

**Bible Study, Wednesday A.M.**  
*Bill Hendricks*

Intro:

- A. Be pure in the way God grants purity.
- B. Be good in what God considers good.
- C. 2 Peter chapter one is a call to certainty and sanity.
- D. Let's talk about Peter's word about prophecy.
  - 1. No word of prophecy is of private interpretation.
  - 2. Some say only the church has correct understanding of prophecy.
  - 3. I think only the Spirit can breathe understanding to prophecy.
  - 4. The Spirit must bring prophecy alive in individuals' lives.
  - 5. I do not think this means that only a few have interpretation of prophecy.
  - 6. The word of God is like a jewel with beautiful facets.
  - 7. Heaven is a place of continuing growth.
  - 8. God takes man where he is and continues to enlarge him.
  - 9. In heaven all barriers to growth are removed and we keep on getting better all the time.
  - 10. For those who see no mystery here and now growth is not attractive.
- E. Ancient history helps us to understand the second epistle of Peter.
  - 1. We don't understand 2 Peter because we don't know the Old Testament.
  - 2. We will go into it today but we are bound by the witness of the apostles.
  - 3. There is a place for devotional interpretation of Scripture
- I. The second chapter of 2 Peter contains seven deadly sins.
  - A. Orthodoxy means straight thinking.

1. Heresy means another meaning than that which is intended.

2. Most heresy is a reduction of the Christian magnitude to one minor thing.

B. I call chapter two the mills of the gods grind slow but they grind exceedingly fine.

1. Peter wrote about those saved from their heathen background but who forgot about the Lord in his absence.

2. God will get those who forget him, however.

3. We cannot place a Jesus saves bumper sticker on our cars and then go on speeding.

4. It is a serious sin to think we are special and need not pay attention to God.

5. Some students think they deserve an “A” because their dads are my friends.

6. God expects the same from all of us.

C. False prophets arose. (2 Peter 2:1-2)

1. A liberal is one who disagrees with the speaker.

2. False prophets and teachers deny the Christian faith.

3. The first heresy addressed here is the sin of cynicism.

- a. Stoics were cynics, questioning everything.

- b. Questioning with a sophisticated sneer is cynicism.

- c. Cynicism creeps in for a variety of reasons.

1. Some get hurt and try not to get hurt again.

- i. Having relationships, human and divine, opens one up to hurt.

- ii. Is a relationship worth the hurt?

2. Some want attention.

- i. They become sour and bitter in order to draw attention.
- ii. Alexander Polk was short and learned the power of sharp, cutting words.
- iii. Cynicism brings its own kind of destruction.
- iv. We can be heretical in our attitudes toward God.

4. The second heresy addressed here is the sin of exploiting others.

- a. This brings condemnation.
- b. Have you ever been used?
- c. The world uses people but unfortunately so does the church.
- d. One of the subtle sins is using people.
- e. Marriages are sometimes where people get used.
- f. We use people for recommendations and other self-promoting schemes.
- g. We should help people simply because God desires us to love.
- h. I try not to use people in message illustrations in hurtful ways.
- i. We need to ask why we are doing what we are doing.
- j. Why do we need each other?

5. The third heresy addressed here is the sin of revolution without radical reason.

(2 Peter 2:4-13a)

- a. Some didn't like the church or apostolic authority.
- b. They revolted without radical reason.
- c. God did not spare even angels who sinned.
- d. God did not spare Sodom and Gomorrah.
- e. God rescued righteous Lot.

- f. These heretics were condemning the government.
- g. Someone said, “With every word a reputation dies.”
- h. Men were judging men.
- i. A woman told me she has the gift of discernment regarding who has the Spirit and who does not.
- j. Trying the Spirit does not mean discerning according to our ideas.
- k. We should not call liberal those who disagree with us.
- l. God is the judge and he sent the fallen angels into Tartars.
  - i. The sin of the angels is difficult to understand.
  - ii. God has not provided for fallen celestial spirits.
  - iii. It is not states how these beings fell.
  - iv. Biblical material does not explain how evil entered the world.
  - v. Our responsibility is to keep evil away from us.
  - vi. Enoch 64 is obsessed with angels.
  - vii. When the New Testament quotes from the Old Testament it established doctrine but when it quotes intertestamental literature it is only using it as an illustration.
    - a. Paul says Christ was the rock of the Old Testament.
    - b. Rabbi’s added that the rock followed the Israelites around.
    - c. Paul is not suggesting Christ was turned into a stone.
  - viii. Peter draws on Enoch 64 to say that not even the angels get by with sin so neither will you.

ix. Bunyan used parables to illustrate truth and Peter is doing the same.

m. God is the judge and he destroyed the wicked while saving righteous Lot.

i. Lot offered his daughters to wicked men in place of the messengers of God and God judged them.

ii. Peter is saying that God knows how to punish wicked men in his way in his time and we need to leave that judgment to him.

iii. We need to leave all judgment to God.