



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- 2 Peter 1-3
- 2 Timothy 1-4

A LAST WILL & TESTAMENT

- Converts and Disciples
- A Fisherman and a Scholar

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Therefore, brothers, **be more diligent to make your calling and election sure.** For if you do these things, you will never stumble.” 2 Peter 1:10 WEBUS

“Yes, I will make every effort that **you may always be able to remember** these things even **after my departure [death].**” 2 Peter 1:15 WEBUS

“The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**” 2 Timothy 2:2 WEBUS

“Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth. **As you sent me into the world, even so I have sent them into the world.**” John 17:17-18 WEBUS

“Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him, “If you remain in my word, **then you are truly my disciples.**” John 8:31 WEBUS

“...the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father doing. **For whatever things he does, these the Son also does likewise.**” John 5:19 WEBUS

“he who says he remains in him **ought himself also to walk just like he walked.**” 1 John 2:6 WEBUS

“**Be imitators of me**, even as I also am of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 11:1 WEBUS

“Whoever doesn’t bear his own cross and come after me, **can’t be my disciple.** {33} ...whoever of you who doesn’t renounce all that he has, he **can’t be my disciple.**” Luke 14:27, 33 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

When you look around at the state of the Church, what impression do you get? How is the Body of Christ developing? These are difficult questions, so a bit more detail might help clarify. Add maturity as one of the search filters and remove size. Now contemplate your answers again. The Church has certainly become larger and with the advent of the seeker-friendly mega-church, the numbers are impressive. What is the state of the mega-church brand of Christianity, if we are not counting numbers? Don’t count attendance; don’t count weekly services; don’t count tithes; don’t count conversions; and don’t count staff members, etc. Do, instead, identify disciples.

An invitation into the family of God is waiting for everyone; all it takes is a heart touched by God's grace and then a gentle explanation of how to become a Christian. The entrance cost is free; Jesus Christ paid it all. Yet, if you add maturity as a filter and becoming a disciple as the goal, you won't find too many takers. Maybe even worse, you won't find too many offers. That is because becoming a disciple is anything but free; it could cost you everything—even your life! Plus, it takes church leadership less concerned about size and more concerned about depth.

The modern congregation is a mile wide and an inch deep. The raw numbers are impressive, and yet the percentage of biblically literate disciples is anemic. That is because discipleship takes a training regimen that cannot be approached casually. What we discover in Peter's letter is a step-by-step program for growth—from salvation to the ultimate maturity. Peter organizes his plan just as you'd expect from a man who fished for a living. It's simple, systematic, predictable, measurable, effective, consistent, and duplicatable. It won't take a genius to learn, nor teach. Of course, Paul also had an approach to discipleship, but Peter actually considered it to be very complicated; "In all of his letters Paul speaks of the same things of which I write. But, his way of communication makes it more difficult to understand. Ignorant and unstable men then twist and distort his words, as they do the

Scriptures. That is always very damaging to themselves and to those who trust them.” The Apostle Paul, a true scholar, must have heard what Peter thought of his usual approach and seemingly learned a lesson or two about simplicity from this blue-collar worker, as he relayed to Timothy; “Commit the things you’ve heard from me, from many witnesses, to faithful men who are able to teach others also.”

CONVERTS AND DISCIPLES

1. First a Convert, then a Disciple

A. The Maturation Process

(1) God’s intention is for a convert to grow in faith...

(a) From Milk to Solid Food

1. “For although **by this time you should be teachers**, you again need to have someone teach you **the rudiments of the first principles** of the revelations of God. You have come to **need milk, and not solid food**. For everyone **who lives on milk is not experienced in the word of righteousness**, for he is a **baby**. But **solid food is for those who are full grown**, who by reason of use have their **senses exercised to discern good and evil.**” Hebrews 5:12-14 WEBUS

a) Move past the basics...

- 1) You are called to move beyond the basic things (milk) that make you a Christian and become skilled in using God's word (solid food) to transform your own life and to also teach others to do so.
 - 2) A baby Christian stays on milk; an adult Christian eats meat!
 - 3) The process of growing up into an adult Christian will train you to understand the Bible and to hear God's voice, to know what is virtuous and what is wicked (even when the difference is so subtle that it would otherwise seem obscured from an immature believer).
 - 4) Be of good cheer... *"My sheep **hear my voice**, and I know them, and they follow me."* John 10:27 WEBUS
2. "Therefore **leaving the teaching of the first principles** of Christ, let's **press on to perfection**—not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works, of faith toward God, of the teaching of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. **This will we do, if God permits.**"
Hebrews 6:1-3 WEBUS

a) If God permits....

- 1) **He does permit!** *“For **this is the will of God:** your **sanctification**, that you abstain from sexual immorality,”* 1 Thessalonians 4:3 WEBUS
- 2) Sanctification is the process of becoming more and more holy (set-part) for God with the goal to become Christlike (perfection)!
- 3) *“Be imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 11:1 WEBUS
- 4) *“through [his exceedingly great promises] you may **become partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped from the corruption that is in the world** by lust.”* 2 Peter 1:4 WEBUS

(b) From Childhood to Adulthood

1. “I write to you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven you for his name’s sake. I write to you, **fathers**, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, **little children**, because you know the Father. I have written to you, **fathers**, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, **young men**, because you are strong, and the word of God remains

in you, and you have overcome the evil one." 1 John 2:12-14 WEBUS

a) Three stages of maturity...

1) **Stage One (Children):** Your sins are forgiven. You are born-again as a child of God. You now know God.

2) **Stage Two (Young Men):** You begin to apply your newfound faith into your life and overcome the devil and the things of the world! You become empowered by the word of God. Lean in and let it change your DNA: *"I have **hidden your word in my heart**, that I might not sin against you."*
Psalms 119:11 WEBUS

3) **Stage Three (Fathers):** You've known and lived for God for quite some time; you've grown into a mature adult Christian. What does that look like?

