge and Reign (which He and the Apostles repeated and confirmed) would not be believed. And yet some would pretend to be Messiahs, Mk 13:22; 2 Th 2:8-10; 1 Jn 2:18-22. While some Christians foolishly proclaim dates for the Coming or follow false "Messiahs" or prophets, others reject any possibility that God will fulfil His promises to Israel. While the TIMING is no business of ours, Acts 1:6-8, the certainty of it, and its relation to the Church, is set out in Rom 11. We have seen how literally the prophecies of the coming of Messiah to SUFFER on earth have been fulfilled. This leaves us with no excuse for denying that He will fulfil literally the more numerous promises that He will come and REIGN over the restored nation of Israel, and through them, over the whole earth.

YOU DO WELL to pay attention to it- You should live according to their message. AS UNTO A LIGHT shining IN A DARK PLACE - Auchmeros-Dry, squalid, dingy. An apt description of the situation of those living in spiritual darkness. The Light shows up the dirt, and makes the removal of it possible. See darkness/ Light as a figure, Ps 119:105; Jn 1:5; 5:35; Col 1:12-13; 1 Th 5:4-11; 1 Jn 1:5-7; 2:8-11.

UNTIL THE DAY DAWN- In a sense it's already daylight for us who believe, but the full blaze will be at His Coming AND THE Morning Star rises IN YOUR HEARTS- Stands for man's entire mental/ moral/ emotional being and activity. Christ is the Light in the hearts of believers in fulfilment of the promises, Num 24:17; Rev 22:16. Cp Lk 1:78-79; Eph 5:14. The star rises first, but the order here centres on Christ personally. As the Morning Star, He brings hope. As the Sun, His Coming/ presence will dispel all doubt/ sorrow/ darkness and expose to Judgment all that hides in it. THAT isn't just an external thing a change in circumstances for us to make use of, as we make use of daylight. Christ is already in our hearts, as the guiding/ warning/ life-giving centre of our life. But THEN our union with Him will be an overwhelming Glory that takes over and transforms our whole existence. The Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God in Christ, 2 Cor 4:6, helps us to resist the darkness and witness in it Phil 2:15. But in that day it will blaze into internal, and external Glory, 2 Th 1:10; Ju. 24. The end of the Church age, and the Dawning of the Kingdom Age coincide. The Day, is almost here, Rom 13:12; Heb 10:25.

1:20 KNOWING/you must understand- #Ginosko- Personal, growing fellowship-knowledge. THIS FIRST/above all- Proton- First in time or place The basis on which all study and understanding of Scripture must operate is that it is GOD'S WORD. Unless we BEGIN right, and stay right, on that point, our studies are worthless, no matter what gift or idealism is involved. We must look beyond its words, style and human authors to GOD HIMSELF the AUTHOR, to whom we're answerable. As in Creation, so in Revelation, He is the One we must deal with. Don't waste time arguing with Preachers CHECK GOD'S WORD.

And when you do not start arguing with the Bible and its statements -the form of expression, this text against that text, etc TAKE EVERY QUESTION UP WITH GOD HIMSELF who speaks to you from its pages. Some uncertainties will remain, you won't find answers to all your questions, but you will find enough to keep you busy growing in Christ-likeness until you stand before the Lord Himself. It's desperately important that we deal with Him NOW, before it's too late to change our attitudes or actions. All problems of human relationships will be solved one day, but reading Mt 5:21-26 along with 2Cor 5:10 is salutary.

PROPHECY - Prophetia- To speak forth. Pro= forth, Phemi= to speak. Prophecy is the message God has given, spoken on His behalf. It isn't merely a statement of what will happen. In fact it may be made specifically with a view to CHANGING what is going to happen! - Jer 18:7-10 26:2-6 A prophetic statement of judgment is a call to repent and avoid it. A statement of Blessing is a call to claim and enjoy it, Ezek 33:3-16 etc. What God gave His Prophets to say has the capacity to bless/ transform/ do good to a hearer, 1 Cor 14:4, IF he responds, Rev 2:27.

SCRIPTURE - WRITTEN Prophecies have a definiteness and a permanent role to play. IS OF/ came about by ANY PRIVATE /the prophet's own- In the GIVING or RECEIVING of it no Scripture stands alone, and no prophet spoke independently. It's part of a consistent whole. INTERPRETATION- Epiluo is -unloosing Used here only in NT, but Epiluo is used in Mk 4:34 "He EXPOUNDED all things to His disciples," and Acts 19:39 to facts to be sorted out in a lawful assembly. The Greek wording suggests this is talking about the Reader gaining meaning from God's Word. The setting 16-21 is concerned with the origin and recording of God's message. Both are true and depend on each other. The OT bluntly condemns Prophecy that comes from the prophet's own ideas. In the then heathen world "gods" spoke to men through "Oracles" at Delphi etc. A woman spiritist medium, babbled in "Tongues" a Prophecy/ answer from the gods. The Oracle Priest "Interpreted" the babbling into an "Oracular" message crafted to be pleasing enough to earn a large fee, but cryptic and vague enough to cover almost any outcome. Scripture given by God's prophets was totally different from this deceitful, money-making racket that exploited and fostered superstition. The messages God gave were His composition. He didn't give the prophets disconnected ideas -as ingredients from which they were to make up the message. Or a general impression which they were left to make specific. While GOD generally chose speakers capable of understanding and sympathising with His message, it was never for THEM or their hearers to sort it out/make

sense of/ interpret it. The prophet might in fact spend a lifetime pondering on the significance of the message, 1 Pet 1:10-12

The Holy Spirit alone sees the picture as a whole, and the part each passage should play in that whole. So no Scripture is to be interpreted independently of its context and the word of God as a whole. The Holy Spirit knows what He intended to convey when the message was written down. No-one can interpret/explain/apply any passage of Scripture truly without His help, Jn 14:25-26 1 Cor 2:14-15 There is a solemn obligation on all preachers/teachers to be aware of distorting their message, to make it seem to mean what suits them, appeals to the audience, or is in tune with their age or culture. Refusal to be disciplined by God's Word, and to receive it in obedient Faith results in twisting its meaning to suit our ideas. If we do so the very life-giving word of the Living God brings death and destruction 3:16

This doesn't condemn private Bible Study, and witness. We're urged to search the Scriptures and proclaim what we read in them, BUT the Holy Spirit is provided to lead us into all truth, Jn 16:13, and where we're willing to learn we will know all of God's will we need to know, Jn 7:17, Jas 1:5. Although as individuals the Holy Spirit guides us, 1 Jn 2:20 to take pride in having our own interpretation is in a sense "heresy," and only as we submit to the judgment of our fellow Believers are we restored to the truth, 1 Cor 14:29-33 Gal 6:1; 1 Th 5:20-21; 1 Jn 4:1-3. We must beware of the individualism of our fallen natures.

1:21 FOR PROPHECY CAME NOT/never had its origin- Phero- To be a, bring carry. in THE WILL OF MAN - Anthropos-huMAN, not specifically male. Neither the urge to speak, nor the content of the message came from the prophet himself. The OT utterly condemned such an initiative, Jer 23:16-17; Ezek 13:2-8 HOLY - [RT] Is obviously true, but likely to be added by scribes as a mark of respect. MEN spoke from God [Nes] Men in touch with God SPOKE- Laleo- the WORDS conveying the utterance. So WORDS spoken and recorded by the prophets that conveyed the message, as well as the message- Logos conveyed/spoken- Legō were FROM GOD, God-breathed, 2 Tim 3:15-17. \*\*4. The prophets weren't given an impression which they had to interpret and write what it seemed to say to them. God's message didn't come as an ore from which the prophet extracted what was useful, and someone else could rework it. It might even be against the prophet's will, eg Balaam and Jorah. Read Jer 20:7-10 Ezek 21-9.

\*\*Footnote 4. These Scriptures are often said to teach the "Plenary Verbal Inspiration," of the "Inerrant" Scripture. Certainly the Scriptures won't lead us into error. But we must make due allowance for Symbols, Parables, and Quotes. In Deu 9:1 God isn't saying city walls DID reach to Heaven, it's a quote from the words in Deu 12:8. Much of Job quotes Satan, or Job's friends, and God rebukes it, Job 4:2-9. And while Job expressed his thoughts and feelings truthfully, he was largely mistaken, Job 3:2. Inerrant, Verbal Inspiration, etc are human statements attempting to improve on what God has said about His Word. To take a stand on them is rash. Our Carnal natures like to take them up as battle slogans, and that's destructive and condemned, Jas 1:20.

AS THEY WERE MOVED/Carried along Phero- As in Mk 23 BRINGING a paralysed man- Willing but unable to bring Himself; Mk 12:15 BRING a

penny- A thing incapable of willing Lk 15:23 BRING the fattened calf- Possibly resisting as Balaam was when he had to pronounce blessing on Israel; Acts 27:17 The ship DRIVEN by storm. These are typical uses of Phero. The prophets didn't BRING/Phero the Message, it was them who were CARRIED ALONG! Men, with their experience/ talents/ insights spoke - actively involved, as they were moved - passively, by the Holy Spirit. This is stated in the present tense as it describes a continuous process as they wrote God's Message, Jas 5:10 Cp 2 Sm 23:2 Jer 1:4-10 209, 23:15-40 often in Ezekiel; Amos 7:14-8:2; Acts 28:25 Heb 37, 10:15-16 Man can't Master/Use spiritual powers; Acts 8:39

BY THE HOLY spirit- Whatever the Prophet thought felt, experienced, whatever the degree of his involvement, or understanding (Whole-hearted involvement would be appropriate) the INITIATING, ENERGISING, SHAPING, and the FINISHED PRODUCT, were GOD'S. Prophecy wasn't produced by their own learning insight, or speculation \*\*5

## CHAPTER TWO

### 21-22 False Teachers - Their Nature and Destiny

(Disloyalty to the Lord marks their teachings. Spiritual sin and sexual immorality, are intertwined in this. Their doom is certain.)

21 THERE WERE FALSE PROPHETS- J.4. In contrast to the true prophets of 1:20-21, See Deu 13:1-5; 18:20 Jer 5:31; 23:14-32 Ezek 13 Mt 7:22-23 Acts 20:29-30 1 Tim 4:1-3; 2 Tim 3:13 The presence of the FALSE prophet, or counterfeit coin, proves the value of the real. But it makes it essential that we be on our guard.

THERE will BE FALSE TEACHERS AMONG YOU - Within the sphere of Christian profession Soon when the Scriptures were completed, 1 Cor 13:8-9, the danger within would come from teachers They would FALSELY claim what they taught was what God really meant in the Scriptures. Outside the Church, which relies on the authority of Scripture alone, false PROPHETS, still arise, Mt 24:11. In fact the claim to be a PROPHET, a direct source of truth from God, proves them to be false.

\*\*Footnote 5. As 2 Tim, and 2 Pet, stand at the conclusion of the ORAL MINISTRY of the Apostles and Prophets, and transition to dependence on the WRITTEN WORD ALONE, they contain specific statements on the nature of the Written Word of God.

Will Secretly BRING IN/introduce Paresisage Bring in from the side. While professing to be God's servants, and making a show of superior knowledge,



high ideas, etc they corrupt the church by secretly mixing in heresies -Sow tares in wheat, Mt 13:24-30 Cp Rom 16:17-18 Gal 2:4; Titus 3:10 2 Jn 10 Peter moves between present and future in his statements, as he is viewing as a whole the subject of messages claiming to be from God See 1 Jn 2:18-27, 2 Th 2:2-3.

**DAMNABLE /Destructive- #Apdeia-** The waste or ruin of something eg ointment, Mt 26:8, or the lives of selfish Christians, Phil 3:19. Their teachings are both false and dangerous. They are examples of blind, shut-eyedness and deliberate forgetting, 1:9, 3:5. Destructive of God's work in the short term, and ultimately of themselves, 1 Cor 3:17. They don't earn a living by teaching Humanism, etc. They take paid Church positions, and while still reading the same Bibles, professing the creeds, and using the comforting familiar expressions such as "Life in Christ," deny the resurrection, etc. Their mixture of heresy and truth turns the congregation away from the truth, joy, and life of the Gospel - so, conversions cease, and within a generation there are no longer any Believers in it, though the old routines may be maintained. Others proclaim an unbiblical "spiritual warfare" against the forces of evil, that distracts from Christ and the Gospel by being obsessed with superstitious ideas of demons, exorcism, etc.

**HERESIES- Hairesis-** Choices, opinions, sects. By teaching their own OPINIONS, they offer people a CHOICE as to what to believe the Scriptures mean. God permits this -He won't have mindless conscripts or slaves, 1 Cor 11:19. He allows us to be tested, that we may freely choose HIM. The result of false teaching is the forming of SECTS. Groups who choose to follow certain human opinions as the Pharisees etc did, Acts 5:17; 15:5. All must make choices, but Heresies are choices made in favour of self against God, our own interpretations against the Spirit's intention and witness 1:20-21; Titus 3:10 False Teachers preach what they, and their hearers CHOOSE to believe to be true - eg that Salvation is by: Deciding for Christ, Christening, Covenant and Law conformity, Good works, etc. These distortions of truth are sown by Satan, Mt 13:25 in his "Angel of Light" role, 2 Cor 11:14. This divides Christians, and gets them to waste their energies in love-destroying civil war, Mt 7:2-5; 1 Cor 13:1-3. (His "lion attacks," 1 Pet 5:8, may make Believers close ranks.)

**DENYING -** To disobey His Word is to deny His Lordship, Lk 6:46 The example of Peter warns us ALL. In Mt 16, at the glorious moment of first realising the Lordship of Christ, his rejection of the thought of Christ dying on the Cross made him the mouthpiece of Satan. The prospect of the Cross moved his later denial of his Lord. We who are less aware of our Lord's presence than Peter was, need to beware of the danger of denying our Lord, either in the message we preach, or in the practice of our daily life. All Israelites shared the land, but false Prophets denied the need to obey the Redeemer, and Israel lost their land. False Teachers bask in the outward blessings of the Gospel, but are servants acting as if they were owners, Mt 24:48-51. Denying the Lord is linked with denying Bible Morality, Jude.4.

**THE Sovereign LORD - Despotes-** One with absolute authority. Instead of taking His Word, and obeying it, they set themselves up as RIVAL AUTHORITIES,

free to choose from Scripture what suits them, or their hearers, or the mood of their culture/ age. Yet His ownership is beyond dispute, as He openly BOUGHT THEM- Agorazo- Bought in the marketplace 1 Cor 6:20 1 Pet 1:18-20 \*\*6.

Bringing on THEMSELVES SWIFT DESTRUCTION- It doesn't SEEM so. As with Adam and Eve, the consequence of sin is spiritual/ invisible at first. The Lord in patient Grace gives time for repentance by delaying Judgment. But choosing against God has an instant destructive effect, and in some sense destruction will be reaped wherever denying is sown. Finally, the words mean that destruction, when it comes, will be instantaneous and inescapable. Those who believe in Christ Crucified/ Risen will never perish, Jn 3:16 are held securely, Jn 10:28 Rom 8:28-39 Eph 13-14, but still reap what they sow, 1 Cor 3:11-15 Gal 6:7-10 These people Peter refers to here had some association with the Gospel, 2:20-21, tasted it, Heb 6:4-8, yet Heb 10:16-29 gives their final decision and fate. See Mt 7:23 1 Jn 2:19,

2.2 MANY SHALL FOLLOW- Their freedom from Lordship enables them to appear as brilliant leaders and so draw in the crowds. Peter warns us that this is inevitable, predicted, and no reason for us to be lured. Cp Mt 24:11, 24

THEIR PERNICIOUS- #21. Destructive. [RT] /shameful- Indecent [Nes] as in 27. WAYS- No matter how idealistic the False teacher may SEEM, the WAYS that result, freed from the restraint of Christ's Lordship, lead to destruction. Followers cease to see the need to repent and be cleansed from sin. Deadened consciences expect Grace to cover even their deliberate sins, Rom 6:15; 1 Tim 4:2; Heb 3:13 etc.

bring THE WAY OF TRUTH- The way of Salvation in Christ the Truth and Way, Jn 14:4-7. into disrepute- #Blasphemeo- To Blaspheme God, or slander anyone. They injure God's work, and disgrace His reputation. Hypocrites make Him seem a hypocrite. Others make Him seem cruel, tolerantly ineffective, etc. Moslems, etc develop a contempt for Christ and Christianity because of the lax sexual morality sanctioned in the name of Christian Love. Our humanistic materialism, and lawless individualism (a by-product of Christianity) is also despised. What we do should make men glorify our Father in heaven, Isa 5:25; Mt 5:16; 1 Th 4:2-12 1 Tim 6:1; 1 Pet 2:12-15; 3:10-16 not disgrace Him, Rom 2:24 Titus 2:5. Our unloving proclaiming the faults of other professed Christians also does damage.

\*\*Footnote 6. See Mt 13:44. This involved taking away the sin of the world, Mk 10:45 Jn 12:9 1 Cor 6:20 7:23 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13 1 Tim 2:6; Heb 10:29 1 Pet 1:18-19, Rev 5:9.

