

# **The 2 letters that Peter wrote**

**1 & 2 Peter from  
the Holy Bible**

Plain English Version

**The 2 letters that Peter wrote** (Plain English Version)  
Translated for speakers of Australian Indigenous languages

Illustrations on pages 7 (right) and 22 by Louise Bass

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Published by The Bible League Inc.



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# The 1st letter that Peter wrote

*(The book in the Holy Bible called 1 Peter)*

## **About this letter**

Peter was one of Jesus's 12 special workers. He went everywhere with Jesus and knew him well.

Peter wrote 2 letters that are now in the Holy Bible. This is the 1st letter. He wrote it about 2,000 years ago, about 30 years after Jesus went back to heaven. He sent it to Christians that lived in lots of different places.

At that time there were people that kept on making trouble for Christians. Some people were hurting the Christians, and some were even killing them. Lots of Christians were very frightened and sad.

Peter wanted those Christians to be brave, not frightened. So he wrote this letter to help them be strong and happy. He didn't want them to stop following Jesus. He got them to remember that God is great and always takes good care of his people.

Peter didn't want those Christians to listen to anyone that was teaching things that were wrong. Peter knew that Jesus will come back again, and he wanted those Christians to be ready for him.

These words that Peter wrote to them have very important messages for all of us Christians.

## Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup>I am Peter, and this letter is from me. I am one of Jesus Christ's special workers.

I'm sending this letter to you people that God picked to be in his family. I'm sending it to you Christians in a lot of different places, called Pontus, and Galatia, and Capadoshia, and Asia, and Bithinia. You had to leave your homes, and now you live in those places.

<sup>2</sup>A long time ago, God, our father, knew you, and he picked you to be in his family. His spirit picked you out from other people to make you his special people. You listened to Jesus's words, and you did whatever he said. Jesus died and his blood came out, and it is like God put that blood of Jesus on you to make you clean.

I'm asking God to be properly good to you, and to make you feel really happy and quiet inside yourselves.

### ***God keeps good things for us***

<sup>3</sup>God is very good to us. We went wrong, but he feels sorry for us, and he is good to us. Now he puts new life in us, like we get born all over again. Jesus died, but God brought him back to life. From that we know that God will save us too. So let us thank God, the father of our leader, Jesus, and say that he is really good. <sup>4</sup>We are his family, so he will give us a lot of good things. He has them all ready in heaven for us, so now we just wait for those things. God looks after them all there for us in heaven. They will never rot or get dirty there, and nobody can ever mess them up. <sup>5</sup>God has a lot of power, and he looks

after us, all of us that trust him. He will look after us until the last day. Then he will show everyone that he saved us.

<sup>6</sup>So think about all that, and you will get really happy. You might get different sorts of trouble now, and you might be sad for a little while, but think about the things that will happen later, and you will be really happy. In the end God will save you from those troubles.

<sup>7</sup>You know about gold. It is very special. People put that gold into a fire to make it really clean. The fire makes it better, it burns away all the rubbish that isn't real gold. But even gold will not last for ever. It belongs to this world. Now think about the troubles that come to us. They make us better because they show that we really trust God. If we keep on trusting him, God will say, "You are very special to me. You are much more special to me than gold." So keep on trusting God, and after Jesus comes again, God will talk to you like that, and he will make you important.

<sup>8-9</sup>You never saw Jesus, but you love him. You can't see him now, but you trust him. You are trusting God, and he is saving you, so you are really happy. You are so happy you can't properly say how happy you are.

<sup>10-11</sup>A long time ago, the men that brought God's messages told people about God. They said that he is good, and that he saves us. At that time, they wanted to find out more about God saving people, so they carefully tried to find out more about the man that God promised to send to save people, called the Christ. The spirit of Jesus Christ was in them and showed them that at first the Christ was going get big trouble, and he was

going to die. But after that, God would make him really important. So they wanted to know who the Christ was and when he was going to come. <sup>12</sup>His spirit told them that the message wasn't for themselves, but it was for you. That all happened a long time ago, and now God's people have told you that good message about Jesus. The Holy Spirit from heaven gave them power to talk to you.

This is all very wonderful. Even God's angels in heaven don't know all about the things that God does to save people, and they want to find out more.

### ***Stay away from things that are bad***

<sup>13</sup>So you have to think about it more clearly and be careful about everything you do. Keep waiting for Jesus to come, and get ready for him. God will show him to everybody, and he will be very good to you at that time.

<sup>14</sup>In the past, you didn't know that God was good. So at that time you did all the bad things you wanted to do. But now you are God's kids. So you have to stop doing those bad things, <sup>15</sup>and you have to be properly good and right, just like God. He picked you for himself. So you have to be good, just like him.

<sup>16</sup>You see, God's book says this,

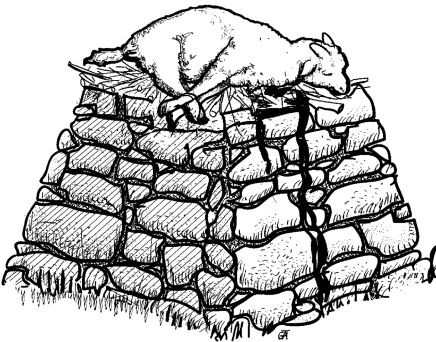
“God is properly good, and he keeps away from everything that is bad, so you have to be like that too, you have to be properly good, and you have to keep away from everything that is bad.”\*

