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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Confirm Your Calling: Introduction to 2 Peter (2 Peter 1:1-2)

TEACHING SUMMARY

Second Peter warns about false teaching and calls believers to confirm their calling through knowledge and holy living. This introduction considers the letter's authorship, likely audience, greeting, and central themes before beginning the verse-by-verse study.

The teaching acknowledges scholarly objections to Peter's authorship. These concern limited early attestation, the relationship with Jude, and differences between First and Second Peter. It argues that the objections are insufficient and proceeds with Peter as the author.

In support, the teaching discusses early Christian use of the letter and qualifications needed when describing doubts about it. It also explains that the direction of borrowing between Jude and Second Peter is disputed. Different circumstances or scribes could help explain differences in style.

The audience may be the same communities addressed in First Peter, though the greeting does not identify their locations. Peter describes their faith as equal in standing with his own. Their standing rests on Yeshua's righteousness and God's gift rather than personal status or merit.

Peter introduces himself as Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Yeshua Messiah. These titles combine humble service with authority received from the one who sent him. Near the end of his life, Peter wants readers to remember and practice his instruction.

Knowledge of God and Yeshua frames the letter's beginning and conclusion. The application emphasizes learning what Scripture reveals about God, resisting false doctrine, and living accordingly. Genuine faith should produce an ongoing desire to know God and follow his will.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Second Peter warns believers about false teaching.
- Confirming calling involves knowledge and holy conduct.
- The teaching defends Peter's authorship while acknowledging objections.
- Limited early attestation is distinguished from no early attestation.
- The literary relationship with Jude does not settle authorship.
- Different purposes or scribes may explain differences between the letters.
- The recipients may be the same communities addressed in First Peter.
- All believers receive faith of equal standing through Yeshua's righteousness.
- Peter's authority is joined to humble service as Messiah's representative.
- Growing in knowledge includes accepting biblical teaching and living it.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The letter identifies its author as Simeon _____.
2. Peter calls himself a servant and _____ of Yeshua Messiah.
3. The letter warns its readers about false _____.
4. Peter describes the recipients' faith as having equal _____ with his own.
5. Grace and peace are multiplied through the _____ of God and Yeshua.
6. The teaching says believers should confirm their calling and _____.

Challenging

1. One authorship objection concerns the letter's literary relationship with _____.
2. A different _____ could help explain differences in the two letters' styles.
3. The early scholar _____ cited Second Peter while noting others' reservations.
4. Simeon reflects the Hebrew name _____.
5. Framing a writing with a repeated theme is called _____.
6. Faith is presented as a _____ from God rather than something earned.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What three objections to Peter's authorship does the teaching address?
2. How does the teaching distinguish limited early evidence from an absence of evidence?
3. Why does the relationship with Jude leave room for different conclusions about authorship?
4. How does equal standing in faith challenge comparisons between leaders and other believers?
5. How do the titles servant and apostle work together in Peter's introduction?
6. What does growing in knowledge require beyond collecting facts about God?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Peter
2. apostle
3. teachings
4. standing
5. knowledge
6. election

Challenging

1. Jude
2. scribe
3. Origen
4. Shimon
5. inclusio
6. gift