2.3 THROUGH COVETOUSNESS/in their greed- Pleonexia- a desire to have more, greediness. An appetite that's never satisfied, but increases with every

gain - an iddlatry Col 3:5. Such motives can flourish even as we try to serve God, Acts 20:33-37, 1 Th 2:5; 1 Tim 3:3; Titus 1:7; 1 Pet 5:2

WITH stories they have made up- Plastos- shaped. From Plassos= to mould. Our word Plastic. When the fire of God's Judgment falls, how tragic to be sheltering under a PLASTIC Gospel! How terrible the judgment due to those who marketed it as superior to God's Gospel. They feel free to mould and shape their message in any way likely to get them what they want- popularity, fame, money. In the USA the ease with which a fortune can be made in religion is a great temptation. Here in NZ, the temptation to shape what we preach to gain attention to ourselves, by being controversial, popular, etc is no less real. For professionals a sensational Heresy is the easy way to a Doctorate, top position, booksales, fame, money. (Some years back a local "Press" reporter in his news item confessed disappointment at the Bible-believing-orthodoxy of F.F. Bruce, remarking that sensational unorthodoxy would have been much more Newsworthy!) Any preacher who is dependent on the collection for his living is under pressure to perform to the satisfaction of the congregation. One free of that pressure may yield to the temptation to be less dedicated in his care of the flock than the paid pastor, because his living does NOT depend on the success of his work.

MAKE MERCHANDISE OF /exploit- Empreneurial- to sell, make trade. They shape what they preach to make their SALES PITCH as effective as possible. Professional Public Relations experts are called in to tune the "Public Image" of religious and charitable bodies to increase the impact of their message and their financial appeals. While it's generally accepted that it's legitimate for the staff of a Charity to make its living out of that work, we should check its balance sheet before giving. How this may guide one to wise stewardship is demonstrated by the following actual Balance Sheets. A. Underground Evangelism's "International Christian Aid" 1981. B. World Vision NZ. 1980. C. Assembly Missionary Funds Palmerston North, 1981 (Included some welfare relief.)

A. Admin - 20.71% Promotion - 24.46% The Work - 54.83%.

B. " - 11.73% " - 10.17% " - 78.1%.

C. " - 2.16% " - \*Nil " - 97.84%.

\*Of course missionaries as INDIVIDUALS will have spent some money on circulars and visiting Assemblies when on f.dough.

WHOSE JUDGMENT /condemnation has long been hanging over- Even before they set out on their course of action, the verdict on it was obvious to anyone who had read the record of God's dealing with men.

THEIR Destruction- #21. What man chooses to preach/ believe/ do, against God may seem pleasant, interesting, enlightened, but it will end in destruction. God's Judgment must fall where He says it will. He tells us where it must fall, so we may repent, flee from it, and find refuge in Christ. Has not been sleeping- They see God as indifferent, Ps 44:23 But He is

totally aware/prepared to respond Ps 121:4. The verdict of Deu 13:1-5 stands even if they're unaware of it. Our world ignores God and His Word and demands the right of everyone to be their own God (Often at the taxpayer's expense!) Christians influenced by false teachers preaching "Love understands/forgives all," lose their sense of the danger of sinning against the holiness and love of God, and water down the demands of the Gospel. Those who cease to be shocked at sin, soon find sin flourishing in their churches.

2.4 (Ju.6) GOD did NOT spare THE ANGELS when they SINNED- We're not told what their sin was. All God says is that even angels can't sin and get away with it. Gen 6 is irrelevant. Marriage/sexual union doesn't exist for Angels, Mt 22:30. And the idea that God created Angels with the capacity and desire for sex, which they must eternally frustrate or be damned, is nonsense worthy of Augustine and Jerome! See 1 Tim 4:1-4. Jews at the time wasted a lot of thought on this subject so what Peter and Jude mentioned briefly would have had considerable impact. But it doesn't mean they're endorsing the silly apocryphal stories.

BUT CAST THEM DOWN to HELL - Tartaroo- Put into Tartarus- to Greeks the lowest part of Hades where Zeus cast the Titans/ Gods he defeated. Mentioning the sinning angels doesn't endorse Jewish mythology, and this doesn't endorse Greek mythology. Peter is using what they had heard to give them an understanding of the truth. The Greek idea that the highest Beings went to the lowest place when they rebelled fits the Biblical principle that the higher the privilege, the worse the consequence of abusing it, Isa 14:12-15; Lk 12:47-48

CHAINS- Seira [RT] OF DARKNESS/gloomy dungeons- Seiroi [Nes] (Our word Silo)- Grain storage pits used as prisons. Cp Joseph, Gen 37:20-24 Rev 9:1; 20:1-3. Gloomy pits, or chains, both refer to prisons -perhaps one made best sense in one area the other in another area

Held- #Tereo- to watch over, keep safe. If they were kept in prison, we would expect Phylax, kept by a Phylax- Prison Guard as in Acts 5:23 etc. Perhaps therefore Tartarus is what they're condemned to, their certain destination, but in the meantime, like Satan, they may function as evil principalities and powers Eph 6:12 JUDGMENT.

2.5 If He did NOT spare THE ancient WORLD- Whose wickedness was obvious, Gen 6 BUT SAVED/protected- Phylax- Kept. Usually, kept in prison! Here, Noah and those who responded were KEPT safe in the Ark. NOAH.. A PREACHER- Kerux- Herald. OF RIGHTEOUSNESS- #1:1. The OT doesn't say he preached, but it was inevitable. He didn't conform to the world, Rom 12:2, so would be questioned about his hopes, 1 Pet 3:15; Heb 11:7. His answers would proclaim God's verdict on sin and the need to make use of God's provision, the Ark. The Godly share His concern for their

neighbours, 2 Ki 7:9, and God delaying the flood while Noah built the ark, gave time for the wicked to repent. They refused to obey Christ speaking through Noah, and their spirits are now in prison awaiting Judgment, 1 Pet 3:19. Life isn't easy for Preacher's Kids, but Noah's and the girls they married were saved. If that's all we gain from faithful preaching - HALLEL UJAH! (Lot spared HIS family the discomfort of not fitting easily into their world!)

brought THE FLOOD UPON THE WORLD- #1:4. OF UNGODLY people- Those with no respect for God or His will, have no love for their neighbours. They were self-pleasing, corrupt, and violent. That Judgment must come on such is clear to the Godly in any age. God acts in Righteous Love. There were two classes of people, so two outcomes.

2:6 (Ju.7) AND If He condemned SODOM AND GOMORRAH by burning them to ASHES- Gen 19:24-25 WITH AN OVERTHROW- Katastrophe- Used in 2 Tim 2:14 of ruining hearers. False Teaching turns the sign posts round so God must intervene, and turn things right way up again, by destroying what man has built in defiance of His order. A solemn warning to us about any of OUR unsundered beliefs, or actions, as well as to heretics.

MAKING THEM AN example- Teaching example. OF what is going to happen to the UNGODLY - Apostasy and sexual sin go together. (See "Lessons from Sodom" booklet.) When Christians fall into sin, instead of repenting, they find it easier to bend Scripture to justify their actions. As Church leaders withdraw from obedient fellowship with God in His Word and become man-oriented they drop God's standards and proclaim popular ones. Criticism of God's Word often cloaks a guilty conscience. (The story was well known. It's used of God's righteous Judgment in Isa 1:9, 13:19, Jer 50:40, Ezek 16:49, Hos 11:8, Amos 4:11; Mt 10:15, 11:23, Lk 17:26-30, Rom 9:29.) False teaching and corrupt behaviour always bring disaster, and God in His Love may sometimes have to intervene to limit the damage.

2:7-8 AND DELIVERED/rescued JUST LOT - Righteous by sharing Abraham's Faith. But not, like Noah, a witness to righteousness. By informing him of His plans God moved Abraham to pray - Our role, 1 Jn 5:16-17. Lot had almost to be dragged out of the city, and then he trusted a smaller edition of it rather than God's care, Gen 19:20. When a man's conscience is dulled, he's entertained (Amused, is a-mused = kept from thinking/ in an unthinking state) by watching things that should shock him into praying like Abraham for the repentance and deliverance of those involved in such behaviour. In the world sin is NEWS, matter for Creative writing, \$\$making. To be shocked at sin is our only protection from it, so it's little wonder when sin erupts in the lives of Christians who have a tolerant attitude towards those who sin.

VEXED/distressed- Kataponeomai - to wear down with hard work. HIS RIGHTEOUS - Justified by Faith. SOUL - The constant pressure WORE DOWN his conscience, and hardened it. He knew it was wrong to stay. His

fellowship with God was crushed under the burden. Why did he stay? Worldly gain? Pressure from family? POOR WEAK, GUILTY LOT, who voted against God and his burdened conscience by choosing to stay on day by day. Distress at the evil of the world needs to be used positively.

WITH THE FILTHY - Aseigeia- Insolent disregard for decency. lives OF THE WICKED- Athesmos-unsettled. A lawless lifestyle, because not anchored to God and His will. Used in a document of a father breaking off his daughter's engagement because of her fiancée's Athesmos behaviour.

THAT RIGHTEOUS MAN - Lot received God's Grace but failed to live it out, preach it, influence others, and His life was wasted, 1:9. "Saved.. as by fire" 1 Cor 3:12-15 If, unlike Noah, we fail to REACH righteousness we are only a short step from becoming like Lot

living AMONG THEM- Egkatoikeo- To settle down, To make one's home. Lot chose to make his home there. He knew better, but would not get out. It doesn't say he didn't laugh at their jokes, make money out of their sinful tastes, or be other than apologetic about any difference of lifestyle on his part. If WE go with the crowd it makes life easier for us and our family. We may tell ourselves that as long as we don't DO what the others do, there's no harm in it, but we're crippling ourselves spiritually, grieving/quenching the Holy Spirit.

IN SEEING AND HEARING VEXED/tormented- Used in Rev 20:10 of the TORTURE of the Beast, etc - their wicked desires frustrated, as Lot frustrated his GOOD desires! HIS RIGHTEOUS SOUL FROM DAY TO DAY WITH THEIR lawless DEEDS- Anomos- Unlawful, against law. It was continually tormenting his righteous soul. He would have been distressed if he'd gone there as a Preacher of Righteousness, but that distress shared with God, could have been a redemptive sorrow in which to sow the seed of God's truth, Ps 126. But it seems he was drawn to Sodom by its material prosperity which he was eager to share, Gen 13:10-11, at the cost of his conscience and the corruption of his family. His belated testimony seemed only a joke.

29 THE LORD knows- #1:12 Understands thoroughly. HOW TO rescue THE GODLY - We may be unable to out-argue those who mock at the idea of Judgment. And even those truly made righteous in Christ may, like Lot, prefer to believe comfortable lies. But, the OT shows clearly that God is able to punish ALL who sin, and yet rescue from Judgment ALL His own, even if they are as weak and foolish as Lot. Cp wheat/ares, Mt 13:30 God is in control. He keeps all His promises. Men will reap what they sow, Gal 6:7-9, Rev 3:10 Peter's words help us when we feel depressed and tempted to give up witnessing/resisting conformity to an unresponsive, self-satisfied, arrogant, blatantly Godless society.

OUT OF TEMPTATIONS/from trials- Peirasmos- Situations that test people, sometimes with a beneficial purpose and effect. We're to pray to be spared

such, Mt 6:13 self-confidence being dangerous. A God-oriented lifestyle in a godless world, automatically exposes us to TESTS. Lot seems to have failed completely, but GOD DID NOT FAIL HIM, 2 Tim 2:13 God always provides a way of escape, but men don't always take it, 1 Cor 10:13 (The gates of Sodom had been open daily for Lot to leave from.) The Coming will test our present labors, 1 Cor 3:13 Christ will take His church OUT before THE Peirasmos, the final testing circumstances/ tribulation that builds up to the Judgment Coming, Lk 8:13 Acts 20:19, Jas 1:2, 1 Pet 4:12, Rev 3:10

AND TO hold- #24. THE UNJUST UNTO THE DAY OF JUDGMENT- #24. TO BE PUNISHED/while continuing their punishment- Kolazo- to be restrained, punished. The wicked are eternally restrained from further sinning. The Bully, the Exploiter, the Seducer.. have no scope in Hell. But the present participle of Kolazo here suggests the state of those awaiting the final Judgment, as in Lk 16:23-24 rather than FINAL punishment as in Mt 10:15; 11:22-24; 12:36; 25:46; Rev 20:11-15. False teachers may seem triumphant, but they, with all sinners, are in God's hands, and reap what they sow, beginning in this life (where repentance is possible) stripped of all hope at death, and awaiting full reward at the great White Throne. See Appendix 1.

2:10 Especially those who follow THE FLESH/sinful nature IN THE LUST/desire- #1:4. corrupt- Because they involve the core of our beings, sexual immorality and perversion defile us spiritually, 1 Cor 6:16-20 and become a pre-occupying alternative to God, a form of self/sin worship, Rom 1:19-25. Those who reject the Lordship of Christ, His Word, and His Spirit, Gal 5:16-26 have no defence against the strong desires of the Flesh. As Rom 7 shows, human will/ reason/ sense of responsibility, can't control it. Those who hand their lives over to the Lord in obedient Faith, are set free to win that battle, Rom 8:1-17. But these choose to mould a "PLASTIC" (2:3) Gospel that contains Scripture, but justifies man's right to please himself.

DESPISING authority- Kurios- Lordship. Ju.8. Used elsewhere only in Eph 1:21; Col 1:16. People can't obey two Lords/Kurios, Mt 6:24. False Teachers excuse immorality by despising the Lord's verdicts as if their own were wiser, kinder, more rational, etc. They set themselves against Scripture when it doesn't suit their pride, or their audience. Yet demand that others conform to their verdicts as being what "ALL INTELLIGENT AUTHORITIES APPROVE," etc. This self-glorifying superiority may also be displayed towards God-ordained earthly Government, laws, etc, Rom 13:1-4.

PRE SUMPTUOUS/Bold- Setting themselves above God and Bible. Reckless in their pursuit of pleasures, or possessions. As today there are Church members of all ages who openly break the commandments re adultery, covetousness, etc, and justify such actions in defiance of what God has said. (Eg moving from being a pastor in one church group leaving their wife there, to become Pastor in another group with a new "wife," or accepting an appointment as Vicar, on condition they live openly with a woman not their wife, or being involved in dishonest business deals.) Such are amused at/ indifferent to, the idea of Christ's Coming. Their dulled consciences fail to respond to the

thought of the holiness of God and see Judgment as rather a joke, as Lot's Sons-in-Law did.

SELF WILLE D/arrogant- Authades- Auto= self, Hedonai- pleasure. Self-pleasing dominates their lives. God's will, or consideration for others, matters less than the pleasure of the moment. Modern marriage breakdown is an example of this attitude "I've a right to enjoy myself. It's my life and I can do what I like with it." etc. Authades, can also mean Smug Self-satisfied - we're all tempted to be that!

SPEAK EVIL OF/slander- #22 DIGNITIES/Celestial Beings- Doxa- Glories. #1:3. Either Beings, or Things. False teachers speak evil of both God's servants, and the Holy and good provisions of His will. In their arrogant self-centred pre-occupation with the things of this life they scoff at competing spiritual things. They assert their right to believe/say/do what they like, as if they were the only authority in the Universe. And free to ridicule evil spirits whose puppets and pawns they are, 1 Tim 4:1-4; 2 Cor 11. To mock the Devil, or claim to bind Satan, etc is Godless presumption. The LORD alone can, and He will put him under our feet, only as we surrender ourselves/ways to the Lord, and walk humbly with Him, Rom 16:20

2:11 ANGELS although stronger- #1:3. more powerful- Ischus- Force, strength. All power is by God's granting, and to be treated with respect, Rom 13:1-5. That Rebel angels, or anti-God Governments, are using their God-given powers against God doesn't give us permission to insult or defy them. They are answerable to God alone for their stewardship until He takes it back, and Judges them.

Do not bring slanderous- #22 accusations in the presence of THE LORD - False Teachers are free to be bold, as, unlike the Angels, they're not living in the presence of the Lord who set us an example of restrained speech in Jn 12:31; 14:30 16:11. Any blasphemy hardens men against God and taking Him seriously. Any slander of men, or evil powers, helps us to despise them, and that is dangerous. See 2 Cor 11:4; Eph 6:12-18; 1 Jn 5:19. \*\*7.

Footnote \*\*7. A readiness to give verdicts on doctrines or people marks those who aren't conscious of the Lord's presence. God has reserved for Himself the right to pass verdicts on the Godless world, 1 Cor 5:12-13, and on His servants, Rom 14:4; 1 Cor 4:1-5. No matter how used of God a man has been, he never becomes in himself an authority, Prov 26:12. How lightly the out-of-touch-with-God prophet in 1 Kings 13 intervened. The more in the presence of God we're living the less freely we criticise, and the more we're content to point to what God has said in His Word, in the spirit of 2 Tim 2:23-26.

2:12 BUT THESE, AS creatures of instinct- Alogos- Not open to truth expressed in words, irrational. Born only TO BE caught- Being slaves to instinctive desires dooms many animals. Those people, who in their cleverness reject God's Word, and do say what they feel like, are operating at



the level of animal instinct. Cp Rom 1:19-25. Doom is inevitable as they show no more positive response to God's word than a rabbit does to a notice "Beware, Poison Laid!" By living to please themselves, ignoring God's glorious purpose for them, they're like animals fattening themselves for slaughter - a possible translation of Jas 5:5.

DESTROYED- Phthora- #1:4. Their corrupted instincts are attracted to the poisoned bait - alcohol, sexual promiscuity, idolatry of wealth, etc - and apart from any specific penalties, these crowd God out of lives. Many animals are wiser than men - human scent, or the presence of other victims warns them away from traps, but POP STARS can wreck their lives publicly and shamefully, and yet crowds follow their example, as flies are drawn to a crowded, sticky fly paper.

SPEAK EVIL OF/blasphe- #22 THINGS THEY do not UNDERSTAND - Agnoeo- To not know. Agnostic- Deliberately ignorant in spite of what God has written in His Word, and His Spirit's voice in their conscience. The Bible makes no sense to their fallen minds, 1 Cor 2:14.

UTTERLY PERISH- Kataphtheiro- to destroy by corrupting IN THEIR OWN CORRUPTION- Utterly corrupted by their own corruption. They reject God's diagnosis of their "Sin Cancer," and refuse the Gospel offer of "Surgery," so the cancer takes over their life. What they become, is what they chose - and defended against God, and the Gospel.

2:13 RECEIVE THE REWARD/paid back- Misthos- Wages. What they worked for. OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS- Adikia. What the blood of Christ cleanses us from, 1 Jn 1:9. Made to suffer because they made others suffer, on Judgment day. Cp 1 Cor 3:17. Defrauded of the wages of their fraud/robbed of the wages of their unrighteousness in some MSS or destroyed in their destroying. Uncertainty as to text or translation still leaves a clear message - Everyone reaps what he sows, Gal 6:7-8. Balaam, hired to corrupt, died with those he corrupted. Judas destroyed himself by getting the money he asked for, Acts 1:18.

As their idea of- Hegeomai- To lead, lead before the mind, think. What they directed their mind and attention to. PLEASURE - God called it SIN, they called it FUN. TO RIOT/carouse- Truphe- Luxurious living Lk 7:25 including sexual indulgence unrestrained by morality. IN broad daylight- Doing what was generally done under cover of Darkness, Jn 3:19, 1 Th 5:7. Even the Pagans despised such shameless behaviour. Laws can't bring restraint what Public Opinion permits, and what those, who know better, secretly enjoy themselves.

SPOTS- Spilos- Used in Eph 5:27- The Bride of Christ is Without SPOT. BLEMISHES- Momos- A blemish, moral disgrace. In contrast to the Lord the unspotted and blameless One, 1 Pet 1:19, who wants us to be like Himself, Ju.24 2 Cor 3:18 1 Jn 3:1-3. These claim a place among the Christians. God sees them as dirty spots, and the World often sees through

them, sneers and blasphemes, preferring to believe they're typical of the whole congregation

SPORTING/Reveling in- Entruphae Riot, as above. WITH THEIR OWN DECEIVINGS/pleasures- Apate- Decet. Anything giving a false impression, or pleasure. See Mt 13:22 Eph 4:22 Col 2:8; 2 Th 2:10 Heb 3:13 Decetful is the usual sense in NT. But may mean deceitful pleasures. While their form of "Living it Up," is attractive to sinful human nature, misuse/abuse of appetites inevitably cheats -leads to emptiness and disaster, not satisfaction and fulfilment. Roman Gluttony, or Corinthian carousing may make the pleasures of bed and board shared by a cring couple seem dull, BUT! Some Mss have Agapais, as in Ju.12- Love Feast, which may be implied in- FEAST WITH YOU - The Believers gathered to share aimed together as an expression of Brotherly Love. These joined in as an act of deception, pretending to fellowship in the Lord. Cp Gluttony that ignored the spiritual significance of the feast, 1 Cor 11:18-22 \*\*8

214 HAVING EYES FULL OF ADULTERY - Lit "Of an adulteress" Always on the look out for a potential partner in adultery, refusing to see women as sisters in Christ, or even as persons, but simply as tools for sexual gratification. Christ condemns all such scheming Mt 5:28 Being a religious leader provides cover for approaches - offering counselling etc. Insecure, unstable people are drawn to confident religious leaders. As an "expert" in spiritual things, his saying "Nothing is wrong that is done in love" is a vile snare. (Doctors, Psychiatrists, etc are also privileged/ exposed to temptations.)

They never stop from sinning- Never breaking from sinful habits, associations, etc, although professing conversion, and seeking Christian fellowship. In spite of feelings of guilt, or fear of being caught, they are enslaved by their sin. Sinning increases appetite.

Footnote \*\*8. These late epistles seem to accept that the failure of the church to maintain purity is something one may have to live with realistically, as in Rev 22:4-5 3:4-5 - Preaching and teaching the truth/protesting against evil/ withdrawing from disorderly individuals, always, 2 Th 3:14. But there's no suggestion of policing the removal of the tares from the wheat. A Godly minority can't expel a carnal majority, especially from a state church. Here, there is no instruction to discipline the false, nor any encouragement for the true Believer to withdraw. Clearly a break must be made when as in 1 Cor 5 the World at large is scandalised if we don't. Sadly, expulsion or withdrawal without due humility, grief and charity, or obvious (to the world) need for it, has scandalised the world these last 100 years or so. And it has been all too easy for those of us withdrawing from man-made sects, and human authority, to set up a rival sect maintained by human authority. But PAST failure is no excuse for PRESENT indifference to the truth.

They seduce Deleazo- To catch with bait, 2:18 Jas 1:14 UNSTABLE SOULS- Not ESTABLISHED in God's Truth, 1:12 Like the first framework urgently needing cross timbers to brace it. Failure on the part of those who should shepherd/establish such in God's Truth quickly, may be as much to blame as

the willingness of the False Teachers to seduce them, spiritually, from loyalty to the Lord, 2 Cor 11:1-4; Jas 4:4.

HEART EXERCISED/are experts N- Gurnazo- To train in a Gymnasium. COVETOUSNESS/greed- #23. Experts at getting what they want, which, outside the will of God is DOLATRY - setting up a rival to Him, Col 3:5. Cp Mt 6:24 Eph 4:18-19. Paying much attention to advertising is attending "Keep fit in greed" classes! In contrast to this we're to "EXERCISE OURSELVES to Godliness" 1 Tim 4:8, to discern between good and evil, Heb 5:14, and to profit from chastening Heb 12:11.

CURSED CHILDREN- In Hebrew thinking means they chose to be children of what is under God's curse. In contrast to those who receive Christ/are born of God, Jn 11:2-13, these choose to follow Satan. The Father of Lies, Jn 8:44, is Father of False Prophets/ Teachers and their followers Cp children of wrath Eph 2:3; disobedience Eph 5:6; Light Eph 5:8; Obedience 1 Pet 1:14. Peter doesn't curse them, that's forbidden, Mt 5:44 Rom 12:14, 19. He leaves them for their Lord to judge them, along with the "Father" they chose to follow, learn from, become like.

2:15-16 WHICH left THE RIGHT/straight WAY - God's righteous way of Salvation, 1 Sam 12:23 Prov 2:13 Isa 35:8, Acts 13:10 AND wandered off- They follow unbiblical teaching/crooked paths, Prov 2:15 and wander off from us 1 Jn 2:19.

FOLLOWING THE WAY OF BALAAM- like the False Teachers Balaam had the reputation of being a spokesman for God, but was working for the enemy of God's people. SON OF BOSOR - Beor, plus, insultingly, Basar- Flesh. He was the product of fleshly lust for material riches. Cp, the name of Saul's son Esh Baal corrupted insultingly to Ish Bosheth.

LOVED THE WAGES OF wickedness 2:13 The money he could make by using his position as a prophet to work against God's revealed will, Ju.11; Num 22:34 Rev 2:14. Christian Leaders who use their paid position to discredit God, His Word, and the morality it teaches are also like Judas. Love of money, position, or popularity is a recipe for disaster for true or false servants of God, 1 Tim 6:9.

REBUKED.. by a dokey- Balaam said his eyes were open, Num 24:3. But it's easier for a donkey to see God's will, and act wisely regarding it, than a professional expert, who has blinded himself by setting up an idd in his heart, Ezek 14:3. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus, Heb 12:2.

Restraint THE MADNESS- Paraphronia- Wrongmindedness contrariness (Not pitiable insanity) that in Balaam's case wouldn't take "No" as an answer, even from God. Do WE, continue to ask God for permission to do what we

want to do when the indications from His Word are against it? That we're God's children, under grace gives no grounds for asking what amounts to permission to steal, deceive, commit adultery, covet. Balaam was so enslaved by Greed he believed he could outmanoeuvre God and died as a result. False Teachers still make news headlines with the maddest twisting of Biblical statements. Despised laymen, by quoting an apt verse of Scripture, may bring them to a halt.

217-18 THESE ARE springs WITHOUT WATER - To go to a spring and find no water is a vivid symbol of bitter disappointment Jer 14:3. They have the position/reputation of being God's Servants providing the water of life, and may have done so in earlier years. But people in their spiritual thirst go to them and receive no help. Mists driven by storm - False Teachers cause excitement in the community, and like rain clouds raise hopes, but leave no one watered, made fruitful for God. THE blackest DARKNESS - J.13 IS RESERVED - #24. Having refused the Light of the world they brought light to none, Jn 8:12, 1 Jn 1:5-6. Their work clouded the light of God's Truth, confused the hearers, left them wandering lost in the darkness, Mt 23:13-26 so, they end eternally in the perfection of darkness, Mat 8:11-12.

SPEAK boastful WORDS OF VANITY - Mataiotes - Uselessness. Denying any obligation to the Lord frees them to make big claims. Their sermons promise to teach how "Faith" will obtain any selfish desire, or that God's grace allows them to do what they like, and be forgiven, etc in spite of Rom 6:1-23, 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 6:7-9, Heb 12:5-17; 1 Pet 1:13-19. Their promises SOUND good but as God hasn't authorised them they are "Dud" cheques - but the Leader lives well off them.

THEY ALL URE/entice 2:14 desires - #1:4. FLESH/sinful human nature - 2:10 lustful - 2:6. With high-sounding phrases of enlightened religion they remove the restraints God has imposed for the good of humanity by suggesting that if one feels a desire to do something it's because God has made one that way, and so God's plain command against it may be ignored. "If it feels good do it, as long as no-one else is harmed," ignores the fact that the individuals themselves, and society as a whole, will inevitably be harmed by defying the Creator's will.

THOSE THAT WERE CLEAN - Ontos - actually, indeed. [RT] Just Oligos - a little. [Nes]. ESCAPED/escaping - Present participle, suggests they were stopped just as (in response to the Gospel) they began to escape from the state and doom of the wicked. The Lord condemns those who stumble such, Mk 9:42. They may find that at Church the messages and counselling offer to remove the guilt, tidy up the sin, rather than be saved from it. I know a woman who went to a clergyman concerned about her sins, only to be told she was worrying unnecessarily and should take up smoking again to calm her nerves!

FROM those WHO LIVE IN ERROR - What a tragedy to see someone awakened to their need, seeming to have escaped from self to Christ, only to

fall back, snared by some cult or group that exalts human wisdom and distracts from Christ. We may feel like railing against those that snared them, but remembering 210-11, we must leave them to God's verdict, and ask ourselves "Did those who snared them work more persistently/ lovingly than we did in our endeavours to establish them in Christ?" Of course the false teachers had the world, the flesh, and the Devil on their side. But we were on the side of God's Word, and God the Holy Spirit. Or were we working in our own strength to win them to US, to OUR church, instead of simply sharing Christ with them?

219 PROMISE freedom- Freedom to believe/do what they please. Freedom from the authority of God, His Word-revealed will and purposes. THEY THEMSELVES are slaves OF CORRUPTION/depravity- #1:4. 2:12 Controlled by sins that defile and corrupt spiritually, as 2:4, including Pride, Self-Righteousness, Self-importance, eagerness to put others down, divisiveness, ambition to be popular/or persecuted, etc. A MAN IS a slave to whatever has mastered him- Jn 8:34-36 Rom 6:16 7:25 "To be enslaved to oneself is the heaviest servitude," as the Roman Seneca said. When guilt is denied, self-pity, and the right to be oneself at the expense of others, rules unchallenged.

Religious leaders make themselves popular when they say "God Loves you, He understands you, do what you feel like, no-one has the right to criticise you - and if it turns out bad, saying sorry will square accounts. God will forgive you" Becoming bondslaves of Christ is the only true freedom. No man can serve TWO Masters, and independence isn't possible. The Gospel frees us from Law into obedient fellowship with Christ that acts in Love, for the benefit of all, and the Glory of God. NOT "Do what you like - He'll take the rap," Rom 3:8; 6:1-23 We can't offer to our hearers what we're not willing to accept for ourselves. We need to claim for ourselves LIBERTY in terms of 2 Cor 3:15-4:1; Gal 5:-26 etc. Ahead is the glorious liberty of the sons of God, Rom 8:21, which we're now learning to live in/having lessons to prepare us for living in.

22022FOR IF AFTE R THEY - False Teachers or their followers The two are inseparable, though any of these verses may apply more to one or the other. ESCAPED THE corruption OF THE WORLD- #1:4. THROUGH knowing- #1:2 THE LORD AND SAVIOUR - Not necessarily SAVING knowledge. Contact with Christianity has caused many gross sins to be abandoned by whole communities - slavery, cannibalism, exploitation of women, children, animals, etc. Their knowledge may have been only theory, Mk 13:20 and yet it worked a measure of transformation. Some, eg Children in a good Christian home, know Christ in a secondhand sense only, but are kept from much corruption.

ENTANGLED.. OVERCOME, worse off THAN at THE BEGINNING - Some begin hopeful house-cleaning and go to church, only to hear decay mocked

as "Puritanical Restrictions," and led back into the old self-oriented sinful ways, content now that they need, and the Gospel offers nothing better. See Lk 11:26-12:47. When the slave knows the redemption price is paid, and chooses to remain in slavery, he loses all right to be redeemed. The possibility of New Birth was further from them for ever, their contact with the Gospel having merely immunised them against it. See Appendix 2

BETTER NOT TO HAVE KNOWN THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS- Mt 21:32 THAN TO TURN their backs on THE HOLY COMMANDMENT- The Gospel commands all men to REPENT, and believe/ obey the Gospel, Acts 17:30-31, because God is Holy, and fellowship with Him requires moral behaviour. DELIVERED UNTO/passed onto THEM- Handed down authoritatively, as in Ju.3; 1 Cor 11:2-15:3. To have received the Gospel damns those who turn their backs on it/respond to its seed as fallow soil, Mk 4:4-7, 16-19. This is a warning to ALL who claim to be Christians. To imitate LOT is a grief to God/a spiritual disaster for them. To make an honest living as a worldlying is better than to be a Preacher whose worldliness blights his hearers, Heb 3:12-18

A DOG - Seen as an unclean scavenger, Rev 22:15 returns TO ITS VOMIT - Prov 26:11. When it became sufficiently distressing they were willing to disown their sin, their right to independence from God. And were delivered from its INTERNAL impurity - until the distressed died.

THE SOW- PIG. WASHED- Made clean from EXTERNAL impurities, without its choosing by those who had power over it, as a parent may control a child. BUT the DOG REMAINED A DOG, and the PIG REMAINED A PIG AT HEART. And all that human nature can do to reform itself, or to reform another, can do nothing for the heart. A NEW NATURE - eg the pig nature exchanged for a canine nature, is needed. The Gospel offers us the NATURE OF THE SAVIOUR.

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3:1-18 The Final Coming of Christ - Its Consequences

(The Folly of Scoffers Wise Action for Saints)

3:1-2 THIS is my SECOND letter BELLOVED.. STIR UP/stimulate- Peter turns from False teachers to those who scoff at what the Bible Teaches. Both distract us from the need to live a Godly life, and enter glory/ avoid Judgment, 1:10-12, 2:6; 3:10-13

YOUR PURE - Eilikrines-Phil 1:10 It may hold the idea of "Tested by sunlight." Certainly as we "Walk in the light" with Him, confessing what the light shows up, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin, 1 Jn 1:9. By the

grace of God/ the Holy Spirit's work, His believing obedient people are continually kept clean. It's more helpful to preach our glorious position in Christ, as something to claim and live up to, than to hammer away at condemning weakness, folly and sin.

MINDS/as reminders- Diandra- The way we see things as a result of fading facts, thinking things through. Love God with all our MIND Mk 12:30 What we're no longer in the joy of, we have lost. We need stirring up to remember or we go stale. We're too keen on novelty - daily bread brings more nourishment than exotic treats.

recall THE WORDS- Rhema- It's not enough for us to remember/care about the general ideas of Scripture. The actual WORDS used in the original are important. We're not free to go beyond them/ stop short of them, as we attempt to express them in ways which will be understood today. SPOKEN in the past BY THE HOLY PROPHETS- 1:19-21; Lk 1:70 Acts 3:21; 1 Pet 1:10-12 Especially those concerning the Lord's Coming. Most of these spoke of His Coming in Power to Judge the Godless and deliver Israel. Yet many Christians ignore the Coming of Christ, and totally deny any fulfilment of the promises for Israel.

