

**November 20–26. 1 and 2 Peter: “Rejoice with Joy Unspeakable and Full of Glory”**

Witness of Christ

Peter makes it clear that Christ set the example for us and that we should pattern our lives after His

1Pet 2:21-24

[21] For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

[22] Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

[23] Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

[24] Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

[25] For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

What does Peter testify that Jesus has done for us?

(leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps  
neither was guile found in his mouth  
he was reviled, reviled not again  
when he suffered, he threatened not;  
his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree  
by whose stripes ye were healed)

Note how Peter’s description of the life of Christ matches Isaiah’s prophecy of Christ’s life

Isaiah 53

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows...

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 ... the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth

9 ... he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

12 ...he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Peter refers to Christ as the cornerstone of the spiritual house that we should build. But for those do not follow Him the cornerstone becomes a stumbling block

1Pet 2:2-8

- [2] As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
- [3] If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.
- [4] To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,
- [5] Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
- [6] Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.
- [7] Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,
- [8] And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

How does Peter make it clear that the old laws are done away and our focus is now of Christ?

When we are “newborn babes” we seek the “milk of the word” for nourishment. Then when we have “built up a spiritual house” (we are a temple) with Christ as the cornerstone and the “holy priesthood” as the foundation then we are able to “offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” Note the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament.

Brigham Young makes it clear that the “living stone” to whom we should come (verse 4) is Christ and that His saints are the “lively stones” because they build their “spiritual house” (verse 5) on the cornerstone of Christ

Brigham Young

"We have been gathered to the valleys of these mountains for the express purpose of purifying ourselves, that we may become polished stones in the temple of God... Christ is represented as 'a living stone... chosen of God and precious' and [Peter] represents the Saints 'as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house.' We 'are built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.' (Eph 2:20-21)" (JD, 12:161)

In Brigham Young’s words we are to “become polished stones in the temple of God”

What effect does the cornerstone (Christ) have on those who do not use it to build their lives on?

(a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word)

Robert J. Matthews

"The prophets had revealed that Jesus would be rejected of the world, and they declared that even so, he is the only way to salvation. . . . Jesus told the rulers of the Jews that he was that stone, and added that 'whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.' (Matt 21:44.) Therefore Jesus is called a stumbling stone to those who reject him, 'a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient.' (1 Pet 2:8.)" ("I Have a Question," Ensign, Jan. 1984)

## The Second Comforter

Because of Peter's experiences and the blessings he received he was able to bear an undeniable testimony of Christ

2Pet 1:16-19

[16] For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

[17] For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

[18] And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

[19] We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

JST 2Pet 1:19 - We have therefore a more sure *knowledge of the* word of prophecy; *to which word of prophecy* ye do well that ye take heed. . .

What is the "more sure word of prophecy" that Peter admonishes us to "heed?"

(This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased)

Why is Peter able to say that he has "a more sure knowledge" of the word of prophecy?

(we were eyewitnesses of his majesty  
this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount)

Joseph Smith tells us more about obtaining the more sure work of prophecy

Joseph Smith

"To have a positive promise of your own salvation is making your calling and election sure. Namely, the voice of Jesus saying, 'My beloved, thou shalt have eternal life.' Brethren, never cease struggling until you get this

evidence. Take heed both before and after obtaining this more sure word of prophecy." (Joseph Smith Papers, Discourse, 21 May 1843)

Why do you think that Peter is emphasizing to his readers that he has received this undeniable witness?

(ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place)

Alma Sonne

"Will you remember the word, 'eyewitnesses.' These men were not deceived. They knew whereof they spoke. They were as certain and positive that Jesus was the Christ, and that there was a life after death as they were that they lived in a world of reality.... A great and strong testimony, isn't it, my friends? We can receive the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ without any doubts and without any misgivings." (CR, April 1960)

Elder Wirthlin stated that the living prophet also has "a more sure knowledge of the word of prophecy"

Joseph B. Wirthlin

"We testify 'from the top of the mountains' that President Gordon B. Hinckley is God's prophet on the earth today. Because of our faith in our prophet, Latter-day Saints echo the words of the Apostle Peter: 'We have therefore a more sure knowledge of the word of prophecy, to which word of prophecy ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light which shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.' The light of divine revelation shines forth from a living prophet to brighten a darkened world." (CR, April 1996)

Peter states that he and his fellow apostles had revived the "exceeding great and precious promises" so he could declare the truth and invite others to "be partakers of the divine nature"

2Pet 1:1-4

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

[2] Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

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

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

What is Peter's message to the rest of the Church regarding the "exceeding great and precious promises" that he had been given?

(to them that have obtained like precious faith with us\_ that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature)

The “exceeding great and precious promises” has been given to “us” (the apostles) so “ye” (other followers) may “be partakers of the divine nature”

James E. Faust

“Peter counsels us to be ‘partakers of the divine nature.’ The influence and teaching of the Messiah should have a transcendence over all other interests and concerns in our lives. We must constantly be reaching upward for the riches of eternity, for the kingdom of God is within us.” (CR, Oct. 1976)

Peter expands on being “partakers of the divine nature” by explaining the growth process we go thru as we continue to strive to be like Christ

2Pet 1:5-11

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

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

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

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

[9] But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

[10] Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

[11] For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Peter is anxious that we are not “barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”. And he tells us to “give diligence to make your calling and election sure”

In the quote from Joseph Smith that we read earlier he likened “your calling and election sure” to receiving a “more sure knowledge of the word of prophecy” - like what was given to Peter and the other apostles

What does it mean to have your calling and election made sure?

From the earlier quote from Joseph Smith:

Joseph Smith

"To have a positive promise of your own salvation is making your calling and election sure. Namely, the voice of Jesus saying, 'My beloved, thou shalt have eternal life.' Brethren, never cease struggling until you get this

evidence. Take heed both before and after obtaining this more sure word of prophecy." (Joseph Smith Papers, Discourse, 21 May 1843)

Marion G. Romney

"The theme I have in mind to discuss is 'Making One's Calling and Election Sure.' To do this one must receive a divine witness that he will inherit eternal life.... The fullness of eternal life is not attainable in mortality, but the peace which is its harbinger and which comes as a result of making one's calling and election sure is attainable in this life. The Lord has promised that '... he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come' (D&C 59:23). (CR, Oct. 1965)

Recall that during the Last Supper Christ promised the apostles a comforter, the Holy Ghost. And He also promised them that He would be their Second Comforter

John 14:18–19,23

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

23 ...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

We can see that this was fulfilled. Christ did minister to Peter and the other apostles while they were leading His church. Peter referred to the Second Comforter in different ways:

- a more sure word of prophecy  
(a more sure knowledge of the word of prophecy)
- calling and election made sure
- exceeding great and precious promises

This great gift is give to some so that our testimonies may be strengthened. So we can be fruitful and prosperous with the testimonies of Christ that we have and that we might be partakers of the “divine nature”

## Followers of Christ

Peter tells those who strive to follow Christ what is expected of them

1Pet 2:9

[9] But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

What is expected of those who are part of “a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and

a peculiar people”?

(ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light)

Gordon B. Hinckley

“As we carry forward our distinctive mission, we work under a mandate given us by the risen Lord, who has spoken in this last and final dispensation. This is His unique and wonderful cause. We bear testimony and witness of Him.

“As Peter expressed it, we are ‘a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.’ Why? That we might ‘shew forth the praises of him who hath called [us] out of darkness into his marvellous light.’” (CR, April 1998)

Being a “peculiar people” will lead to others asking why believe what in what we do

1Pet 3:15

[15] But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Steven E. Snow

“In the gospel of Jesus Christ, hope is the desire of His followers to gain eternal salvation through the Atonement of the Savior.