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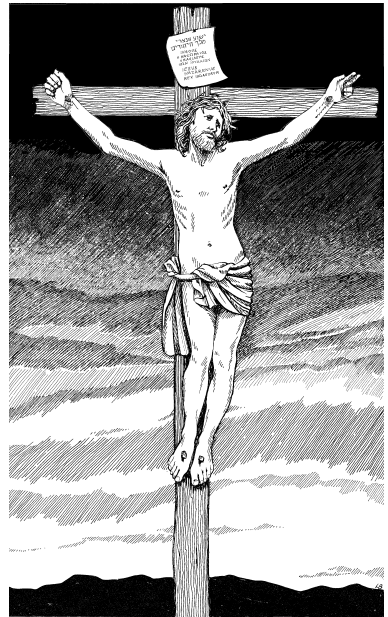
\* 1:16 Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2

<sup>17</sup>You know that God is our father, and you pray to him. He looks at everything we do, and he treats us in a fair way. So you have to properly respect God now. You don't belong to this world, you are only living here for a little while, but later you will live with God.

<sup>18</sup>Your grand-parents and elders tried to teach you the way to live, but they didn't teach you God's way. That old way was useless, and you weren't free. But God has saved you from that wrong way. He paid a lot to set you free from that old way. Sometimes people pay money to get somebody out of prison and let them go free. But money doesn't last for ever. <sup>19</sup>So God didn't pay money to set you free. He did more than that. I'll tell you the price he paid for you. You know the old Jewish ceremonies. You know that they pick a young sheep that has nothing wrong with it, and they kill it to give it to God. Well,



*People used to kill a young sheep,  
to give it to God*



*People killed Jesus,  
he died to set us free*

that is a picture of Jesus. There was nothing wrong with him, and he never did anything wrong. But people killed him. He bled and died for you. That is the price God paid to set you free, and it is better than money, it lasts for ever. You see, you belong to God now.

<sup>20-21</sup> A long time ago, before God made the world, he picked Jesus to set you free. Then, later, Jesus came into the world. And now you know about him. You know that he died for you, and so you believe in God too. After Jesus died, God made him alive again, and God made him very great and gave him a lot of power. Now you can trust God and wait for everything he promised you.

<sup>22</sup> You listened to the true message from God, and you did everything he said in that message. Then God cleaned up your lives and you stopped doing bad things. So now you love each other. Well, keep on loving each other very much. <sup>23</sup> God gave you new life. It's not like the life you got from your mother and father. That life will end. But when you listened properly to God's message, he gave you new life, like you got born again. Your new life will not end, because God's word will never finish up. It lives for ever. <sup>24</sup> God says this in his book,

“All people are like grass with pretty flowers,  
they are beautiful for some time, but then they die.

<sup>25</sup> But God's word will never die, it will last for ever.”\*

And that is the message about Jesus that God's people told you.

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\* 1:24-25 Isaiah 40:6-8



## Chapter 2

### ***God's word makes you grow***

<sup>1</sup>So clean up your lives and stop doing bad things. Don't tell lies, but tell the straight and true story. Don't say you are good if you are not. Stop being jealous of other people, don't hate them because they have something that you don't have. And don't rubbish another person.

<sup>2</sup>Instead, you have to keep learning more of God's word. Think about little babies. They always want milk. It makes them grow and get strong. Well, they are a picture of you Christians. You have to keep wanting more of God's word, and it will make you believe more strongly, and then God will save you. <sup>3</sup>You already know that Jesus Christ is really good to you, so you have to live his way.\*

### ***We are joined to Jesus***

<sup>4</sup>I will tell you a picture story about how people build a house out of stone. At first they put one good stone in its place. That stone is the important one. They join all the other stones together on to this important stone. Well, that is a picture of Jesus Christ and us. He is like that most important stone. Other people didn't want him, but God picked him to be the most important one. So come to Jesus, and join up with him. <sup>5</sup>Just like stones join together to make a house, you join up with Jesus to

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\* 2:3 Psalm 34:8

make a special house for God, so he will live with you. And Jesus will help you do good things and make God happy, just like the men that look after God's ceremonies gave him good things to show him respect and make him happy. <sup>6</sup>You see, God says this in his book,

“Look, I picked out a person that is very special to me. He is like that most important stone.

And I put him among my people in my special city called Jerusalem.

And if you trust him, you will always know that you are going the right way, and he will save you.”

That's what God said.\*

<sup>7</sup>And you mob do that. You trust Jesus. You know that he is important. But people that don't trust him don't know that he is important. God says this about them in his book,

“Some work-men built a house out of stones, but the work-men thought one of the stones was rubbish, so they chucked it away.

They were wrong. That stone was properly good, and now God made it the most important stone of all.”\*

<sup>8</sup>God says this about Jesus too, in his book,

“He will be like a stone that people trip over, so that they fall down and hurt themselves.”\*

You see, people that don't trust in Jesus, they go wrong and stop following God. It's like they fall down and hurt themselves. They go wrong because they don't listen to

God's word, and they don't do what it says. You know, God planned all that trouble for them a long time ago.

<sup>9</sup>But you are the people God picked out for himself. Together you work for him, like the men that looked after his ceremonies. You are his own family. God called you away from doing bad things, so you can do good things. It is like you used to live in the dark so that nobody could see you do bad things there, but now he called you away from that to live in his good light. So let's tell everyone that God is really great and really good.\* <sup>10</sup>At one time you were not God's family, but now, you are his family. At one time you didn't understand that God is very good, but now you know that he is. He felt sorry for you, and he was very good to you. He saved you.\*

***Keep on doing whatever is right and good***

<sup>11</sup>My friends, you belong to God. You don't belong to this world. Right now you are like strangers here in this world. So I'm telling you this really strongly. Sometimes you will really want to do something bad, like the people that belong to this world do, but you have to be strong and leave it. You will think, "I really want to do that bad thing," but then you will think, "My spirit is telling me that it is the wrong thing to do." So you've got to leave it. <sup>12</sup>You live in the same place with people that don't follow Jesus. So you have to make up your mind to always do things that are good. Sometimes

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\* 2:9 Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 43:20-21; Deuteronomy 4:20; 7:6; 14:2; Titus 2:14; Isaiah 9:2 \* 2:10 Hosea 2:23

people might tell lies and blame you and say you have done wrong. But if you always keep on doing whatever is right, they will see that you do good things. Later, after God comes to judge everybody, they will remember the good things you did, and they will respect him.

***Do what government leaders say***

<sup>13</sup>Our leader, Jesus, wants you to listen to your community leaders and government leaders, and do what they say. You have to do that for the biggest government boss, <sup>14</sup>and do it too for the other bosses, like police and judges. The biggest boss gave them those jobs, to punish anyone that does wrong. They also know about the people that do the right things, and they tell everybody that those people are good.

<sup>15</sup>God wants you to live the right way, and if you do that, nobody will have anything bad to say against you. Those people that want to blame you for no reason or tell lies about you, they will not be able to say anything.

<sup>16</sup>You know that you are free from that old Jewish law, but that doesn't mean that you can do things that are wrong. You belong to God, and you work for him, so you have to do whatever is right. <sup>17</sup>You have to respect everyone. And love other Christians a lot. And thank God and respect him for being good and great. And respect the big government boss too.

***Be like Jesus***

<sup>18-19</sup>Some of you are workers that belong to your bosses. Maybe your boss is good to you, or maybe your boss

is hard on you. It doesn't matter. You have to listen carefully to your boss anyway and do what your boss tells you. Sometimes you don't do anything wrong, but your boss makes trouble for you or hits you because you are following Jesus. You have to respect your boss anyway and take it quietly. Don't try to do payback to your boss. Then God will be pleased with you, and he will say that you are good. <sup>20</sup>But if you do something wrong and your boss hits you, and if you take it quietly, that is just the way it goes. Everyone knows you did something wrong, so nobody will say that you are good for taking it quietly. But sometimes somebody might punish you for doing something good. You have to be like Jesus and take it quietly. If you do that, then God will say that you are good. <sup>21</sup>Jesus Christ did nothing wrong, but people hurt him and killed him. And God wants you to be like Jesus, and to live the same way that he lived.

<sup>22</sup>God says this in his book,  
“He never did anything bad,  
he never lied or tried to trick anyone.”\*

<sup>23</sup>People rubbished him, but he didn't rubbish them back. They hit him with whips, but he didn't talk to them in a bad way. No, he trusted God. God is the one that judges fairly.\* <sup>24</sup>Jesus never did anything bad, but he died instead of us there on the cross. He took the payback for the bad things that we did. He died so that we can stop

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\* 2:22 Isaiah 53:9 \* 2:23 Isaiah 53:7

doing bad things, so that instead, we will do the right things. Jesus let them hurt him so that God can make us clean on the inside. It's like we are sick, but God can make us better.\* <sup>25</sup>Before that, you were going the wrong way and getting lost like sheep. But now you have come to Jesus, and he looks after you and shows you the right way to live, just like a man looks after his sheep.\*

## Chapter 3

### ***This is about wives and husbands***

<sup>1</sup>Now I'm talking to you women that are married. You have to think about what your husbands want and agree with them. Some husbands don't do what God's word says, but if they see you living right, they will want to come to God. You don't have to say a word, you just have to live right. <sup>2</sup>They will see that you are really good and that you listen properly to God.

<sup>3-4</sup>You women will be really beautiful if you live in a quiet way, and don't try to be important. If you are beautiful inside like that, you will stay beautiful for ever, even after you get old. But if you just do things like colour your hair and do it up, or if you have gold rings and necklaces, or if you have pretty clothes, you might think you are beautiful, but those things don't last for ever. So be quiet inside yourselves, and don't try to be important. God really wants you to be beautiful that

way.\* <sup>5</sup>A long time ago, the women that really trusted God were like that. They thought about what their husbands wanted and agreed with them. <sup>6</sup>Remember Sarah, a woman that lived a long time ago. She listened to her husband, Abraham, and she did what he wanted. She called him, “My good boss.” So always do what is right, and don’t be frightened of anyone. Then you will be like grand-daughters of Sarah.\*

<sup>7</sup>And you men that are married, you have to do your part too. You have to respect your wives and take good care of them. Their bodies aren’t strong like yours. But all of you are God’s people, so God gave them life, just the same as he gave you life. So remember that, and be good to them and respect them. Then God will hear your prayers.

### ***If people make trouble for you***

<sup>8</sup>Now all of you listen to this too. Remember that you are all in the same family, so you have to think the same way about what is right. And you have to care for each other properly. Don’t think you are great. Try to understand how other people are feeling and be good to them. <sup>9</sup>If somebody rubbishes you, don’t rubbish them back. If somebody does wrong to you, don’t do payback to them. Instead of that, you have to ask God to be good to them. God picked you to be in his family and to live like that. And if you are good to people like that, God will be good to you too. <sup>10</sup>God says this in his book,

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\* 3:3-4 1 Timothy 2:9 \* 3:6 Genesis 18:12

“If you want to live well and be happy,  
don’t say bad things about other people,  
and don’t lie to them.

<sup>11</sup> Turn away from doing bad things,  
and do good things.

Don’t fight with people or make trouble.

Try very hard to live happily with other people.

<sup>12</sup> God looks after people that live the right way,  
and he listens carefully to what they ask him.

But God punishes people that do bad things.”\*

<sup>13</sup> So if you want to do good, nobody will want to punish you. <sup>14</sup> But sometimes, even if you do what’s right, some people will make trouble for you. If that happens, don’t be frightened of them and don’t worry about anything they might do to you, because God will be very good to you.\*

<sup>15</sup> Always remember that Jesus Christ is the really important one. He is your good leader, so listen to him. People might say to you, “Tell us, why are you sure that God will do good things for you?” So you always have to be ready to help them understand why you are sure. <sup>16</sup> Tell them clearly, and respect them as you talk to them. Make sure you always live the right way, so you don’t feel shame. Some people rubbish Christians, but if they see you doing the right things, they will feel shame about themselves.



<sup>17</sup>If you do something wrong, and then people give you trouble, that's fair enough. But it is much better to do good things, even if people give you trouble for doing those good things. <sup>18</sup>All of us have done wrong things, so we should die, but Jesus Christ died instead of us. He took the payback for the bad things we did. He never did anything wrong himself, but he died instead of us, so that we can go to God and become his family. Jesus died just once, but God remembers it for ever. People killed Jesus, but God's spirit made him alive again.

<sup>19</sup>Then Jesus went and talked to the spirits that are locked up like prisoners. <sup>20</sup>A long time ago, they didn't listen to God, and they didn't do the things God told them to do. That was at the time when Noah lived. God waited at that time, he didn't punish anyone yet. God waited, and Noah built that big boat. Only 8 people got into that boat. Then God sent a very big rain. Water covered everything, and everyone drowned. God saved only those 8 people that were in the boat.\* <sup>21</sup>That water is a picture of the baptism ceremony. Like the time our Christian leaders put us under the water to baptise us. They didn't do that to wash the dirt off the outside of us. No. It's like that water washed the shame from inside us. When we asked those leaders to baptise us, we asked God to make us clean on the inside, so that we will not feel shame any more. So God saves us and gives us new life. Yes, we can have new life because, after Jesus died,

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\* 3:20 Genesis 6:1—7:24

he came back to life again. <sup>22</sup>Jesus is now in heaven with God in the most important place, at God's right-hand side. All the angels, and all the bad spirits, and all the bosses everywhere, they haven't got as much power as Jesus. No. He is the strongest one anywhere. He has more power than all of them.

## **Chapter 4**

### ***Live like God wants***

<sup>1</sup>Remember that Jesus Christ got trouble while he lived on earth. Well, you will get trouble too, so get ready for it and don't get upset about it. If you get trouble because you belong to Jesus, that shows that you want to live God's way and don't do bad things any more. <sup>2</sup>It shows that you want to do the things that God wants. So whenever you want to do something bad, you have to turn away from it and live God's way.

<sup>3</sup>In the past you did lots of wrong things. You lived like people that didn't know God. You just did whatever bad things you wanted to do. You slept with people that you were not married to, and you did with them what a husband and wife do together. You got drunk. You went to wild parties. You showed respect for statues that people made. That was really bad. But you don't do those bad things now. <sup>4</sup>Some of your friends keep on doing lots of bad things, and they don't care about it. But you say, "No," and you don't do those bad things with them. So they are surprised, and they rubbish you. <sup>5</sup>But

they will have to face God. He is ready to be their judge. He will judge everyone, people that are still living and people that are dead. He will ask them about the bad things they did, and they will have to answer him. <sup>6</sup>That is the reason why we told the good news about Jesus to people that are dead now. We told them the good news, then later their bodies died, like all people have to die because they did bad things. But we wanted them to trust in Jesus, so that at the time when God judges everyone, he will make them alive again, and they will live with him for ever.

***Do good things for each other***

<sup>7</sup>You know, God will finish up everything soon. So now you have to think clearly, and be careful about everything you do, so that you can talk to God properly when you pray. <sup>8</sup>And this is the most important thing you've got to do, you've got to keep on loving each other very much. Even if somebody does something bad to you, you have to love them, and be good to them anyway, and don't do payback to them. \* <sup>9</sup>If there are other Christians that need food or a place to stay, then share your home with them and don't complain to anyone about it.

<sup>10</sup>God has given each one of you different ways to do good for each other. He has given you the power to do them, so you have to do them properly. <sup>11</sup>If you can tell

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\* 4:8 Proverbs 10:12

stories to people, then tell them God's story, and tell it clearly. If you can help other people, then let God make you strong so you can help them properly. Do everything properly so that when people see it, they might say that God is really great. If they know that you follow Jesus, they might thank God for sending Jesus to us. Jesus has really great power now, and he will have that power for ever. That's true.

### ***We all get troubles***

<sup>12</sup>My friends, you are following Jesus, and from that you are getting trouble. Don't be surprised about it. God lets you get that trouble to show that you really trust Jesus.

<sup>13</sup>You are getting trouble just like Jesus got trouble, so be happy. Don't be sad. Then on the day that Jesus comes back and shows everyone that he is really great, you will be very happy. <sup>14</sup>Maybe people are making fun of you because you follow Jesus. But don't worry, it shows that God is happy with you, and that God's spirit is with you. His spirit is great and has a lot of power.

<sup>15</sup>You know that people that do wrong things get trouble. Don't be like them. Don't kill another person. Don't steal things. Don't make trouble for other people. Don't do wrong things like that.

<sup>16</sup>But if people give you trouble because you follow Jesus, don't feel shame. No. Just thank God that you belong to Jesus.

<sup>17</sup>It is time now for God to start judging everybody. He will be good to some people, and he will give trouble to

other people. He will judge his own people first. They might get some trouble now, but it will not last for ever. But later, he will judge the people that didn't want to listen to his good story. He will be really hard on them, he will give them lots of trouble. <sup>18</sup>God says this in his book,

“People that live right will get some troubles,  
but God will save them.

But what about those people that do bad things  
and never listen to God?

God will not save them.

He will punish them.”\*

<sup>19</sup>So if God lets you Christians get trouble, keep on trusting him, and keep on doing whatever is right. He made you, and he promised to save you, and he does everything that he promises to do, so you can trust him to do that.

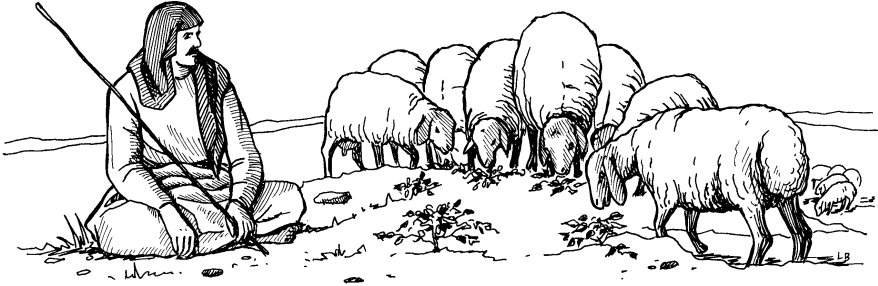
## **Chapter 5**

### ***This is a message for Christian leaders***

<sup>1</sup>Now I'm talking to you Christian leaders. I am a leader too, and I was with Jesus Christ, and I saw him get trouble. I saw people blame him by telling lies, and I saw them kill him. But, later, he will show everyone that he is great, and I will be there too, and I will be happy there with him.

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\* 4:18 Proverbs 11:31



*People used to always stay with their sheep to look after them*

<sup>2</sup>You church leaders have to look after God's people. God gave you the job to look after them, so you have to do it properly, like a man with sheep looks after them properly. God wants you leaders to be happy while you do that job. Don't just do it because you think you have to, or because you want money. Do it because you want to help God's people.\* <sup>3</sup>Don't be bossy. Instead, show them how to follow Jesus. You have to follow Jesus properly, so they will see the way you follow him, and they will follow him properly too.

<sup>4</sup>Then, later, Jesus will come back, and he will be happy with your work, and he will make you great, for ever. He is the leader of all of us, and he looks after us properly.

***This is a message for young people***

<sup>5</sup>Listen, you young people, it is like this. You have to listen carefully to your Christian leaders. Don't think you

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\* 5:2 John 21:15-17

are great or more important than other people. Think about what God says in his book. He says,

“God is against people that think they are great, but he is good to people that know they are not great.”\*

***This is a message for everyone***

<sup>6</sup>God is great and powerful, so remember that you are not important at all. Wait for him, and at the right time, he will get everybody to respect you. \* <sup>7</sup>God loves you, and he is looking after you, so tell him about everything that makes you sad, or angry, or worried, and trust him to look after you properly.

<sup>8</sup>You have to think clearly and watch out for your enemy, the devil. He is the boss over all the bad spirits, and he is going around looking for people to trick. He is like a wild animal that is going around and looking for somebody to kill and eat. <sup>9</sup>Don't listen to him, but fight back against him. Trust Jesus properly, and keep on trusting him. Remember, you are not alone. All over the world your Christian friends are getting trouble, just like you are. They follow Jesus, so bad people give them trouble too.

<sup>10</sup>But trouble doesn't last for ever. After you have trouble for a short time, God will be good to you. He will make everything right for you and make you properly strong for him. He picked you to join you up with Jesus

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\* 5:5 Proverbs 3:34 \* 5:6 Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14

Christ. He did that so that, in the end, you will be very great with Jesus for ever. <sup>11</sup>God is very powerful now, and he will keep on being very powerful for ever. That's true.

### ***About this letter***

<sup>12</sup>This is just a short letter to you. Silas helped me write it. He is our good Christian friend, and he follows Jesus properly. I want you to be happy and strong, so I'm writing this letter to you. And I want you to remember that God is very good, so keep on thinking about how good he is. Then you will keep on trusting him.\*

### ***Hello from other Christians***

<sup>13</sup>The people in the church here, in this city that we sometimes call Babylon, they say *hello* to you. God has made them his family, just like you. And do you remember Mark? He is here with me, and he is like a son to me. He says *hello* to you too.\*

<sup>14</sup>Whenever you meet together, show that you are happy to see each other, because you love each other.

I ask God to make all you Christians happy and quiet inside yourselves.

*From Peter*

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\* 5:12 Acts 15:22, 40 \* 5:13 Acts 12:12, 25; 13:13; 15:37-39; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 1:24



# The 2nd letter that Peter wrote

*(The book in the Holy Bible called 2 Peter)*

## **About this letter**

Peter was one of Jesus's 12 special workers. He went everywhere with Jesus and knew him well.

Peter wrote 2 letters that are now in the Holy Bible. This is the 2nd letter. He wrote it about 2,000 years ago, about 30 years after Jesus went back to heaven.

In this letter Peter told Christians how to become strong for Jesus. And he told them about people that reckon they were saying God's words, but they were lying. And he wrote about what it will be like in the last days of this world, before God finishes it up.

These words that Peter wrote have very important messages for all of us Christians.

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## **Chapter 1**

<sup>1</sup>I am Peter, and this letter is from me. My other name is Simon. I work for Jesus Christ. I am one of his special workers.

You people believe in Jesus Christ, just like I do, so I'm writing this letter to you. Jesus helps us trust him, and

that is really special for us. Jesus Christ is God, and he saves us. He is always right, and he is always fair.

<sup>2</sup>You already know God, and our leader Jesus, so I pray that you will know them better every day. And I'm asking God to be properly good to you, and to make you really happy and quiet inside yourselves.

### ***God helps us live the right way***

<sup>3</sup>You know, God is really powerful. He is very great, and very good too. He picked us out to be his own people, so we can get to know him properly. And he gives us everything we need to live the right way. <sup>4</sup>And he promised us some very important things, and they are very special to us. He promised that we can think the way he thinks, so that we become really good people. He says that we can get away from bad things. We are not like the people that belong to this world. They want to do bad things, then they go and do those bad things, and they become bad people. But God says that we can get away from all that.

<sup>5</sup>So think about what I am saying, and you will know that you have to be as good as you can. You believe in Christ, and you have to keep trying to live his way all the time. This is what you have to do,

- you always have to try to do what is right, and you have to try to know God better,
- <sup>6-7</sup>and you have to learn to control yourselves too,
- and you have to learn to keep going strong, no matter what happens,

- and you have to be good to each other too, so that you will make God happy,
- and you have to love other Christians like they are your own brothers and sisters, and you have to love everybody else too.

<sup>8</sup>If you keep on living like that more and more, you will get to know our leader, Jesus Christ, better and better. And you will be a good worker that does a good job for him every time. <sup>9</sup>But if you don't live like that, it shows that you don't understand God's message properly. You are like blind people that can't see anything properly. It's like you forget about what God did for you. You used to do wrong things before, but God made you free from all that, and he made you clean inside yourselves. So don't forget that. Don't do wrong things again.

<sup>10</sup>My Christian friends, try hard to do all those good things. God picked you to be his own people, and whenever you do those good things, you show everybody that you really are God's people. If you do those things, you will never turn away from God. <sup>11</sup>Then God will be very happy with you, and he will make sure you live with him for ever. You will be in Jesus Christ's family. He is our leader, and he saves us.

### ***Don't forget this message***

<sup>12</sup>I will keep on telling you about these things, even though you already know them, and you know that they are true. I will keep on telling you about them anyway.

<sup>13</sup>I reckon it's good for me to remind you about these

things, and I will keep on doing it while I'm still alive in this body, so that you will keep on thinking about these things and you will not forget them.

<sup>14</sup>Our leader, Jesus Christ, told me that soon I will die. He will take me out of this body. <sup>15</sup>But while I'm still alive in this body, I will do everything I can to keep on telling you these things, so that after I die, you will always remember them.

***Peter saw that Jesus Christ is really great***

<sup>16</sup>Remember the story we told you about our leader, Jesus Christ. That was the true story. We didn't make up smart stories to tell you. We told you that Jesus is powerful, and that he will come back here to this earth again. We saw for ourselves that Jesus is very great, and we told you everything we saw. <sup>17-18</sup>It happened like this. Me and 2 other followers of Jesus, we went with him up on to a special mountain, and God the father, he showed us that Jesus is very great and powerful. God told us this, he said, "This is my son. I love him very much, and I'm very happy with him." Yes, we ourselves heard the voice of our great God. He talked to us from heaven, and he told us that message. \*

***The messages in God's book are true***

<sup>19</sup>So now we can be really sure about the messages that are in God's book. We can be sure that they are true.

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\* 1:17-18 Matthew 17:1-5; Mark 9:2-7; Luke 9:28-35

A long time ago, God told his men to write those words in his book. You have to think carefully about those messages. They can help us understand the true story about God, like a light helps us see things in the night. Those messages will keep on helping you until Jesus comes back and he helps you know God properly. Then it will be like Jesus is a really bright light that shows us everything clearly, like the really bright star that shines in the morning, and then the sun comes up. <sup>20</sup>You see, those men that wrote those words a long time ago, they didn't think up their own stories. <sup>21</sup>No. They didn't write down their own ideas. The Holy Spirit worked inside them and told them God's messages. Those words came from God, and they wrote them down in his book.\*

## **Chapter 2**

### ***Look out, some people teach lies***

<sup>1</sup>In God's book we read about his people a long time ago. Sometimes some liars started to teach God's people things that were wrong. They reckoned they were saying God's words, but they were lying. And the same sort of thing will happen now. There will be people among you that will teach things that are wrong. If you listen to them, you will go wrong, and it will be bad for you. Those people will even turn against Jesus. He is our leader, and he died to save them. And one day soon, God

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\* 1:21 2 Timothy 3:16

will punish them for that wrong thing they do. <sup>2</sup>Those liars will teach people to do bad things, and a lot of people will listen to them and do those bad and dirty things. And if people that are not Christians see that, they will rubbish God and his true way.

<sup>3</sup>Those lying teachers only want your money. So they will tell you tricky lies to get you to give them money. A long time ago, God said that he will punish them, and he is ready to do that. One day, he will properly finish up those liars.

### ***God saves people that live his way***

<sup>4</sup>Think about these stories from a long time ago. At one time, some of God's angel messengers did the wrong thing. They didn't do what God told them to do, so God punished them. He threw them down into the dark hole called hell. He is keeping them there now, and later he will judge them.