AND THE COMMANDMENT- Cp 221. Given by THE LORD AND SAVIOUR through your Apostles- Sums up the NT, but especially their repeating the OT promises of His Coming in Glory and Judgment/ deliverance YOUR Apostles- The readers were dependent on those God authorised to bring the Gospel to the world, 1:16 for information about Him, as we are.

3.3 You must understand- #1:20 THIS FIRST of all- 1:20 SCOFFERS- Empaikate- From Paizo= to play like a child- Pais. Childish triflers. Used in Mt 2:16 of Herod being outwitted- treated like a child. From the first the Lord who sends us to preach the Gospel warned that hearers will divide themselves into two classes - Scoffers, and Believers. Scoffing is insolent refusal to believe. Wilful contempt of the Lord, ridiculing His Word and those who believe it, Ps 89:50-51.

IN THE LAST- Eschatos- last, final. DAY S- With our brief lives we tend to think of THE LAST DAY S as a brief time just before the Lord's return. So learned SCOFFERS talk of Paul etc mistakenly thinking they were in the last days already, and so expecting the Lord to come in their lifetime. They DID look for Him to come in their lifetime. When else can any of us look for HIM to come? And we certainly should. BIBLICALLY the FIRST Coming of our Lord, and the provision of salvation for all who believe, was the commencement of the LAST DAY S, Gal 4:4; Heb 12:9.26 1 Pet 1:20 God has said all He has to say to this world. God has done all He can do for it. All that remains is the inevitable outworking of what He has said and done in Christ Jesus. The passing of the centuries since indicates only the greatness of the saving grace and patience of our God. OT and NT alike predicted the

Coming and the Scoffers, Ju.18; 2 Tim 3:1. The Last days continue till the Return, Isa 22; Micah 4:1; Jas 5:3.

WALKING AFTER/following THEIR OWN desires- #1:4; Jude 18 Some childish triflers laugh at the Gospel, because it's contrary to their shortsighted plans. Others play with it, and use it for their own trivial purposes, as a boy would accept a diamond ring and use it to scratch his name on a window pane. They make a profession of faith for the experience, or to win a girl, and then ridicule the Gospel as being no more than what they've used it for. When people laugh at the Gospel, and at us for believing it, this should confirm our faith in the Promised Coming God never said it would happen amid a rise in Godiness, so their scoffing proves His plan is on track.

3:4 SAYING WHERE IS this COMING He promised- #1:16 Christ promised to come, Mt 10:23 24:34 Mk 13:26 Lk 17:26-30 etc and His Coming is mentioned in all NT books except Galatians, Philemon, 2nd & 3rd John. The question follows the pattern of Gen 3:1-4, "Has God said?" It won't happen. It's an old sneer, Ps 42:3; 79:10 Isa 5:19; Jer 17:15; Ezek 12:22 Mal 2:17; Lk 12:45 Heb 10:36-39 so mentioning it here doesn't date 2 Peter as late. Peter's response reaches beyond the Lord's Coming for His Church, 1 Th 4:13-18 and His Coming with His Saints to Judge, 1 Th 3:13 2 Th 17-10 to the end of the world in its present form, in the Judgment that follows the Millennium, Rev 20. This God's final action sets the eternal value of every human attitude and activity. False alarms setting a date for Christ's coming have raised temporary concern, and converted some, but hardened the majority, giving them the excuse to scoff at the whole idea of His Coming. Other scoffers deny God has any future for the Jews, in spite of the detailed promises in Isaiah, Zechariah, etc of Kingdom Power exercised in and through the nation of Israel, and the re-establishment of the state of Israel.

Ever SINCE OUR FATHERS died- OT heroes, Jn 6:31; Acts 3:13 Rom 9:5; Heb 11, reaching right back to Creation Everything goes on as it has since THE BEGINNING - They say that God never steps in Judgment Everything can be explained by natural Laws, so man can do what he likes and use the world as he chooses. The Spirit of Antichrist, 1 Jn 4:3, denies the reality of the FIRST Coming of the Lord - God becoming man for our salvation, as well as His SECOND Coming. To deny one, is to deny both. They claim that the first coming of Christ has made no change in the natural order - people still die, some as martyrs He hasn't returned. Judgment doesn't fall. Christians knew that Christ's 1st Coming was a fulfilment of OT promises, but it had little impact on the Social/Economic/Political order. Most of the Promises were of His Coming in Deliverance, Glory, Judgment, in a way that would overturn the social, and in some sense the physical order - Die young at 100 Desert blossom, etc. And although the Lord for three years in one corner of the world showed a little of this Kingdom, He was dead, rejected, and non-reigning over earth. That Calvary has left the world largely unchanged SEEMS obvious in our daily news.

3:5-6 THEY deliberately forget- Pride in being too clever to believe the Bible makes them ignore the facts. They insist on extrapolating from their (sight-blinded) understanding of the PRESENT state of things, to determine what



the PAST was, and FUTURE will be, as if God and His purposes don't exist. By ignoring Creation/ Flood/ Bethlehem/ Calvary they can deny that God's Word has any relevance to life.

THAT BY THE WORD OF GOD - His expressed will, and purposes, Gen 1:9-10 Ps 33:6; 148:5; Heb 11:3. THE HEAVENS - Gen 1:1, everything above the earth to the stars existed long ago AND THE EARTH - Gen 1:2 - the physical world, as in GEography, GEology.

STANDING was formed - Suristemi - to stand with, commend. As in Rom 5:8 God COMMENDS His love = God's love, and His sending His Son to be our Saviour, STAND TOGETHER harmoniously. So, in Creation, the Dry Land and the Water stand together in a harmonious relationship in God's order. IN with WATER - The Dry Land was raised from under the water, and stood surrounded by water. Or, Between the waters above/ below and in relation to these? The water falls as rain and erodes/ shapes/ builds up the land. In the Judgment Flood this relationship was overruled, the Water acted AGAINST the dry land.

WHEREBY - Through which, Gen 7:11. THE WORLD - Kosmos #1:4; 2:5. The organised World of rebel mankind. The World/ Ge wasn't destroyed. The trees grew again, animals and men returned from the ark to it. of that time was deluged - Kataklyuzo - Thoroughly washed. A cleansing destruction - deadly on dirt! WITH WATER was destroyed - Apollumi - As the wineskins were DESTROYED, Lk 5:37. The Lord created, and upholds Creation with his Power, Col 1:15-17, so has the right/ability to intervene, but won't do so again by flood Gen 8:21-22.

3:7 THE present HEAVENS AND EARTH - Ge - not merely the Kosmos of man's society, this time. BY THE SAME WORD - 3:5. The expressed will of God that formed Creation, and overruled the normal relationship of Land and Water in the Flood will overrule the relationship of FIRE with the earth, and the heavens/ atmosphere, in which birds fly, Gen 1:20.

ARE reserved for FIRE - There may be room for uncertainty about the nature and extent of the flood but the advance of Nuclear science leaves us with no excuse for doubting the possibility of total destruction by nuclear fission/ fusion. The Lord holds the universe together, Col 1:17. If he released nuclear bonds, the resultant bang would be "BIG!" Fire as an agent of God's Judgment is referred to in Deu 4:24; 32:22; Ps 50:3; 97:3; Isa 30:30; 66:15; Ezek 38:22; Dan 7:9-10; Nah 1:5-6; Zeph 1:18; 3:8; Mal 4:1; Mt 3:10. AGAINST THE DAY OF JUDGMENT - #24. AND destruction - #21. OF UNGODLY - #25.

3:8 BUT dear friends do not forget THAT ONE DAY IS WITH THE LORD like A THOUSAND YEARS - Ps 90:4. A THOUSAND YEARS like ONE DAY - To us a day is a short time, a thousand years unimaginably long. God

doesn't function within our time frame. By ignoring this, the Scoffers make themselves ridiculous by empty boasts. Although time may SEEM to pass at different rates to a small boy waiting for his birthday, and to his mother preparing for it, etc, our experience of life is linear. Minutes, hours, days come and go at a constant rate, and distances in the past or future are constant for everyone.

God isn't like us in this. A thousand years isn't LONG to God, or one day SHORT. He's not in a hurry, can't be rushed into action at other than the perfect time. We need to make use of each moment as it passes, 2 Cor 6:2; Col 4:5; Heb 4:7-11. We live "Under the sun," (used 27x in Ecclesiastes) and measure time in relation to the sun. God doesn't. It's pointless to speculate about the ways in which God, and Eternity, relate to our experience of Time. Nothing in our experience gives us the ability to do anything but hold fast to the statements of Scripture as they stand, and try to conform our thinking to what God has chosen to say to us. It's folly to use this verse as a key to Prophecy \*\*9

3.9 THE LORD IS NOT slow in keeping HIS PROMISES- It may seem so to us, because of our time-frame, but God is in Control. He knew the WHEN from the start. It will come at the best possible time, Hab 2:3; Heb 10:37. Cp servants thinking He has delayed, Mt 24:48-51.

LONG SUFFERING /patient- It's not any change of mind/ loss of interest on God's part. It's because He is mercifully patient, Ezek 18:23. See Ex 34:6; Neh 9:17; Ps 86:15, 103:8, 145:8; Joel 2:12-13; Jonah 4:2; 1 Pet 3:20. With you- It's OUR relatives/ neighbours He's giving the chance to repent. We shouldn't be discouraged by God's apparent inactivity, but make the most of it, Acts 1:8.

Footnote \*\*9. Rabbis read Ps 90:4 to mean a DAY in Scripture= 1000 years. (The vice-versa here, cancels that out.) From Prov 8 they argued the Torah was composed 2000 years before Creation. The birds in Gen 1:5-11 Abraham drove away for 1 day were the Gentile nations attacking Israel for 1000 yrs. A Christianised copy of their Book of Enoch says "Adam to Abraham, 2 days= 2000 years; Abraham to Christ 2 days= 2000 years; 1st to 2nd Coming of Christ, 2 days= 2000 years; The Millennial reign- the Sabbath day= 1000 years. Such guesses may turn out more or less true, but aren't God's TRUTH. As the Lord warned, Mt 24:36, they're a waste of time, a red herring used by Satan to take our eyes off the LORD WHO IS COMING. If we read God's Word with OUR time frame and priorities, we won't hear what He's saying. Cp "Let's build 3 tabernacles. Hear Him," Mt 17:4-5. If we have a child's reverent respect for His superior knowledge, we come to know HM better, and are less ready to fight with others over our understanding of doctrines, and details. We realise that He gives GLIMPSES only, of reality, which are all our minds can receive/co-ordinate.

NOT WILLING - Boulomai - To deliberately wish, will, choose. Used of the Lord choosing His disciples after praying all night, Mk 13:34. And His deliberate desire that Jerusalem repent, Lk 13:34. God doesn't take back what He gives,

Rom 11:29 including the gift of Freewill, even when it frustrates His own Will/ Wish/Thelo that all should be saved, 1 Tim 2:3-4. Anyone to PERISH #36. Acting in punitive Judgment is alien to God's nature and desire, Isa 28:21. But righteousness requires it when repentance is finally rejected, Jer 25:4-9, Ezek 33:11; Rom 2:2-6. He waited 120yrs in Noah's time. He has waited almost 2000 years since men crucified His Son. Those who refuse His pleas, Rom 10:21, and discipline, Rev 9:20-21, bear responsibility.

BUT THAT everyone COME TO REPENTANCE - Metanoia - Meta = after. Noeo = to understand. A change of mind/attitude. In OT Hebrew Repentance is a change in one's way of life. Both are needed in turning from sin to God, 1 Th 1:9. As we're descended from rebel Adam we're naturally afraid of God/want to keep away from Him. We react to God as an infant from a criminal family does to the sight of a man in uniform! God challenged Cain, but Cain preferred Murder to mercy. Judas turned from the Lord's act of fellowship, Jn 13:26 and preferred suicide to repentance, when, having got what he'd aimed at, he saw it at its true value. God provides Salvation for all, and works by His Spirit and through His ambassadors, 2 Cor 5:20 at winning men to accept it Ezek 18:23-32 1 Tim 2:1-4. But doesn't take back His gift to man, of the right to decide what he will be and do Rom 11:29 God's condemnation hangs over men while He waits for them to repent, 2:3. And if, blinded by Satan through their selfish desires, they refuse, judgment falls, 3:7. Every day should be received as a gift of God's mercy to be claimed and used, Jn 3:16 Acts 1:8. \*\*10

3:10 BUT THE DAY OF THE LORD - #1:2 When, accepting the finality of man's rejection, He ceases to hold out His arms, steps in, and acts in irresistible power. See Isa 13:6-9, Joel 1:15, 2 Th 1:7-10 etc. Intertwined in these prophecies are Judgment on the nations, and deliverance of an earthly Kingdom for Israel. The NT prophecies include the destruction of Jerusalem, AD 70 (and Christ's Coming to take His church OUT of the world, 1 Th 4:13-18, Rev 3:10) Peter ignores all this and reaches through to the final, total destruction of the world as in Rev 20

Footnote \*\*10. A horseshoe magnet can be used to illustrate repentance. Place a needle across its open end and it will "Create it in its own image," as magnets. Pull the needle away a little and it flies back to the magnet. (A card with LOVE on the magnet is a reminder that it's in love that God draws men to Himself.) BUT if you pull them away and TURN THEM ROUND, END FOR END, Their tiny "Will" acts against the will of their Creator just as fallen Adam's did, and the "Creator's" unchanging love automatically drives them away. As long as their will opposes His will, every approach of their Creator drives them farther away until they strike some unevenness in the surface, spin round, and leap to the magnet and fellowship is restored/ they are safe. Or, they roll off the edge of the table and are "Lost." The shorter (younger) the needle, the more readily it "Repents," Mt 18:3. The incidental unevenness (distresses of life) also aid "Repentance"

A THIEF IN THE NIGHT - Kleptes - Sneak thief. Unexpected, as they ignored God's warning, Mt 24:42-44 1 Th 5:2; Rev 3:3; 16:15 etc. Everything they

value/refused to give up to follow Him, Mk 8:34-38 will then be taken from them forever, Mt 16:24-27.

IN WHICH THE HEAVENS- Atmospheric Heavens. The signs at the earlier coming in Judgment/ at Reign on earth, (Sun and moon- darkness/ blood colour Job 2:30-31) describe what they look like through the smoke of destructive fires. Stars falling may include meteorites, but seem largely figurative, Mt 24:29-30 Lk 21:25 Acts 2:19-20 Rev 8:11-12, 12:3-4, but see Isa 34:4. SHALL disappear WITH A GREAT roar- Cp Heb 1:10-12

THE ELEMENTS- Stoicheion- Elements, first principles. The latter as in Gal 4:9, Heb 5:12, etc. WEV says "Any first things from which others in a series or composite whole take their rise." From Stoichos= a row, rank, or series. Greeks thought everything was made of the elements fire, wind, water, and earth. To us it means the molecular/atomic stuff things are made of.

SHALL MELT /be destroyed- Luo- to be loosed. We now understand matter to be stored-up energy, with molecules, atoms, etc that can be LET LOOSE with tremendous heat in Nuclear Fission by fire- Kausoo- to burn. (English Cauterise, etc.) In 37 we're told God would overrule the normal relationship between Fire, and the earth, as He had that between Water and Dry Land in Noah's time, when the EARTH- Kosmos was WASHED clean, and the HUMAN WORLD SYSTEM destroyed. This time the ATMOSPHERIC HEAVENS and the PHYSICAL EARTH- Ge will be destroyed/sterilised by fire. Once scoffers ridiculed the idea but it's no longer a laughing matter. Now scoffers are more likely to fear that man himself may destroy the earth in a nuclear holocaust. But whether God allows man to trigger THIS final explosion, or the sun goes Nova, or whatever, it's GOD HIMSELF, who in His own goodtime, steps in and exercises His Lordship in "the Day of the Lord."

THE EARTH- Ge. AND everything in it- All natural features, and man-made constructions. SHALL BE BURNED UP [RT] /hid bare [Nes]- Mk 4:22-1 Cor 3:13, 14:25 Cp Judgment day, Rev 20:12

3:11 SEEING everything will BE destroyed in this way WHAT kind OF - An exclamation rather than a question, as in "What manner of man!" Mt 8:27. People OUGHT YE TO BE IN ALL HOLY CONVERSATION /you ought to live- Anastrophe- manner of life, as in 27. A responsibility goes with all knowledge. How shall we spend our time, knowing what will last for ever, and that one day, perhaps soon, we'll stand before our Lord to give account of what we've done with the Life He gave us, 2 Cor 5:7-10 See Rom 13:8-14; 1 Th 5:4-6 Even the best MATERIAL things are of limited duration/ worth in contrast to the spiritual/ eternal things. We must use the things of this life well, for future gain, Mt 6:19-21; Lk 16:4-9. No Coming= no goal in life= life is empty of purpose except momentary gratification, and society increasingly comes unstuck- A sign the Lord gave, Lk 21:25-26

GODLINESS/Godly lives- 1:3. Holiness and Godiness (both are plural= in every aspect) are two ways of describing a life of fellowship with God in His purposes, Mt 5:16; Phil 2:11-16. While there's a negative - we must face judgment so are foolish to sin - the main impact is positive, as in 1:2-12 God has wonderful purposes for us and made wonderful provision, so we must aim at being wonderful people, in fellowship with the Captain of our Salvation, Heb 2:10. Cp Rom 8:19-24; 2 Tim 2:19-21; 1 Jn 3:1-3. The only eternal things (apart from God, and angels) are people.