“This is truly the hope we must all have. It is what sets us apart from the rest of the world. Peter admonished the early followers of Christ to ‘be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you’

“Our hope in the Atonement empowers us with eternal perspective. Such perspective allows us to look beyond the here and now on into the promise of the eternities. We don’t have to be trapped in the narrow confines of society’s fickle expectations. We are free to look forward to celestial glory, sealed to our family and loved ones.” (CR, Aril 2011)

Peter tells us we can serve Christ by helping others enjoy “His marvelous light” by being charitable and by helping to feed His flock

1Pet 4:8-10

[8] And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

[9] Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

[10] As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

JST 1Pet 4:8 - charity *preventeth* a multitude of sins

1Pet 5:1-3

[1] The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

[2] Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

[3] Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

What must we be aware of as we try to follow this command and feed His flock?

(taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly  
being ensamples to the flock)

David O. McKay

“May you [leaders] be blessed in your leadership, in your responsibility; may you be true to the gospel; may your lives be examples to the ‘flock’ so that you may be guided from on high to bless, to comfort the people over whom you have been appointed to preside. God bless the men who find and assist those members of the priesthood who are weak and those members who, for some reason, have become inactive in the Church.

“We are facing conditions in the world which demand the highest intelligence, the deepest spirituality, the greatest effort that the priesthood of God can possibly put forth. Our boys and girls in high schools, in junior colleges, in universities need our help. Their parents need our help. It is time now for us to put forth extra effort to know the difference between right and wrong.” CR, Oct. 1967)

False Teachers

Peter states clearly that there are those who seek to destroy the word and works of Christ so they can satisfy they're own worldly desires

2Pet 2:1-3,18-19

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

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

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

[18] For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from



them who live in error.

[19] While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

What are some of the methods that false teachers use to deceive people?

(shall bring in damnable heresies  
denying the Lord that bought them  
they with feigned words make merchandise of you  
they allure through the lusts of the flesh  
they promise them liberty... the servants of corruption)

If we heed these false teachers our fate can be awful

2Pet 2:20-22

[20] For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

[21] For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

[22] But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Why do you think we are worse off if we receive the witness of the Holy Ghost and then turn away from it than if we'd never received the witness at all?

Hyrum M. Smith

"One step leads to another, until by and by the Spirit is grieved and will no longer strive with us. We can go to the extent, in our sinning and neglect, that the Spirit of God will altogether withdraw from us, and then when the light that is within us has become darkness, oh, how intense, indeed, is that darkness. Then we are left to the buffetings of Satan, to become like the waves of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed, to be carried about by every wind of doctrine, to be persuaded by all manner of men, never secure, never established in the truth, always full of anxiety and doubt, not knowing whither we are being enticed. That is a terrible condition." (CR, Oct. 1912)

What helps us to recognize those who would deceive us?

The Book of Mormon details several examples of false teachers and the methods they use. From this quote it is clear that we won't be deceived as long as we live our lives in such a way that the Holy Ghost will be our companion.

The Spirits Prison

1Pet 3:18-20

[18] For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

[19] By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

[20] Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

What do we learn from these verses about where Christ went after His death?

(he went and preached unto the spirits in prison)

D&C 138:28-30

28) And I wondered at the words of Peter—wherein he said that the Son of God preached unto the spirits in prison...

29) And as I wondered, my eyes were opened, and my understanding quickened, and I perceived that the Lord went not in person among the wicked and the disobedient who had rejected the truth, to teach them;

30) But behold, from among the righteous, he organized his forces and appointed messengers, clothed with power and authority, and commissioned them to go forth and carry the light of the gospel to them that were in darkness, even to all the spirits of men; and thus was the gospel preached to the dead.

And Peter explains why

1Pet 4:6

[6] For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Dallin H. Oaks

“What we do know about the spirit world is that the Father’s and the Son’s work of salvation continues there. Our Savior initiated the work of declaring liberty to the captives and that work continues as worthy and qualified messengers continue to preach the gospel, including repentance, to those who still need its cleansing effect.” (CR, Oct. 2019)

The Second Coming

2Pet 3:3-4,8-10

[3] Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

[4] And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

[8] But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

[9] The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

[10] But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

What reason does Peter give for Christ seeming to put off His second coming?

(is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance)