

STUDYING 2 PETER



2: Greetings

In preparation for next week's study look at the first verse of 2 Peter 1 in detail. The method we will follow can be applied to any verse in the Bible. We will add to it as we go further into Peter's letter.

Remember, when you study the Bible your first goal is to understand what the original writer meant to say and what his words would have meant to the people who first read them.

First be sure that you have understood all the words in the verse. Remember you are looking for the meaning of the original words that have been translated into English, so look them up in a dictionary of Bible words like William Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words.

Here are the key words that you should be able to understand:

Bondservant
Apostle
Faith
Righteousness

Next, think about the key phrases one by one. What ideas does each of these phrases put across?

"A bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ"
"Those who have obtained like precious faith with us"
"The righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ"

Now ask and answer all the questions that come to mind about the verse.

Who wrote these words?
Why does he call himself Simon Peter; not just Peter?
Why does he say he is a bondservant and apostle?
Why, "our God and Saviour Jesus Christ" and not just Jesus?
Who are those who have obtained faith?
How is faith precious?
Why does Peter say, "like... faith with us?"
How is the righteousness of Jesus Christ linked to obtaining faith?

Then try to bring together what you have learned.

What is the main purpose of the verse?
What other things have you learned from it?