3:12 As you look forward to- Prosdokao- To think forward to, as Mt 11:2 LOOK we FOR another? 3:13-14; Lk 8:40 Acts 1:24 AND HASTENING UNTO/speed THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD - See Rev 16:14. His Coming for us, 1 Th 4:15, is more attractive to us. But all aspects are essential preliminaries to the glorious state of God being all in all, 1 Cor 15:28. God's Day will show that what, in Man's Day, seems solid and valuable has always been flimsy and trivial. With the scaffolding removed, the eternal, the spiritual, the real, will be seen in its solid, inescapable GLORY, to the despair of the Godless and, to the joy of the Godly, IN THE PRECISE MEASURE in which they chose to use life to the glory of God, and the blessing of their fellows. God has revealed Himself and His purposes so that we might SEEK His Kingdom - in that day we'll SEE it! Paul's response is in Phil 3:7-14. Paul was a gifted athlete. We're clumsy children, but we're in that same race looking to that same Person, Heb 1:22.

Speed its coming is a natural sense of the Greek. We can't by our Zed force God's Hand. But we should be eager for His Coming and yield ourselves joyfully to the flow of God's purposes, Rev 22:20. Praying "Thy Kingdom Come," challenges us to live as citizens of His Kingdom should. We're to proclaim the Gospel, Acts 1:8, but any idea from Mt 24:14 that God can't act till we cover a specific area is ruled out, as the Gospel defined there sounds different, AND with Radio the Gospel is already reaching world-wide.

Much exhorting us to "Speed the Coming" ignores relevant factors - in Acts 3:19-21 Peter is saying that Israel as a nation must repent so the Lord can come and establish the Kingdom as promised by Isaiah, etc. But trying to fill the house with guests, Lk 14:23 so Christ can come, is better than encouraging apostasy because THAT also is promised before the Coming. Those who rightly divide the truth shouldn't be less keen than others to cooperate with God in His purposes, by enthusiastic witnessing, content to leave God to decide when He will restore the Kingdom to Israel, Acts 1:6-8.

That day shall bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire- Because of which, not IN which. The destruction happens because the day of God must be ushered in. In 3:10 the manner of the earth's destruction is in view, here it's the result. ELEMENTS will MELT .

3:13-14 But in keeping with HIS PROMISE- As He promised it, we are looking forward to- 3:12 a NEW- Kainos- New, and different heaven AND EARTH- Ge. Cp Isa 65:17; 66:22; Rom 8:21; Rev 21:1. Michael Green cautions us against imagining we can from Scripture know ALL details of the Coming and its consequences. Scripture PREPARED people for the First Coming, in a general sense, but no-one got the details right.

WHEREIN DWELLET H/the home of- Katoikeo- To settle down and be at home. Cp 28. RIGHTEOUSNESS- #1:1. God's will done totally, 1 Cor 15:28. Righteousness is alien in our world, maintained only by God's grace and human effort. We live righteously in the measure we let the law of the Spirit of life work in us, Rom 8:1-4. In the Millennium righteousness will rule with a rod of iron, Ps 2:6-12; Zech 14:16-17; Acts 17:31; Rev 19:11; 20:6-9. In the NEW Heaven and Earth nothing but righteousness will exist. It will be at home, in its natural element, and sin banished forever, Isa 9:7. That Triumph of Righteousness calls for Righteous living NOW. We should hunger for this, Mt 5:6.

So dear friends SEEING you are looking forward to this make every effort- 1:5; 1 Cor 10:31; 15:58; Phil 2:12; Col 3:17. BE FOUND at PEACE with Him- #1:2. No jarring note between our lifestyle before and after His Coming, Lk 12:35-40 etc. The Lord paid the price, and made the perfect provision for us to be like Himself, 1:3-4; Heb 2:10. Living in fellowship with Him, 1 Jn 1:5-9, will make meeting a mutual joy, Rom 5:1; 2 Cor 5:9-10; 1 Pet 1:2.

To live holy and attractive lives is the natural goal of those who look for His return, and enables us to face humiliation, etc without bitterness. If the atmosphere of our heart is such that our Lord DWELLS/Settles down and feeds at home in it now, we'll feed at Home with Him in Glory, Eph 3:17. By ruling out the Coming, False Teachers remove the challenge to live in fellowship with God.

Spotless- Aspidos- unspotted, unstained. AND BLAMELESS- Amometos- Used of Christ, 1 Pet 1:19, and in LXX for sacrifices examined and no-fault found and so acceptable to God. As in Phil 2:15 "the sons of God WITHOUT REBUKE." Nothing in us giving those who see us any reason for blaming us, or our Saviour. Ju. 24 assures us WE will be like that in the Glory! To Peter it's a matter of urgency to become like that HERE AND NOW before He comes, Phil 1:9-10; 1 Th 3:13; 5:23-24; 1 Tim 6:14; on the basis of Rom 6:13-14; 1 Jn 1:8-9. Our Goal THEN must be OUR GOAL now. The Bride is preparing her wedding dress, Rev 19:7-8.

3:15 Bear in mind THAT THE LONG SUFFERING/patience OF THE LORD means SALVATION- Use the Lord's Long-suffering patience for the purpose He is exercising it/use HIS abundant provision, 1:1-8, towards OUR abundant entrance into Heaven, 1:11, and in seeking SALVATION for others.

Just AS OUR dear BROTHER PAUL - Those at Corinth viewed Peter and Paul as rivals 1 Cor 1:10-15, and seemed eager to take sides to fight for one against the other. Equally carnal/worldly modern Theologians spend their ingenuity in a similar effort. Speaking the truth in love, Eph 4:15, may include words as blunt as Gal 2:14-21. But even in Gal 2 mutual appreciation is obvious, as in Acts 15:7-11; 3:22 9:5; 15:5. Some of us, sometime, may be called to imitate Paul's frank speech. All of us, always, are called to imitate Peter here, when we speak of any who have corrected us, with or without good reason. Peter is demonstrating what he urged in verse 3:14.

ACCORDING TO THE WISDOM GIVEN HIM - Paul's Epistles are SCRIPTURES, as in 1:20-21. As he wrote, Paul knew he was being granted grace/wisdom, Rom 12:3; 15:15; 1 Cor 2:6-7; 14:37; Eph 3:2-7; Col 1:25-28. The other Apostles confirmed this, Gal 2:9. (As did early Christian leaders such as Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp, etc in the next generation) wrote to YOU - And us.

3:16 AS he writes in all his letters, SPEAKING - #1:21. Laleo - Paul's words, not merely the truths he tried to convey. Present tense, whether he was alive or not it is his present testimony. OF THESE THINGS - Paul, like Peter, wrote of the Coming Judgment, and the need to live Godly, moral lives, Rom 13:11-14; Col 3:1-17; 1 Th 5:4-11, etc.

THINGS HARD TO understand - Dusnoetus - Dus - Negative. Noeo - to grasp with the mind. This suggests there were Doctrines and Statements which Peter's mind couldn't master, but his heart welcomed. We shouldn't limit our love for Scripture to what we can understand. It's conceited and dangerous to imagine we must make plain sense of all Scriptures, and fit them into a rational system before welcoming them. As with a road map, we need to know only each step as it comes, and the Lord will see to that.

That some truth is "heavy going," 2 Cor 10:10, isn't because God failed to give Paul the needed understanding and clear expression. Scripture wasn't written so that any man should know everything, but that we should all come to KNOW GOD and His will, Jn 20:31. It was written in such a way that we feel the need to discuss everything with Him, as the disciples asked about parables, Mk 4:10. God wishes to develop Disciples who fellowship with HIM, not independent know-all's who understand everything.

Confidence that we DO understand, shows we're thinking of God and His will in human terms, as Creatures imagining we can define the Creator! God's Word is infinite and inexhaustible, like God Himself. We'll never reach the end of it, but joyful vistas of fellowship with Him unfold with each step of growing understanding, as on the walk to Emmaus. Paul wrote for a wide circle, 1 Cor 1:2; 2 Cor 1:1; Col 4:16; 1 Th 5:27. That Peter knew and approved what was in Paul's letters is clear, Acts 15:4-11.

To understand Scripture we must be willing to be spiritual persons, taught by the Spirit as sons of God, 1 Cor 2:10-3:2. Verses need to be understood in the light of all Paul's writings/all Scripture. That takes prayer and patience. In His Word GOD gave us what He judged best for us. NOT slogans we could memorise, and shout. Not arguments that the natural mind could grasp and systematise - often Christians have sinned in treating them as such. God revealed Himself in ways that open to us glimpses of His person, glory, and purposes, sufficient for our every need, 1:3. (They also make us realise how relatively little we know/how little right we have to shout down those who disagree) Things that move us to wonder, worship and invite others to join us. That require us to be constantly turning to Him to say "what does THIS mean Lord? What are you SAYING TO ME, right now?"

WHICH ignorant people- Amathes- A- Not Mathetes- a Disciple. So UNDISCIPLED. The problem isn't a matter of intelligence, but of unwillingness to submit to discipling. Refusal to take up one's cross and follow the Lord, Mk 8:34 and led by the Spirit, Rom 8:14.

UNSTABLE - 2:14. WREST/distort- Strebloo- From Streblo- a winch, or instrument of torture. They sin by distorting Scripture as torturers force victims to say what they have no desire to say, and know to be false. God's children are to submit to the Word of God, and rely on Him to make clear all we need to know. But these set themselves up as Authorities, and twist and turn the words of Scripture to make it say what they want it to say. Eg Law, or Baptism is twisted into a way of Salvation, Grace is twisted into freedom to sin, Rom 6:1-18, Faith is twisted into a technique for getting what we want. No Male/female in Christ, Gal 3:28 is twisted into claiming identical roles in Church and home. Faith saves - so how I live doesn't matter, Jas 2:14-20 Freedom from rules Rom 8:1-2; Gal 3:10 becomes everything is permissible, 1 Cor 6:12. Error lies just one step to right or left of truth.

AS.. OTHER SCRIPTURES- Paul's writings are classed as Scripture along with OT Scriptures is the natural meaning. In NT THE Scriptures, as here, always means God's word. At first the only Scripture available was OT in Hebrew, or LXX for Greek readers. But from the first the testimony of the Apostles and prophets, stands alongside the OT writing, as being the full, final revelation from God, Heb 1:1-2. to THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION- #21. God's Word is indestructible. Twisting it out of joint for their own purposes becomes their destruction.

3:17-18 THEREFORE dear friends- A final loving appeal. be on your guard- Lit. Continue to be on guard, keep the realities in mind, Mk 13:35. There will always be False Teachers, eager to rob us of the fruitful security of abiding in the Vine/Spirit/Word, Jn 15:1-12. Or push us off balance into fanatical pre-occupation with barren ideas, 2 Tim 2:16 etc. So.. not carried AWAY - Gal 2:13 WITH THE ERROR OF lawlessmen- #27. Who don't submit/ live in obedience to God's Word.



FALL FROM- Out of, Gal 5:4. YOUR secure position- God has given us a firm place to stand, Ps 40:2. Made provision for us, 1:1-4. Holds us, Jn 10:28-29. Ju.24 We're to co-operate in this, Eph 6:11; Ju.21, depending on Grace not self-effort, 1 Pet 5:10-12.

GROW IN the GRACE - #1:2. Grace is the sphere into which God's children are born, and in which our lives are to be lived. Grace encourages growth, as every negative act/ thought can be freely forgiven and cleansed, and every attempt to please/obey our Lord is welcomed and blessed, Rom 6:12-19. But as with cycle riding, we must keep moving or fall off. Protection against error is found in growth in truth and love in fellowship with Christ, experiencing more of his love.

AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE - #1:5. Grow into closer, intelligent fellowship with Christ, based on His Word. Both rational understanding and fellowship knowledge that transforms us, are needed. Faith without rational understanding of truth, and fellowship with the Lord in it becomes mere mysticism/emotionalism that deceives itself/ lays itself open to deceit.

Rational faith without working fellowship/ in love, is dead, Jas 2:14-19, 1 Jn 3:16-19, 1 Cor 13:1-3; Rev 22:4. Obedience to Scripture builds us on the rock of what our Lord has said, Mt 7:24-25. The seed of His Word springs up into obedient life, Mt 13:1-8, 19-23 in fellowship with Him/ His promises, Jn 15:1-10. Cp Knowledge in 1:2, 3, 8, 20. Eph 13-21; Phil 3:7-10; Col 1:8-15.

OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST - Knowledge of/ from/ about Him produces intelligent fellowship-experience, based on God's Word. After the deceit and vile folly of 2:1-22 and the horror of 3:10 Peter has returned to the unchanging obligation/ privilege of every child, to GROW UP. To do that will glorify HIM. The Christian is planted firmly in Grace. Like a plant he should spread his roots in that good soil and Grow Upwards in the Light/ Knowledge. The scope for growing into Christ-likeness is unlimited, Lk 25:2; Eph 4:15; Phil 3:13-14.

TO HIM BE GLORY - #1:3. A Praise-prayer directed to the Lord Jesus, as in Rev 1:5-6. In a letter to the Emperor, AD 112 Pliny, the Roman Governor of Bythinia said that Christians sang Hymns to Jesus as God. Glorifying Him is the purpose/goal, and fulfilment of our existence as provided for in Creation and Redemption. It's continually enabled by God dwelling in us by His Spirit. NOW, AND FOREVER, AMEN.

# JUDE

Ju.1-2 JUDE - Judah Praise. SERVANT - 1:1. A reminder of being totally at the disposal of the Lord who had bought him. OF JESUS CHRIST, AND a BROTHER OF JAMES- A James well enough known to easily identify Jude, a lesser known man. Probably James the Lord's brother, Mt 13:55 Acts 1:14; Gal 1:19. If so, not boasting association with the Lord.

TO those SANCTIFIED- Hagiazō- [RT]- Set apart, sanctified. /bved- Agapao [Nes] Sanctified is used with called in 1 Cor 1:2. In any text or version it's clearly taught in other Scriptures that we are both LOVED and SANCTIFIED. Such variations between Mssof the text of Scripture NEVER leave us with any uncertainty as to doctrinal truth. BY GOD THE FATHER.

AND PRESERVED/kept- #Tereo- to watch over, keep safe. Those who respond to God's invitation are securely KEPT by Him, Jn 10:28-29 17:11-15; 1 Th 5:23-24 1 Pet 1:3-5. IN/by CHRIST JESUS AND CALLED- God invited us, in the Gospel. The initiative was His, Jn 1:13 6:44 7:37; Rom 1:6-7; 1 Cor 1:2, 24. That Christians are Chosen and invited by God is our security, Rom 8:29-29. God is the author of the Call, and it calls us to holiness; 1 Cor 1:2; 1 Pet 1:15. It results in the working out in us of His nature, Phil 2:12-13.

MERCY - Pity meets needs from one's resources. God is rich in MERCY Eph 2:4. The same three are in 1 Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2; 2 Jn 3. PEACE - #1:2. The result of God's mercy. LOVE - #1:7. Love that values and is eager to serve. Used of the Father's LOVE for the Son, and God's LOVE for the world in giving the Son as our Saviour. A fruit of the Spirit, poured into our hearts by Him, Rom 5:5, enabling and requiring us to show LOVE to each other, 1 Cor 13:1-5; 1 Jn 4:11-16. God calls men to Him in Love and He loves those He calls, Col 3:12.

BE MULTIPLIED/yours in abundance 1:2. Addition increases anything slowly. Multiplication does so rapidly. A Jewish expression, Dan 4:1; 1 Pet 1:2. For mercy, peace and love to be multiplied requires us to be aware of our need, and to take advantage of God's provision - Prayer/ Scripture/ Meditation/ Obedience - bringing life into God's presence, and taking His Word into our lives.

## Jude 3-24 FALSE TEACHERS - How to Respond

Ju.3 Dear friends although I was eager- 1:5. Or was getting ready TO WRITE TO YOU OF THE COMMON/we share- Koinos- Belonging to several. Used in Acts 2:44 to sharing things. There are no castes or privileged levels in the Gospel. SALVATION- 3:15. Jude makes it clear that his concern isn't just a panic reaction. He would have liked to have written anyway, sharing with them a permanent record of his witness. In 11 it's the PRECIOUS FAITH - the source, basis, and means of the Salvation we share in common. Here it is the RESULT of that FAITH.

I felt I had to- Instead of writing his witness to the Gospel generally, he felt compelled to write an impassioned plea to value and hold fast to aspects of the Common Salvation which were being denied. Some people would sooner speak of mutually-appreciated, tension-free, cheerful and comforting things, but, as with Jeremiah, the needs of those around us may require us to deal with difficult and distressing subjects. EXHORT/Urge- Parakaleo- To call alongside to help, guide, exhort, strengthen, cheer, etc, as in Comforter/Paradete, Jn 14:16 Jude comes alongside them to help them take appropriate action

EARN ESTLY CONTE ND- Epagorizomai- An intensive form of the word Agon= a Contest, as at Olympic games. So AGONize- exert oneself vigorously, persistently, 2 Tim 4:7. Fight for, defend, take one's stand on something and, refusing to be moved from it, drive off attackers. We have a solemn responsibility to be ready to do battle, as a life-and-death matter. Not as a negative thing. We take our stand on the Gospel, Phil 1:17; Col 1:25-27, and defend it by proclaiming it widely, fully, and forcefully, and by living it triumphantly. Using it as the yardstick by which we measure everything, and the foundation on which we build everything. Cp, 2 Cor 11:3-4; Gal 1:8-9; Col 2:6-8. For the idea of fighting and building at the same time see Neh 4:16. But having a contentious/eager to disagree attitude disgraces our Lord, Gal 5:20 Phil 2:3; Jas 3:16-17.

Perhaps Satan's greatest triumph is to get the defenders of the Faith to fight with their fellow-servants on Satan's terms. Anger never works the righteousness of God, Jas 1:19-20. Nor can ridicule, half-truths, threatenings, bitterness, sneers, etc. These are all natural reactions of our shocked pride. These are all CARNAL WEAPONS, condemned in 2 Cor 12:20 Gal 5:20 Eph 4:31; Col 3:8 etc, not the spiritual weapons we need to use, 2 Cor 10:3-5. We need to put on the armour of God Eph 6:10-18 and speak the truth IN LOVE, Eph 4:15, because anything not done lovingly, is empty and worthless, 1 Cor 13:1-3. The method and spirit with which we are to do battle is set out in 2 Tim 2:23-26. Anything else is destructive to friend and foe alike, and a disgrace to the One whose ambassador we are. May He grant true repentance, forgiveness and cleansing from the contentious, unloving spirit I've shown when faced with JW's at the door - largely because I felt they were doing what I should have been doing.

THE FAITH- FAITH is often used of our personal response to God, but is used here of the body of truth recorded in the Written Word of God. Cp Rom 3:2. Jesus had been sent to speak the words of God, Jn 3:34 as God's full and final Word, Heb 1:1-2. The record of this, and its application to us in His Church was proclaimed authoritatively, and recorded for all time, through the Apostles and NT Prophets, 1 Cor 3:10-11; Eph 2:20 1 Th 1:6-8. This recognised, handed-down body of truth, that was to be passed on unchanged as a stewardship from God, is referred to in Lk 1:2; Acts 6:7; 20:27, Rom 6:17; 10:8; 16:17; 1 Cor 11:2, 23 15:1-8; Gal 1:8; Phil 1:27; 2 Th 2:15 3:6. The Faith isn't to be taken for granted, but re-read, re-understood, re-affirmed and re-applied to life in each generation. Looking at life through the lenses of a previous generation, and handing out the old, correct answers, which don't fit the current questions, is futile.

WHICH/that WAS ONCE and for all- Occasionally the word means simply Once, but generally as here it means ONCE AND FOR ALL - permanently valid - as in Heb 9:26-28 "Christ appeared ONCE to put away sin.. man dies ONCE, So Christ was offered ONCE to take away sins." DELIVERED/entrusted- #24. to THE SAINTS- The books written as the NT was reaching completion are naturally those which spell out its not-to-be-added-to nature, and purpose, 1:19-21; 2 Tim 2:2; 3:14-4:5; Titus 1:9; Rev 22:18-19. The Gospel as delivered can't be improved, and even well-meaning attempts to define it more clearly in creeds etc are unhelpful and divisive. Just as the Lord's Saving work was once-and-for-all, so the recording of it was a once-and-for-all historic event.

Ju.4 (2:1-3) FOR CERTAIN MEN have secretly slipped in alongside you- 2:1 Pareisduno To enter by the side, without being noticed, sneak in. PEOPLE do so here. In 2:1 TEACHINGS are sneaked in. See Acts 20:29-30 2 Cor 11:2-15; Gal 1:6-9; 1 Tim 4:1-5; 2 Tim 3:1-9. ORDAINED/written about long ago #23. Cain, Balaam, Korah etc acted freely, in defiance of God, as those who crucified Christ did, Acts 2:23 From early in the OT God has made it clear that Lies will be told in spiritual things, and that such lies will be punished. Cp 32:3; Col 2:8; 1 Jn 3:7-8; 4:1; 2 Jn 7. These men by their attitude/action show that they, like Cain etc, are under God's condemnation, so we should treat them as such.

These are godless (2:5) TURNING THE GRACE #1:2 OF GOD INTO license for immorality- #27. This is typical of the impudence and tragic folly natural to fallen humanity. Paul in 1 Cor 5 and 6 uses arguments against it but there's a place for blunt warnings such as Jude gives, even when we can't match the arguments of the errorists. They claim God's Grace gives them freedom to sin sexually, 22, 18-19, Rom 3:8; 6:1-15; 2 Cor 12:21; Gal 5:13-19; 1 Pet 2:16; Tit 2:11-14. Such receive God's grace in vain, just as readily as those who aim at self-righteousness; Gal 2:21.

Deny- Arneomai- To contradict. In 2:1 the False Teachers DENY the Lord by teaching in His Name their own chosen falsehoods. These claim to be Christians but their ACTIONS deny His Lordship over their lifestyle. Cp 1 Tim 1:3-11; Titus 1:14; 1 Jn 1:4-6. This Denial of the Lordship of the LORD in practical things is the key to all the disaster that follows. All misuse of Truth, others, self, or things, is a denial of His Lordship over us and them. He came to take away sin, so all sinning is a frustration of His purposes, 1 Jn 3:1-10

THE ONLY Sovereign and LORD - #21 GOD - Theos- [RT] Probably added to make it explicit that the LORD referred to was GOD although that was already implicit. \*\*11.

Footnote \*\*11. This is typical of variations between Bible Mss IF we have only 1 clock, we assume that the time it shows is correct. IF we had 50 clocks, there would be variations in the time they showed, but, by checking them all, the correct time would be far more certain. So it is with the hundreds of manuscripts we have of the Scripture.

JESUS CHRIST- While it is His Lordship over them requiring moral living that's the specific point, this is part of a general denial of the Biblical revelation that He is God the Son, the Lamb of God whose atoning death redeemed us to Himself, 2 Cor 6:16-18 To deny the incarnation and/or the real humanity of Christ became an excuse for hiding sin lightly, 1 Jn 2:12-25 2 Jn 7. Often those who deny the Being and Word of Christ have a looser view of morality.

Ju.5 I want to remind you 1:12 Our Lord promised the Spirit would do this, and He uses us to remind each other, Jn 15:26-27, 2 Tim 2:14, Titus 3:1, etc. THOUGH you already know- #1:12- Having grasped the Gospel truth we need to keep it in mind and claim our privileges as saints/children of God, and increasingly enjoy fellowship with Him, Eph 3:14-21; Col 1:9-14. Human nature prefers to forget things that curb it, and settles down to comfortable semi-Christianity, 1:9.

HOW THE LORD HAVING delivered His PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT- Israel as a nation was physically redeemed, Ex 6:6. (They weren't all redeemed spiritually, and Israelites dying in the wilderness missed out on living in the promised land, but weren't all doomed to Hell. In 1 Cor 9:24-27 Paul is referring to missing out on "Gold-medal Glory," NOT Salvation) later DESTROYED- 3:6 those THAT did NOT believe- They were destroyed because whatever their profession, in practice they threw off His LORDSHIP OVER THEIR LIVES, and one aspect of this was wilfully throwing off moral decency, Ex 32:5-7, 25 Num 25 Their God-ordained place was the Land of Promise. Their disobedience prevented them getting there, Num 14; Ps 78:21-22 106 Privilege + disobedience/ rebellion = Judgment. In spite of great, visible miracles they failed to trust/obey/ take up God's wonderful Salvation. That two only entered Canaan is used as a warning Ps 95:7-11; 1 Cor 10:1-11; Heb 3:7-19.

Ju.6 THE ANGELS who did NOT keep- #24. THEIR positions of authority- Arche-Rule, government. Used of human rulers Lk 12:11, Titus 3:1; and of powerful angelic beings (holy or fallen) Rom 8:38 Eph 12:10 3:10 6:12, Col 2:15 BUT abandoned THEIR OWN home- God granted these angels a position of privilege and power, as a stewardship in His service, and they deserted their posts. That's all we're told. We may guess they wanted to be "gods" themselves as in Isa 14:14, and acted against God's purposes as in Dan 10:12-21, as Satan did in Gen 3. Being a spiritual being, as angels are, doesn't put one above sin and its punishment. Jude uses this as a warning example to those who are abandoning the spiritual home God provides in the Gospel. \*\*12

Footnote \*\*12. Jude would know of the Jewish fantasies about the "Sons of God," thought to be angels, of Gen 6, current at that time, and neither confirms nor denies the truth of them. Shrewd preachers anywhere may use current thinking as illustrations, without saying they are true.

These HE has kept bound IN EVERLASTING CHAINS UNDER DARKNESS- 24. THEY didn't keep their place but the unchanging God keeps them. This seems to be describing a different Angelic rebel group treated differently, from those in Eph 6:12 etc. for JUDGMENT.

Ju.7 (26) AS SODOM AND GOMORRAH - As God gave a privileged position to the angels, he gave a physically privileged position to these cities - An oasis fertile like Eden, in a dry wilderness Gen 13:10 and they abused it by living in idleness Ezek 16:49 and sexual sin.

AND THE CITIES ABOUT THEM IN a similar way- The unnamed cities (not the angels) shared Sodom's immorality. Gave THEMSELVES up TO sexual immorality AND perversion- It wasn't unintentional or incidental, they deliberately threw themselves into sinful, sexual excesses, Gen 18:16-19:22 Rom 1:25-27, 1 Cor 6:9-10 It was an openly practised and praised lifestyle. Older people today deplore the "progress" made in this direction in the world around It marks a society ripening for Judgment Is it a coincidence that many advocates of general apostate doctrine also argue that homosexual behaviour should be protected from criticism, restriction or punishment?

ARE SET FORTH- exposed to public view. AS AN EXAMPLE of those who suffer THE VENGEANCE/punishment- Dike- Justice As in Acts 28:4 where Paul being bitten by the snake was thought to be JUSTICE on a murderer. God is in no way vengeful. When His patience has no further hope of bringing repentance/ forgiveness, He MUST act in justice/ do what is right OF ETERNAL FIRE - That the Judgment was by fire, and permanent - Sodom was never rebuilt - makes it a symbol of instant, final, and total Judgment Cp Mt 5:22 13:42 50:18, 25:41; Mk 9:43 Rev 20:14

Ju.8 (210) In the same way THESE FILTHY (not in the Greek) DREAMERS- Creative Imagination, awake or asleep, is a gift from God, but these debase it as in Gen 6:5 "Every IMAGINATION.. evil." Many modern books, films, etc are like that Sanctification and sexual immorality are incompatible, 1 Cor 6:15-20 1 Th 4:3, so it may mean they spend time in filthy erotic fantasies. But sexual sin is used as a symbol of Spiritual apostasy, 2 Cor 11:1-3; Jas 4:4, and the only other NT use of "Dreamers" refers to spiritual revelations, Acts 2:17 "See visions DREAM DREAMS." This suggests that those Jude condemns claim to have supernatural revelations that replace the Gospel. Cp Gal 1:6-9. These are in themselves spiritually defiling and if they condone sexual immorality, defile the flesh as well. ("Spiritual experiences" are still used to justify immorality - eg an African taking a second wife, saying "God approves it as I can still speak in tongues.") God spoke in Dreams to Joseph, Daniel etc, but some who claimed God spoke to them in dreams were FALSE prophets, Deu 13:1-5; Jer 23:16-28 etc.

DEFILE /pollute- Made unclean/ unfit to come near God in worship. THE FLESH /sinful nature- 2:10

DESPISE /reject- Used of DESPISING /rejecting God's commands, Mk 7:9, and servants, Lk 10:16 DOMINION /authority- As 2:10 but in the singular, so the Lordship of the Lord as in Ju.4. Ultimately ALL authority is of God, so must be treated with respect, Ex 22:8 Rom 13:1. To set aside God's Word, or His servants preaching it, is to set aside God himself. Even if making their living as His Ministers, they turn their back on the Lord because they want to live as they please.

AND SPEAK EVIL OF /slander- #22 DIGNITIES /celestial beings- Doxa 2:10 Possibly by claiming that such glorious /reflecting God's Glory angelic beings were the source of their doctrines? Cp Col 2:18 2 Cor 11:13-15 Or that the revelations they received put them on a level with such angels? Some suggest Angels in NT are associated with the giving of the Law, Acts 7:38 53 Gal 3:19, Heb 22, and observers of Church order, 1 Cor 11:10 so despised them by committing adultery etc. What follows suggests a boastful attitude towards Satanic powers, who though rebels, still have to be treated with respect because of the Glorious stewardship God hasn't yet taken from them, Rom 11:29

JU.9 (2:11) But even MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL - 2:11 classifies him among the angels. He's called an angelic chief prince, Dan 10:13 His shout heralds the coming of the Lord Himself, 1 Th 4:16 He leads the angel army God uses to drive Satan out of Heaven, Rev 12:7-9.

CONTENDING WITH THE DEVIL was disputing- Dialegomai- Differences in judgment, expressed in words. (So this is an example to us when we're arguing?) ABOUT THE BODY OF MOSES- As Satan is God of this world, in a sense our bodies remain within his territory until resurrection. That Moses was BODILY present at the Transfiguration suggests his body wasn't left in the grave, Deu 34:5-6. The Apocryphal book "THE ASSUMPTION OF MOSES," may have had this incident in it. See Ju.14.

Did not dare- As he was afraid to take action, any identification of Michael with the Lord Jesus is blasphemous folly. BRING AGAINST HIM A slanderous ACCUSATION- As in 2:11, adding BUT SAID THE LORD REBUKE you- Or the Lord punish you, See Zech 3:2 The LORD ALONE has the ability and right to judge every action, and reward appropriately. It's used of the Lord REBUKING evil spirits, the stormy waves, and Peter, when Peter had REBUKED Him, Mk 8:32-3. Michael, consciously doing the Lord's will, was content to leave the rebuking to the Lord. In OUR differences of interpretation / disputing with our believing brothers, or others, the more conscious we are that we're saying what God says, the more readily we'll leave it to the Lord to establish the truth. If the mightiest angel left Judgment to God, how dare mere man presume to pass judgment on each other.

Not that we should be polite to the Devil, but that we shouldn't claim authority to counter the Devil'sanders with our own. In the past, enemies came snarling at God's people, and in God's time He called them to heel. We can trust Him to do so now, and not act or speak rashly. This is an example of how spiritually-minded human servants of God should deal with rebel servants of God

Ju.10 SPEAK EVIL - #22 OF THINGS THEY KNOW - #1:12 NOT - Because they lack the Spirit, Ju.19, Rom 8:9, they can't know spiritual things, 1 Cor 2:1-14. And so they blaspheme/ridicule them as not making sense, and use this as an excuse for defying what God says in His Word. Cp Ps 14: 2-12 uses a different word, to make a rather different point

BUT things THEY do understand- Epistamai- To put the mind on. Choose to look at things from this point of view. By instinct- Phusikos- Produced by nature, inborn. In contrast to Oida= to know with the mind, and Ginosko= to know by fellowship with God, these know with their bodies/instincts only. They live at the instinctive "If it feels good dot" level. Instinct in animals functions within the Laws of Nature/God. But instead of using their minds to RULE their bodily instincts, they use them to find excuses for indulging the desires of their sinful nature without any restraint. This corrupts, and wastes those natural gifts and desires, and sets them on a collision course with God, to whom they must give account on Judgment day. They may claim their instinctive natural desires/reactions to things is the guidance of the "Spirit" within them, that sets them above the written revelation of God's will. This makes them deaf towards God and His Word.

THEY CORRUPT/destroy THEMSELVES- As did Israel, Balaam, Korah. Totally in the case of Unbelievers Believers who LIVE as Lot did, suffer the destruction of all their works by fire, though themselves saved, 1 Cor 3:15-17. What they take in of the Christian Faith, is what it sounds like to an unregenerate man, who weighs it up in terms of its usefulness to him in getting what he wants, not what in fact God is offering to him in the Gospel.

Ju.11 WOE UNTO THEM!- Expressing concern at their spiritual disaster. Jude speaks for God against the enemies of His work, knowing that God has made His verdict on them plain by His visible actions in the past. Cain, Balaam, and Korah were, in different senses, among God's people/servants, as false teachers are. Cp use of WOE by the Lord in Mt 23 and Paul on himself, 1 Cor 9:16

FOR THEY HAVE taken THE WAY OF CAIN- Cain, ruled by his desires, rejected God's way in favour of his own way, and that led to treachery and murder, Gen 4:9, Heb 11:4; 1 Jn 3:12 THEIR treachery against their brothers is introducing destructive spiritual and moral error. As a wilful unbeliever Cain rejected the chance to be made right with God on the basis of atoning sacrifice



Rushed into THE ERROR - 2:18 OF BALAA M- He led God's people astray for what he could get out of it, 2:3; Micah 6:5; 1 Tim 6:5; Titus 1:10-11. Had dreams and visions, yet resisted God's guidance FOR REWARD /profit- 2:13 PERISHED/been destroyed- 3:6. Korah's death was visibly the result of his rebelling IN THE GAINSA YING /rebellion- Antilego- To say against, contradict OF Korah- Num 16:1-35 God had given Korah a minor role under Aaron the High Priest. He wasn't prepared to do God's will in the service of God, and argued against God, insisting on his right to be what he wanted to be. Their sin was like Korah's in trying to exercise leadership among God's people to get what they wanted for themselves, contrary to God's order. They, and the supporters they gather, will perish as Korah and his did, Ps 106:16-18 People still assert their right to their own way, as if it was superior to God's will, or they were more important than God See Rom 10:21 where GAINSA YING/ obstinate is Antilego in contrast to CONFESSING- Homolego- saying the same as God Cp Phil 1:16 CONTENTION.