<sup>5</sup>At another time, the people in the world did lots of bad things and didn't live God's way. There was only one man that lived the right way. His name was Noah. He tried to tell all the other people to live God's way too, but they didn't listen to him. So God sent a big flood of water and drowned all those bad people. But he kept Noah safe, and he kept the 7 other people in his family safe too.\*

<sup>6-8</sup>Then later, the people in the towns called Sodom and Gomorrah did really bad things. But there was one man

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\* 2:5 Genesis 6:1—7:24

there that lived the right way. His name was Lot. He saw all the bad things that they did, and he got really upset. Every day, he heard them, and he saw them do really bad and dirty things, and he got really upset. He was so sad that he felt sick. Then God judged those bad people in those towns, and he properly punished them. He burned up those towns, and he burned up all the people in them. They were just piles of ashes after that. But God saved Lot. God didn't burn him up. You see, God did that to show everybody that he will punish bad people that will not listen to him.\*

<sup>9</sup>Those stories show us that God knows how to save his people. They are the people that listen properly to him and live his way, and he saves them from trouble. But when the day comes for him to judge everyone, he will punish people that don't live the right way. <sup>10</sup>Yes, God will really punish people that do dirty things. They think about wrong ways to get their bodies to feel good, then they do those bad things. They reckon they don't have to listen to any boss, not even God. So God will properly punish those bad people, even more than he will punish other bad people.

### ***Lying teachers are like animals***

Those lying teachers think they are better than everyone else, and they think they can do anything they want to. They even rubbish strong spirits. <sup>11</sup>Not even God's angel

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\* 2:6-8 Genesis 19:24

messengers do that. Angels are much stronger than the other spirits, but whenever angels stand in front of God, they don't talk against those other spirits or tell God to punish them.

<sup>12</sup>But those lying teachers are like animals that don't think at all, like the animals that people catch and kill. Those teachers rubbish things they don't understand, and they will end up dead, just like those stupid animals.

<sup>13</sup>They do a lot of things that hurt other people, so God will hurt them. He will do payback to them. They think it's fun to do any bad thing that they want to do, even in the day-light. And whenever you Christians have dinner together, they join in with you, and they laugh about their lies and the bad things they do. Now think about a white shirt. If it just has a few dirty spots on it, people say that the whole shirt is dirty. Well, you good people are like that white shirt, and those people are like the dirty spots on it. There are only a few of them, but they do bad things, and they shame all of you. <sup>14</sup>They are always looking for a woman to sleep with, like a man sleeps with his wife. They do bad things, and they keep looking for more bad things to do. If somebody doesn't strongly trust Christ, those people will trick that person and get them to go wrong. They are really greedy, wanting lots of money and things. They are the sort of people that God says he will properly punish.

<sup>15-16</sup>They left the right way and went the wrong way. They stopped doing good things, and now they do bad things. Remember the story about Balaam, the son of



Beyor. He loved money so much that he did bad things to get it. Then God made a donkey talk to him with a man's voice. It told him he was going wrong, and it stopped him from being even more stupid. Those people are just like Balaam. They are stupid, and they go the wrong way, just like Balaam did. \*

### ***God will punish lying teachers***

<sup>17</sup>Those lying teachers are useless. You know that a dry water-hole is useless, and so is a cloud that doesn't bring any rain. The wind just blows it away. That mob are just like that, they are useless too. God has got a place for those liars. It is a really dark, sad place, and he is going to put them in it and keep them there. <sup>18-19</sup>That mob teach with words that sound good, but they are useless. They say we are free now, so we can do anything we like. They say that it is all right to do bad things. That is what they teach, but it is wrong.

You know, there are some people that used to go wrong, but then they turned around and started to go right. But now those liars are tricking them and getting them to go wrong again. Those liars tell them that they can do any bad things they like, to get their bodies to feel good. Those liars promise to free people, but they themselves are not free. They can't stop themselves from doing bad and dirty things. It's like this. If somebody can't stop themselves from doing something, that thing is their

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\* 2:15-16 Numbers 22:4-35

boss and they have to work for it. So it's like those bad things are their boss. They are not free.

<sup>20</sup> Jesus Christ is our leader, and he is the one that saves us. At one time, those liars knew Jesus, and he helped them get away from the dirty things that the people in this world do. But now they are leaving him, and they are getting mixed up again with those bad things. Those bad things are now their boss, and they are worse off now than before. <sup>21</sup> God will punish everyone that goes the wrong way. He will even punish people that never knew the right way. But these people knew the right way, and then they turned back and went the wrong way, so God will punish them more than those others.

<sup>22</sup> People sometimes say these true words, "A dog gets sick and vomits up its food, but then it comes back and eats that same food again." And people also say, "You can wash the mud off a pig, but then it goes back and rolls on the muddy ground again." Those words tell us about those lying teachers. Those teachers are just like that dog and that pig, they turned back to the bad things again.\*

## **Chapter 3**

### ***God will judge everybody one day***

<sup>1</sup> My friends, this is now my 2nd letter that I'm writing to you. Both of these letters are to help you remember

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\* 2:22 Proverbs 26:11

things. I want you to think properly about these things.

<sup>2</sup>I want you to remember the words from God that his men wrote a long time ago, and the words from Jesus that his special workers told you. They told you the things that God wants you to do. Jesus is our leader, and he saves us.

<sup>3</sup>And this is very important, so I want you to understand it. These days are the last days of this world, and now some people will come and laugh at you, and they will say that you are stupid. Those people always do any bad thing they feel like doing. They laugh at God's true story.\* <sup>4</sup>They will say, "Jesus promised to come back, but where is he? He didn't come back. He said that powerful things will happen to this world, and he said that he will come back, and that God will finish up the world. But nothing has happened. Some of our Christian leaders have already died, but none of those things have happened. Everything just keeps going the same, just like from the time God made everything."

<sup>5</sup>Those people know the true story, but they don't want to remember it. They forget that God does lots of powerful things in this world. They forget that a long time ago, God only said words to make the sky and the earth. God said one word to make the sky, and then he said another word to make the land, and to lift that land up out of the water.\* <sup>6</sup>Then later, God used a big flood of water to finish up everybody in the world at that time.\*

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\* 3:3 Jude 1:18 \* 3:5 Genesis 1:6-9 \* 3:6 Genesis 7:21

<sup>7</sup>And now God is saying his word again in the same way. He is telling the sky and the earth that he will judge them, and he will burn them with fire, and finish them up. That will be the day when God will judge everybody, and he will finish up all the bad people.

<sup>8</sup>But, my friends, don't forget this one thing about God. He can use time in a different way. God can make one day be like 1,000 years, and he can make 1,000 years be like one day. \* <sup>9</sup>God is not slow to do the things that he promised to do. Some people think that he is being slow, but no, he is quietly waiting for you people. He doesn't want anyone to die for ever. He wants everyone to turn around. He wants them to stop doing bad things and turn to him. <sup>10</sup>But one day our leader, Jesus, will come back, and everybody will get a shock. You know how people get a shock if a robber comes while they are asleep and steals their things? Listen, Jesus Christ will come back suddenly, and people will get a big shock like that. The sky will go away with a very loud noise, and it will not be there any more. Fire will burn up everything in it. And God will finish up all the earth and everything on it. \*

<sup>11</sup>Think about it. God will finish up everything like that. Then think about yourselves. You've got to be really good people. You have to live God's way, to make him happy. <sup>12</sup>You want Jesus to come back soon, so while you are waiting for that day, make sure you live that good

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\* 3:8 Psalm 90:4 \* 3:10 Matthew 24:43; Luke 12:39; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; Revelation 16:15

way, so that he will come soon. Then, on that day, God will finish up everything. He will burn up the sky, and everything in it will melt away in that fire. <sup>13</sup>But don't worry. God promised to make a new sky and new earth for us. Everyone in that new place will be good. They will always live the right way and do good things. Yes, we are waiting for God to do that.\*

<sup>14</sup>So now, my friends, while you are waiting for that to happen, try hard to always do good things, so that God will not blame you for doing wrong things. And don't get angry with anyone and don't fight, then when God looks at you, he will not see any trouble between you and anyone else. <sup>15</sup>Think about this. Jesus, our leader, is waiting. He wants to save people, so he is waiting for them. He is giving them time to turn back to him. But later, he will come back.

You know our Christian friend Paul. Well, God helped him to understand about these things, <sup>16</sup>and he writes about them in all his letters. Some things in his letters are hard to understand. Some people don't know much about God, and they are not sure about the things they believe. They talk about Paul's letters the wrong way. They turn Paul's words around so that they say something that is wrong. And they do that with other words in God's book too. When they do that, they make things bad for themselves, and in the end God will punish them.

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\* 3:13 Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; Revelation 21:1

<sup>17</sup>But, my friends, you know these things already. So be very careful. Don't believe the lies that those bad people say. Don't let them lead you away from God. If you listen to them, you might stop being sure about the true things.

<sup>18</sup>Don't do that. You have to believe that our leader, Jesus Christ, will be good to you, and you have to believe it more and more. He is the one that saves us. You have to know him better and better all the time.

Everyone has to say that Jesus Christ is very great and good. Everyone has to always say that, now and for ever. That's right.

*From Peter*

## ***Notes***

## About this translation

This booklet uses the **Plain English Version** (PEV) of the Scriptures, an English translation of the Bible designed for Indigenous Australians whose first language is an Indigenous language. Its purpose is to convey the meaning of the original Scripture in English that is easy to understand and natural for them. We have, as much as possible, limited its grammar, semantic and rhetorical features to those common in Aboriginal languages, and its vocabulary to the English that is most widely used.

We have applied the principles of meaning-based translation, wherein we have sought to convey the same meaning that the original authors conveyed to the original readers. That means not just considering individual words, but also the message of the whole passage.

The following are some of the more common modifications that have been made:

- Where the grammar of the original has used the passive voice, we have used the active voice, since the grammars of most indigenous Australian languages do not have passive voice.
- Where the original text has used an abstract noun to express a concept that is fundamentally an action or a quality, we have usually used a verb or adjective to translate that concept, since abstract nouns are comparatively rare in Australian languages.
- Where the grammar of the original has used long and complicated sentences, we have conformed to the grammars of Australian languages by using shorter sentences, making other adjustments as necessary to retain the meaning carried by the grammar of the original.
- Where the original text has implicit or background information that would not be obvious to our target audience, we have made that information explicit.
- Where the original text has used a word or phrase, the literal translation of which would not be understood by our target audience, we have used an explanatory rendering to convey the same meaning, whether or not it involved more words.
- Where the original text has used figurative language that would be taken as literal by our target audience, we have stated the meaning of the figure rather than its literal form.
- Where the original text is not in chronological or logical order, we have usually adjusted the order of information.

At any one place in our translation we may have used a combination of the above.

*PEV Translation Team*