Ju.12-13 (2:13) THESE ARE SPOTS/blemishes- Spilas- a rock, or reef, on which a ship might be wrecked. Although the Greek is Spilas, in both [RT] and [Nes] texts KJV and some others choose to translate it as if it was Spilos as in 2:13 Those referred to are both dirty, AND dangerous, but as Jude is written in careful Greek his writing Spilas for Spilos isn't at all probable. IN YOUR FEAST OF CHARITY /bve- Agape- love feasts. Meals which the Believers ate together as a demonstration of love and fellowship, often linked with the "Breaking of Bread," Acts 2:46 20:7. Greediness and selfishness at such meals were corrected by Paul in 1 Cor 11:20-34 Such problems led to Agape- fellowship meals being banned within 100yrs But, a shared meal still enables believers, especial those from a distance, to spend more time in fellowship with each other.

WHEN eating with YOU shepherds who feed only THEMSELVES- Cp Ezek 34:2, etc. NOT God's shepherds, Jn 21:16; Acts 20:28 Eph 4:11; 1 Pet 5:2 WITHOUT FEAR /the slightest qualm- Taking their place confidently with the believers, with no fear of God, reverence, or regard to the spiritual purpose of the meal, interested only in what they could get out of it.

CLOUDS WITHOUT rain- Raising false hopes of rain, in a dry climate. blown along by WINDS- Fickle, and unreliable, Eph 4:14; Heb 1:39; Prov 25:14. Such people moved around the "rewarding to the flesh fringes" never getting to the heart of things -Salvation, Lordship, Fellowship knowledge of God in their own life, or in their ministry. They made an empty show of giftedness but people received nothing. Are our studies and ministry bringing people the water of life?

Autumn TREE S without FRUIT - No fruit by Autumn= No fruit. In the Bible trees exist for their fruit, 1:8; Ps 1:3; Jer 17:7-8; Mt 3:10 etc. The Autumn comes when their fruit should be blessing others and all they have is selfish leaves withering TWICE DEAD - Twicedying. Dead to fruitfulness And no hope of future fruit as Uprooted- A symbol of Judgment, Ps 52:5; Prov 22:2

RAGING WAVES.. FOAMING up THEIR SHAME - Plural, Shames- What their lives produce is like the dirty foam left on the shore, Is 57:20 etc.

WANDERING STARS- Planets- Planets. Seeming to be bright stars/guides, they prove to be planets, constantly shifting, so disastrous to anyone who tries to steer by them. Only those loyal to the Lord and His Word can be useful guides to others. Or possibly the False Teachers are shooting stars catching people's attention, then disappearing into darkness. THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS- 2:17. As for the fallen angels, Ju.6. FOREVER-

Ju.14-15 ENOCH ALSO- This statement is apparently from the "BOOK OF ENOCH," or from a Jewish tradition common to both books. It's quoted as it supports the message, as Paul quotes Pagan writers, or we quote Pilgrim's Progress or any well known book. It fits the Biblical scene of Enoch WALKING WITH GOD, his eyes on Him while the world around headed for Judgment. We stand with him looking forward to the final triumph of God's purposes. \*\*13 THE SEVENTH FROM ADAM- Gen 5:1-24 PROPHESED, SAYING THE LORD is coming- As in Mt 25:31. WITH THOUSANDS OF HIS SAINTS/holy ones- Uncounted multitudes, Deu 33:2; Dan 7:9-10; 2 Th 1:7.

TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT/judge- Crisis- to separate, make a judgment-between those responsive to His Word, and those ignoring or arguing against it, Jn 5:27-30 everyone AND TO CONVINCEN- They resist such conviction now, as God has not withdrawn their God-like freedom, but it will be irresistible at the Great White Throne, facing what the opened books show their life to have been, Rev 20:12-13. Cp Mt 12:36. May His presence convict now, 1 Cor 14:24-25.

ALL THAT ARE UNGODLY - #25. Who disregard or defy God, Rom 1:18 OF ALL THEIR UNGODLY DEEDS/acts UNGODLY sums up all that's done out of Christ. When we are displayed at His Judgment Seat, anything in our lives as believers -thoughts, feelings, attitudes, actions -unsubmitted to Him/untransformed by His grace and power will have UNGODLY written across it, and fail the test of Fire, 1 Cor 3:13. May the Lord grant us the grace to aim at such a life as Paul did in 2 Cor 5:6-11.

Done in the ungodly way- The people are ungodly, the things they do are ungodly, their attitude is ungodly, and the things they say are ungodly. ALL THEIR HARD/harsh words- Resistant and unyielding to the Grace of God, till crushed by His power in righteous judgment. Cp Lamech in Gen 4:23-24 in contrast to Enoch. The word is used of Korah's words in LXX Num 16:26 and Nabal, in 1 Sam 25:3. WHICH UNGODLY SINNERS HAVE SPOKEN AGAINST HIM. They blame God for all that is disagreeable to them.

Footnote \*\*13. This in no way suggests that "THE ASSUMPTION OF MOSES," "THE BOOK OF ENOCH," or the writings of Pagans in Acts 17:28; 1 Cor 15:33; Titus 1:12, are Scriptures inspired by God. They're quoted IN Scripture (and what is quoted BECOMES Scripture) because they were well known sayings, and happened to fit in with the truth.

Ju.16 (2:18) THESE ARE MURMURERS/grumblers- What an UNGODLY thing! GOD created this world perfectly appropriate to our needs, and man himself damaged it by disobedience, and still does. (Those who ask "Why doesn't God stop those who cause wars, suffering, social injustice, etc" are indignant at the idea that anyone should stop THEM in THEIR sins.) The Creator, became man for their Salvation, yet they MURMURED when He said He was the Bread come down from Heaven to give eternal life, Jn 6:41. And those who received Salvation continue to grumble, eg Greek-speaking Christian Jews against others, Acts 6:1, and so on down to today. Israel in the wilderness, receiving all the good God could give them, MURMURED, 1 Cor 10:10 THEIR circumstances were trying, but it was their own fault they weren't already enjoying the promised land in obedient faith. Grumbling marks those out of touch with God, Phil 2:14.

As parents, it would grieve and exasperate us if what our wisdom, love, and power provides for OUR children leaves them grumbling and unhappy. But as children of the Heavenly Father, do we live EVERY DAY rejoicing in Him/ His provision - no discontentment, jealousy, hurt feelings, worry, resentments? We know HE formed us for His purposes, Ps 139:13-16 Jer 1:5. So, unless we're wiser, kinder, or more able than God, we can't complain about our inherited characteristics, upbringing, or equipping for the work He's given us. We know from Rom 8 that the whole universe around us is organised for the purpose of making us Christ-like, and that God's Love in spite of all opposition, shelters and provides us with all we need- not sparing even His Son to this end, Rom 8:29-39 We know that God placed us in the Body of Christ in association with the people of His choice, giving us the functions HE chose for us, 1 Cor 12:11-18, so we can hardly complain about the believers we're in contact with. And, if that weren't enough to shut our grumbling mouths and worrying minds, and fill us with praise, contentment, and rejoicing, we know that THE LORD HIMSELF is right here with us always, Phil 4:4-9, Heb 13:5-6. To think of these things, even briefly, is enough to convict us of the sinfulness of MURMURING and to move us to confession and cleansing.

COMPLAINERS/fault-finders- It's so easy to feel sorry for ourselves, and join in the complaining around us. But if we do, how will they ever believe in an invisible loving God whose salvation we're enjoying! My mind goes back to Dec 1943 when witnessing to my new found joy in Salvation, and the Saviour, I was suddenly convicted that I was also complaining that I'd been posted next year to a school whose Headmaster was notoriously difficult. And so, in this matter, denying the Lordship and Love of my Lord. That convicting/repentance/confessing/cleansing has had to be repeated many times since. Blaming God for our natures, place in life, and circumstances, and coveting, go together, and both slander God, Jas 1:13-19, 3:14-4:3. Cp 1:1-5; Ps 16:5-6; 103:10 1 Tim 6:6.

WALKING AFTER/they follow THEIR evil desires- #1:4. Those desires are the source of all grumbling, complaining, and saying hard things against God. People claim the RIGHT to do their own thing, yet blame others and God, for the damage this does to their lives, and the country in general. See 2:10 18 3:3; 1 Pet 1:14; 2:11; 4:2-5.

Boast- 2:18 Talking big is natural, Ps 124. We escape it by daiming the remedy of Gal 2:20 HAVING MEN'S PERSONS- Prosopon Faces. The facial expression their words produce guides what they say. Flatter to their own ADVANTAGE - Putting what their sinful nature wants as top priority leads to boasting and bullying in the presence of weaker people, while flattering rich and influential ones. They criticise God and crawl to men - as Absalom, dependent on David's mercy, used what David gave him to flatter men into joining him in rebellion against his benefactor/father. See LXX Deu 10:17; 2 Chr 19:7. These bend God's Law with noregard for His will, in order to keep the goodwill of rich or powerful church members or sympathisers (See Kallistos, P13 Pre- Reformation Church History booklet.) All who preach or teach God's Word, know the pleasure and encouragement it is to see responsive faces in the audience. If we thank God and glorify Him for it promptly- GOOD. If putting smiles on their faces becomes an end in itself we will soon find ourselves standing with these Christ-Denying teachers

Ju. 17-18 BUT dear friends- Switching their attention from warnings to the even more important positive development of fellowship with God in the Gospel. REMEMBER- keep it in mind by reading, listening, and storing in heart and mind so it can mould our lives, Ps 119:11, etc.

What THE APOSTLES OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - The Mt 10:2; Acts 1:26 and Paul, from whom they had received the Gospel. TOLD YOU THERE will be scoffers- 3:3. People who ridicule the Promise of the Lord's return. There have always been people who live shamelessly and sneer at those who, in fellowship with God/obedience to His Word, didn't do so, Ps 35:1-7; Prov 14:9, 19:25 29 2 Th 23-12, 1 Jn 2:17-19. From the first, they were told they and the Gospel would function in a hostile world, Mt 10:16; Acts 14:22 20:29 1 Th 2:13-15; 2 Tim 3:1-9. If things are sad and threatening, cheer up - This is what the Gospel was expected to face and what the Lord has provided for.

IN THE LAST times- See 3:3. The times when God brings Creation/ the Fall to its conclusion, beginning with the revelation of Himself and His will in the person of the Son and His work, Heb 1:1-3. Continuing through the years of His patient mercy, 3:9, and culminating in the day of Judgment when the victory of Calvary, Col 2:15, will be enforced, Jn 12:48 1 Cor 15:22-28. For the character of the world that precedes/ calls for that Judgment see 2 Tim 3:1-9, Jas 5:1-6. A character obvious in the world as the later Epistles were written, and also at other times since

WHO will follow THEIR UNGODLY desires- #1:4. Note how often Jude uses UNGODLY as the key characteristic of the mockers of the Gospel, and parasites on/ dividers of the visible Church. Desiring to do forbidden things is the natural result when men throw off the will/ fellowship/ control of God. They become the slaves of self-destructive conflicting passions - a menace to themselves and others, even while they boast that they are spiritually above the Bible and Morality.

Ju.19 THESE SEPARATE THEMSELVES/divide you- Anyone, any Christian who centres life on himself, is automatically in conflict with others. Such leaders try to win as many as possible to themselves, Acts 20:30. This makes division inevitable, 1 Cor 3:1-4. All rival leaderships/heresies divide the hearts of the congregation, and ultimately divide into separate congregations, Rom 16:17-18; 1 Cor 1:10-14; Gal 5:20; 1 Tim 4:1-5; Jn 3. Korah was a divisive leader.

Who follow mere natural instincts- Psuchikos- belonging to the Psyche- Soul, instinctive feelings and reactions. Quarrels and divisions rise from this. Our Lord calls us to show love for Him by willingness to lay down our Life- Psyche for our brothers Jn 15:9-13. Those who claimed to be Superior Christians who have outgrown the simple Gospel, are Psuchikos, 1 Cor 1:14-2:14; 15:44; Jas 3:15.

Do NOT have THE SPIRIT - The God-given safeguard against the natural self is the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, Gal 5:13-26. Those not born of the Spirit can't understand spiritual things, 1 Cor 2:14-3:4. They may claim that Spiritual Gifts/ Experiences lift them above obedience to Scripture, but to teach/act contrary to the Spirit-given Word of God, 1:19-21, proves that the HOLY Spirit isn't functioning in them. The fruit of the Spirit witnesses to His presence. The works of the flesh deny His presence, Gal 5:13-25. The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus HAS freed us, but that is freedom to fulfil what the law sketched out, Rom 8:3-4. This is depressing reading, but we pass on from these "Symptoms" to the "Cure."

Ju.20 BUT dear friends build YOURSELVES up ON/in YOUR MOST HOLY - FAITH - #1:1. It's done by READING God's Word/THE faith Ju.3, and TRUSTING/DOING what we read, responding to what it says, Mt 7:24-27, Jas 1:22-25 and, witnessing to it by words, Acts 1:8, and actions, Jas 2:18, as the first disciples did, Acts 2:42. We build and grow by staying close to the Lord, as the Holy Spirit moves us to pray and obey, Phil 2:12-14. Then His Word moulds us, and we don't twist it to what pleases us. ALL the gifts are given for collective up-building, Eph 2:19-22; Col 2:7; 1 Th 5:11. So in building ourselves up we're able to play our part in building up the local church/body of Christ in numbers, and in spiritual life, by what each contributes, Eph 4:11-16.

And pray IN THE HOLY Spirit- We're not alone, helpless under the pressure of the World, Flesh, and Devil. God the Holy Spirit in us enables us to have fellowship with God in prayer, petition, praise, words, and actions, and so live fruitfully to His Glory, Jn 15:1-12. He, in us, is greater than the evil power around us 1 Jn 4:4, so we're like deep sea fish, internal pressure protecting us from external pressure, free to swim - not like divers safe but imprisoned in a submersible. Our freedom to triumph in daily life, enabled by the Holy Spirit, is spelled out in Lk 22:7, 4:1; Acts 1:8; 19:21; Rom 8:1-17, 26-27; 1 Cor 12:3; Gal 4:6; 5:18; Eph 6:18. Every Christian has the Spirit of God in him, Rom 8:9. Battles against heresies aren't won by human wisdom, devotion, etc, God's power alone checks the spread of error, protects believers, and builds them up. Cp Ps 127:1-2; Zech 4:6.

Ju.21 KEEP - #24. YOUR SELVES IN THE LOVE - #1:7. OF GOD - #Ju.1. It suggests an alertness and concern to benefit from God's Love. God keeps us with HIS power, Ju.24 and we're totally dependent on GOD'S LOVE, and what it has provided, as in the natural world we're totally dependent on the Sun. We must keep ourselves in the sunshine to enjoy its light and warmth. So, spiritually, we experience and enjoy the Love of God and all it provides for us as we choose to live in ways He can bless and be with us in, Jn 15:9-11. When we allow anything to come between us and the Lord we lose the light and warmth. Our joy and security depends on walking with the Lord, and that is possible 1 Jn 1:4-9. Staying in the sphere of God's love for mankind involves our receiving it, and sharing it with others, Lk 11:42, Jn 3:16; 5:42, Rom 5:5; 8:39, 2 Cor 5:14-15, Eph 3:17-21; 2 Th 3:5; 1 Jn 2:4-6, 15; 4:7-8. Not that what we do CAUSES God's love for us, but our response to His loving will decides the good we get out of it, Jn 15:9-17.

LOOKING /as you wait FOR - Used of those who looked for redemption, Lk 2:38. It means keeping our eyes on the Lord, and making the most of each moment by living it in fellowship with Him, 2 Cor 5:9-10, so our death, or His Coming, will bring as small a change as possible. What we've been experiencing in bud form, will blossom into Glory, 1:10-11! Knowing the Lord may come at any moment, and that only Grace delays Him, has blessed Christians in every age. See Lk 12:36-38, Heb 9:28, 1 Pet 4:7-11.

THE MERCY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST to bring you to ETERNAL LIFE - An unclear sentence in Greek, but must be interpreted within the pattern of NT Scripture, 1:20. All we have is given by God's Grace in Christ to be received and enjoyed by Faith, on the basis of Jn 3:16; 10:28. Eternal life begins when we come to know God in Christ crucified, Jn 17:3. God's MERCY will bring us its full enjoyment at His Coming 1:11; 1 Th 4:17, and for this we must wait patiently, Rom 8:23-25. Peter encourages us to keep our eyes on the returning Lord, as an anchor and purifying hope in all the pressures of daily life, 1 Th 4:18, 1 Jn 3:3. All we have or hope for depends on His mercy as none are sinless, 1 Jn 1:8-9.

Ju.22-23 ON SOME HAVE COMPASSION /be merciful - Our attitude towards the unsaved isn't to be antagonism, fear, indifference, or defensive withdrawal. God shows MERCY to us, "to eternal life," we're to reflect that mercy towards them, for the same purpose.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE /those who doubt - Diakrino - The Mss used for KJV, use it to mean we're to Diakrino - Judge/ treat people differently according to the way they differ from one another. Other Mss read that we show pity with Diakrino - discernment, as in Heb 5:14. Others again that we're to show mercy by reassuring those Christians who are wavering/ have doubts (Diakrino as in Jas 1:6) through contact with error. These three thoughts are all Biblically true, but the thought of our showing pity to those at Stage 1 of Heresy - those troubled with doubt - and helping them to stay with the Truth, makes best sense. We're to have a merciful attitude towards those duped by Apostate Church leaders and False Cults. Those who keep themselves in the love of God allow themselves to be used by that love.

OTHERS SAV E- Ju.5. Only GOD can save, but He uses us in this if we're fit and willing, Rom 10:13-15; 11:14; 1 Cor 7:16; 9:22; 1 Tim 4:16 WITH FEAR - Who is to FEAR? We owe all men the solemn truth about the nature of God, sin, and its consequences. But trying to put fear of Hell into people becomes less useful the more we use it, and may merely harden. But WE must always fear. The sinner is like a person in a burning house/under Judgment, Amos 4:11. As we show compassion we dare not LOSE THE SENSE OF URGENCY/DANGER. We need to be aware constantly of the horror sin is to God. We're there for one purpose only. Otherwise our sympathy for them as fellow-humans will move us to see rebel sinners reaping what they have sown, as victims of a God-created world, to be pitied and supported in their rebellion, rather than commanded in God's name to repent.

As children manipulate parents to the misery of both, so the "victims of Society," manipulate "Christian Counsellors" The more pride we have in our superiority, the easier we are to manipulate. We're dealing with Stage II- Those playing with Fire and losing their fear of it. And we must remember that we ourselves are vulnerable, we're not Angels. God shows mercy, Mt 5:7; 13:43-46; Lk 6:36; Heb 5:2, and is incorruptible. Our Fear is awe of God, and awareness of the fate of persistent rejection of the Gospel in favour of error. This, not pious self-righteousness or clever arguments, is our safeguard, and makes their rescue possible. Knowledge of God, and respect for His Word, is the basis for our persuading men, 2 Cor 5:11.

Snatch others from THE FIRE- As God snatched Lot out Bible Salvation doesn't leave people in the burning house of their old sinful lifestyle and enjoyments. Any suggestion that they can be SAV ED from judgment against sin, and yet continue to sin cheerfully, is blasphemous nonsense. Christ came to SAV E US OUT OF this present evil world, Gal 1:4, and make us HOLY. If they're saved at all, they and us, are like Joshua the High Priest, Zech 3:2, "brands plucked from the burning," ready to ignite again all too easily if they get near the fire again. We're not innocent green wood

HATING THE clothing- Clothing is what we surround/express ourselves with, so means their social setting, entertainments, associations. Cp Sardis in Rev 3:4. Stained- Jas 3:6. Used in LXX for a Hebrew word for fouling with bodily discharges, vomit, etc. Sin should be regarded as such, Isa 30:22 as we hold out a helping hand of mercy. Joshua's filthy garments were removed as a symbol of forgiveness and cleansing, Zech 3:3-5; 1 Jn 1:3-8. Corrupted FLESH/sinful nature- 2:10 Sin defiles all it touches. We will be infected if we view lightly what it has corrupted. In handling an infectious plague in a poverty-stricken country, people arriving from badly affected areas would be ordered to undress, file through hot showers, scrub themselves with disinfectant, and dress themselves with clean clothes provided. The old clothes would be "hated" by the hospital workers as a possible source of infection, picked up with tongs, and dumped into the fire. The Bible knows nothing of people being saved, yet continuing in the old defiled clothes/lifestyle, or, of Christian workers treating attempts to do so lightly. Separation from persistent sin/ sinners is required, Mt 18:17; 1 Cor 5:11; Titus 3:10; 2 Jn 10:11,

This is how we must treat those at Stage III of heresy- those committed to it. We're to keep our loathing and fear of sin, and its setting, while showing love to the sinner. The sober successful businessman may have just as dangerous "clothes" as the outcast Zaccheus, and may need to make just as obvious a break, Lk 19:8, as those who burned their magic books, Acts 19:19. As compassionate servants of God it's less stressful for us if we accept depraved lifestyles as somehow normal for some people. Yet for our own safety, and their good we dare not do so. We must take care not to expose ourselves to temptation. Eg a man should never try to counsel a woman who is unhappy in her marriage situation, except in his wife's presence, or vice versa, as this has led to the tragic disgrace of adultery.

So, we who have been shown mercy unto eternal life must show mercy to the lost. Their situation is desperate - sin is both an engulfing fire, and highly infectious. As we seek to win them to Christ we must fear and hate sin, and all that goes with it. See Gal 6:1; 2 Th 3:14-15; 1 Tim 5:19-20; Jas 5:19-20

Ju.24 NOW to HIM who IS ABLE - Dunamai- Has the power, ability. TO KEEP YOU - Phulasso- to guard as a Phulax- prison guard, Acts 5:23 Used in LXX Ps 121:5 The Lord is my KEEPER. The all-sufficiency of infinite Love, Wisdom, Holiness, Power, ever present with us wherever we are, guards us from all external attack, 2:5; Deu 32:10; 2 Tim 1:12, just as we are to keep on guard, watchful- Tereo Ju.21. What a relief to turn from the needs of the lost and our perilous task of showing mercy, to our ALL SUFFICIENT SAVIOUR AND LORD. This outburst of praise worships God for what He is in saving/preserving us for Himself, and presenting us to Himself. Cp 1 Chr 29:10-12; Rom 16:25-27; Eph 3:20-21; 1 Tim 1:17; 6:15-16 Though we see doctrinal and moral apostasy and disgrace around us, we're to remember that God is able to save in all circumstances, and does so triumphantly. See also Isa 26:3-4; 2 Tim 1:12; Heb 2:18; 7:25

FROM FALLING - Aptaiostos- without stumbling, sure-footed. The Lord doesn't CARRY us all the way, though perhaps in our babyhood as a new believer, He, and our fellow believers DID largely carry us. But, like any baby, we must learn to walk, and we share His parental pleasure in our progress. We WALK, move our feet purposefully, just as we keep ourselves in God's Love. He clears a path for us, and we walk it with Him. He guides, and we respond. He's there for us to lean on in our weariness and weakness. His presence and provision is enough to keep us from ever stumbling, but when our imperfect response to Him causes us to stumble, Jas 2:10; 3:2, His all-sufficient grace leads us to repentance and restoration. "How good is the God we adore, our faithful unchangeable friend, whose love is as great as His power, and knows neither measure nor end." The Christian life may be a marathon, but we needn't drop out. It's dangerous to get near those on whom fire may fall, and those whose garments may stain ours, but our Master who has commanded us to do so, Mt 28:20; Acts 1:8, will enable us to cope with every danger we face as we walk and work in fellowship with Him. There ARE those who seek to trip us/set traps, but as we keep our eyes on Him we're kept safe, Ps 25:15; Heb 1:22-3. Cp Ps 56:13; 66:8-12; 73:2-18; 116:8; 121:3; 141:9.



AND PRESENT YOU - Histemi- to set, place cause to stand. As in our world people are PRESENTED to the Queen. No-one hides in the shadows there. We must live with a view to standing on the Victory Dais, 1 Cor 9:24 2 Tim 2:5; 4:7-8; Heb 1:21-3.

FAULTLESS/without fault- Amomos- Perfect/acceptable to God, used in LXX Lev 1:3, etc of animal sacrifices, and fully true of our Lord's sacrifice of Himself, Heb 9:14; 1 Pet 1:19. BEFORE THE PRESENCE OF- Katenopion- fully in the presence of, eye to eye Kata= against, en= in, ops= eye OF HIS GLORY - #1:3. What God is, and does, manifests His GLORY, Jn 1:14; 2:11, etc. The Lord chose us to this faultlessness and gave Himself on the Cross to achieve it, Eph 14; 5:25-27, Col 1:21-22 1 Th 3:13. So we'll be consciously spotless/unembarrassed, knowing we're what God wants us to be. As we think of our weakness, childish folly, rebellious nature, and many sins, we realise the Glory of God's GRACE that achieves this.

WITH great JOY - Agalliasis- Leaping for joy. Such exuberant joy marks the Lord Himself, anointed with the oil of GLADNESS, Heb 1:9, and those who, having received Him, ate their meals with GLADNESS, Acts 2:46. To me as a boy Heaven seemed an extension of being dressed in "Sunday Best" clothes, being painfully good. Jude uses a word appropriate to the spontaneous, unselfconscious, jumping for joy of a small child at his birthday party. We may not have felt like that for years, but we will then, Isa 61:10 1 Pet 1:6-8; 4:13-14. The glory of Heaven, and the immediate presence of God, is an awe-inspiring prospect, but our contribution won't be lost in the thunder of praise and worship Rev 5:9-14. His servants will each hear His personal "Well done! Come share in the joy (Character satisfaction in a job well done) of your Lord," Mt 25:21.

Ju. 25 TO THE ONLY WISE - Monos- alone, solitary. He is the only One who is in any wise= in any way, God Ju. 4. As proclaimed in Deu 6:4-5; Isa 45:5; Jn 1:1; 17:3. GOD OUR SAVIOUR - God, in all His fullness, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is OUR SAVIOUR. We belong to Him, and He belongs to us, by His gracious, eternal decision, and our tiny responsive Amen, 2 Cor 1:20. Saviour is used of God, Lk 1:47; 1 Tim 1:1; 2:3; 4:10; Titus 1:3; 2:10; 3:4. And of the Lord Jesus 15x.

BE GLORY - #1:3. The outshining of all that He is. On earth the Lord manifested it, Jn 1:14, and in our measure we're to reflect it. In God's purposes we're glorified, Rom 8:30 and in Heaven we'll display this to His Glory. MAJESTY - Megalosune- Greatness. Used as an alternative name for God the Father, Heb 8:1, "On the right hand of the MAJESTY on high."

DOMINION/Power- Kratos- Manifested power- from Kra= to perfect, complete. That which gets things done! 1 Tim 6:16; 1 Pet 4:11; 5:11; Rev 1:6; 5:13. POWER/authority- Exousia- Mt 28:18; Jn 5:27; Rev 12:10. Jude is leading us to recognise that God IS these things, and to praise Him for being them.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord- [Nes] We're linked to God, through Him/His Redemptive work, and only through Him are we made fit to give God Praise. Through Him we're redeemed from sin, and transformed to a measure of His likeness to His Glory, Col 1:12-14; 1 Pet 4:11.

Before all ages- [Nes] NOW, AND for evermore- Heb 1:3. Cp Ex 15:18; Ps 41:13; 106:48 I can't expound this, Ex 20:25 But eagerly commend as a source of blessing the frequent reading of the words of J. 24:25 and 12-4, 10-11. It stretches the heart and mind, and moves us to wonder and to worship, and to add the only appropriate comment "AMEN!"

#### APPENDIX 1. HELL as Man's Choice

A SHALLOW view of Hell regards it as something GOD DOES TO SINNERS, inflicts on them. It may accept that this is righteous, or may protest that a few years of careless living by people who meant no harm couldn't deserve an eternity in the fire of hell. Whether we're defending or condemning/disclaiming God's action on this basis we're guilty, because this reasoning is part of the False Teacher scene of 2:1. The Biblical, God-oriented view is that He does the best He can for everyone, eager to gather them as a hen gathers her chickens, and they refuse, Mt 23:37. Men condemn themselves by preferring darkness to light, Jn 3:19-20 etc. God doesn't CHANGE, He is Eternally, Wise, Powerful, Righteous, Holy, LOVE towards all. It's men who change by receiving Christ, Jn 1:12, or ignore Him/His Salvation, Heb 2:3. The true horror of Hell is that they've CHOSEN IT against all God could do for them! Rejecting the light of truth in the little things of life, here and now, if persisted in, will make it permanent. They have rejected God and Heaven, and clinging to their independent self-sufficiency, have condemned themselves to the only place where it can exist- Hell. Now, men may hide from themselves the nature of this wilful rejection of known truth, but in that day they will have to face forever the fact that they "TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT THE SON OF GOD, AND TREATED THE BLOOD SHED FOR THEM like dirt, Heb 10:26-31. In Mk 9:48 we read that in Hell/ Gehenna (The name is derived from the fires and corruption of Jerusalem's rubbish dump,) GOD PROVIDES the FIRE of His Holiness that stops corruption and infection spreading EACH PROVIDES "THEIR WORM (maggot)," the sinful desire/ DARKNESS, Jn 3:19-20 they refused to give up, and so rejected Christ; the desire which gnaws at them without hope of satisfaction, never dying. See on Rev 20 in Revelation Booklet 2.

Cp, Heb 6:4-6 ENLIGHTENED- received all the light and understanding God can give to help a man to know what to choose, but turning back into darkness TASTED- experienced a foretaste of what salvation would mean to him if he chose it, like someone at a Food Fair, deciding not to buy what he's sampled. SHARED- Gave along with God the Holy Spirit as He applied the Word of God, saying "Yes, I'm a sinner, under God's righteous condemnation. Yes, if I trust the Saviour tonight I will be saved, and His forever." Gave along with the Holy Spirit as far as he can without actual commitment. But when God has done all He can do for him, in speaking to his mind, heart, and will, instead of taking that small step of faith, he has shrugged it all off and said "No thanks, not tonight, I'll think about it"

In doing that, as Heb 6:7-8 puts it "The rain of Heaven has fallen on him, and he chose to continue producing desert thorns fit for burning"

In the terms of Heb 10:26 He deliberately kept on sinning/rejecting Christ, centring life on himself. AFTER HE HAD RECEIVED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH! Not just Oida- a mental grasp of the Gospel, but Epignosko- full personal, experiential knowledge (as far as the unsaved may have) of CHRIST the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE. At that point Christian friends, Witnesses, Preachers, Tracts, Testimonies, and the WORD of GOD itself, fade out. The sinner faces the Saviour, knows who He is and what He is, and falls at His feet in surrender to Him, claiming Salvation OR, decides that he will not give up his right to himself, his right to please himself, and goes on his way, carelessly trampling underfoot the Son of God, treating His blood shed to set him apart for God and for Glory, as dirt beneath his feet. God can do no more for such. Mercifully it's not given to us to know with certainty when that has happened, but we must always bear that possibility in mind and try to make it clear to all to whom we witness that WE matter little, that pleasing US matters little, except as we rightly represent our Lord, BUT THAT THEY ARE LISTENING TO THE WORD OF THE LORD OF GLORY, our God who is a consuming fire, who must consume all sin and rebellious independence, and that only by yielding to Him is any safe. Cp Judas and those in Mt 7: 21-23

These verses also warn us who truly know, love and serve the Lord, against ever treating lightly the grace of God, Who "Made HIM who had no sin for us, so that in Him, we might be made the righteousness of God" 2 Cor 5:21; but to respond by "Purifying ourselves from all filthiness of flesh or spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," 2 Cor 7:1. We dare not go back to our old attitudes and ways. As we grow older, it's easy for us to take back from the Lord's hands, one by one, what in the flush of our "First Love" and wonder at the grace of God to us, we gladly surrendered. Even if we began as wise as Solomon, and as blessed by grace, it is still easy to end as he did, AND WE MUST NOT! If we refuse to join Paul in his confession of Gal 2:20 in terms of Phil 3:17-19, we are "Enemies of the cross of Christ," resisting its claims on our lives, unwilling to say "NO" to self. Pre-occupied with earthly things - eg. If as servants of God it is important we be appreciated, seen to be successful, get things done our way, etc we will see much of our work burned up 1 Cor 3:10-15; 1 Cor 13:1-3.

E. Read 32.97 Revised 15.3.2000

Criticism, Correction or Addition with a view to improvement is appreciated.

Other booklets:

Listening to the Lord:- 1 & 2 Kings; Habakkuk, Ruth, Haggai; Matthew, Romans; 1 & 2 Corinthians; Colossians; 1 & 2 Thessalonians; 2 Peter & Jude; Revelation.

Looking to the Word:- Abortion Protests/Lessons from Sodom; Guidance The Believer & Evil. The Law, the Lord & Us; Pre-Reformation Church History; A N Groves & the Brethren Movement (Reformation towards NT Church Practice) Gods Word in English - KJV etc.

Copies of all these are gladly supplied free from the writer:

F2/55 Middleton Rd.,  
Christchurch, 4.  
New Zealand

Much of this material is available on "the Web" - <http://www.wision-nz.co.nz/bc/>.

FAX Messages sent to New Zealand 03 379 9900 will be passed onto me.

Please feel free to use any material from any of these booklets in any way to the glory of God