2. **The Life of an Adult Christian:** **"Don't love the world** or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the Father's love isn't in him. For **all that is in the world**—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—isn't the Father's, but is the world's." 1 John 2:15-16 WEBUS

- a) No longer part of the sins of the world
 - 1) Gone are the many lusts and the temptations to place yourself above God and others!
 - 2) “...having **escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust.**” 2 Peter 1:4

(2) The Convert

(a) Becoming a child of God is easy...

- 1. “But **as many as received him**, to them he gave **the right to become God’s children**, to those who **believe in his name**: who were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.**”

John 1:12-13 WEBUS

a) The right to enter the family of God...

- 1) Believe in Him...
- 2) Receive Him in your heart...
- 3) You are born-gain!

- 2. **Believe what?** “For God so loved the world, that **he gave his only born Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have **eternal life.**” John 3:16

WEBUS

a) Believe what?

- 1) Y’shua (Jesus) is the only Son of God

3. **Believe how?** “that if you will **confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved. {13} For, “Whoever will **call on the name of the Lord** will be saved.”” Romans 10:9, 13 WEBUS

a) How?

- 1) Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. This is the testimony that there has been a change in your heart.
- 2) Then openly declare His name from your own lips and that He was raised from the grave!

4. **Simple:** “For I determined not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ** and him **crucified.**” 1 Corinthians 2:2 WEBUS

a) It’s that simple; Christ crucified!

- 1) But, it would not be so simple if there was not a heart change first!
- 2) “For ***the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are dying, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.***” 1 Corinthians 1:18 WEBUS
- 3) “Now the natural man doesn’t receive the things of God’s Spirit, for ***they are foolishness to him;***

*and he can't know them, because **they are spiritually discerned.**" 1 Corinthians 2:14*

WEBUS

(b) First there must be the **gift of faith** and then there can be the **practice of faith**.

1. **The gift of faith:** "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have **obtained a like precious faith** with us **in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:**" 2 Peter 1:1 WEBUS

a) Faith to believe in Christ crucified:

- 1) Comes from His righteousness, not your own.
- 2) If you were on your own, the story of the cross would be complete foolishness.

2. **The practice of faith:** "Yes, and for this very cause **adding on your part all diligence, in your faith** supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge;" 2 Peter 1:5 WEBUS

a) After the gift of faith has made you a child of God:

- 1) Your job is to practice that faith
- 2) This is the clear two-step process!

3. "for **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**, not of works, that no one would boast. For we are his

workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10 WEBUS

- a) First a convert, then comes the practice:
 - 1) God’s grace touches your heart and gives you the faith to believe in the cross (no longer foolishness).
 - 2) Then, you get to work practicing your faith!

4. “Being therefore **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom **we also have our access by faith into this grace** in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 WEBUS

- a) A powerful self-perpetuating cycle!
 - 1) **The gift of Faith:** God’s grace touches your heart and softens it to the Gospel of Salvation; the cross becomes real; you believe and confess; all sins are forgiven and you are made right in God’s eyes.
 - 2) **The Practice of Faith:** When you exercise that gift of faith you gain continual access to God’s grace. That will empower you to walk out your life as a Christian, leaving behind all the sin of

your old life and to become a new creature.

That is what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

3) **From old to new:** *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**. The **old** things have **passed away**. Behold, **all things have become new**.”* 2 Corinthians 5:17 WEBUS

4) **Your new life:** *“I have been crucified with Christ, and **it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me. **That life which I now live** in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.”*

Galatians 2:20 WEBUS

(3) Two Gospels: *For **many are called**, but **few are chosen**.”*

Luke 14:24

(a) **The Gospel of Salvation:** The **CONVERT**. (Many are Called!) *“For, **Whoever will call** on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* Romans 10:13 WEBUS

1. “When I came to you, brothers, **I didn’t come with excellence of speech or of wisdom**, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus **Christ and him crucified**. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. **My speech and my preaching**

were not in persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith wouldn't stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 WEBUS

- a) No fancy convincing words are necessary to preach to the unbeliever.
 - 1) A straightforward declaration of Christ Crucified (in any simplified rendition) will do; it is the preferred way to introduce Christ.
 - 2) This ensures that any demonstration of faith by the hearer is because of the power of the Spirit and won't be confused with an emotional response to the exciting or convincing words of man.
 - 3) This is the Gospel of Salvation. This gives one the right to become a born-again child of God that we saw earlier in John 1:12-13.

(b) **The Gospel of the Kingdom:** The **DISCIPLE** (Few are chosen!) *"How **narrow is the gate and the way is restricted** that leads to life! There are **few who find it.**"*
Matthew 7:14 WEBUS

1. **"We speak wisdom, however,** among those who are full grown, yet a wisdom not of this world nor of the

rulers of this world who are coming to nothing. But **we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that has been hidden**, which God foreordained before the worlds for **our glory**, which none of the rulers of this world has known. For had they known it, they wouldn't have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, "Things which an eye didn't see, and an ear didn't hear, which didn't enter into the heart of man, these God has prepared for those who love him." But to us, **God revealed them through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.** For who among men knows **the things of a man** except **the spirit of the man** which is in him? Even so, **no one knows the things of God except God's Spirit.** But **we received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God.** We also speak these things, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things. Now **the natural man doesn't receive the things of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to him;** and he can't know them, because **they are**

spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual discerns all things, and he himself is to be judged by no one. “For who has known the mind of the Lord that he should instruct him?” **But we have Christ’s mind.”** 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 WEBUS

- a) The message to those who already believe can be quite exciting!
 - 1) God wants teachers to reveal deep mysteries and hidden wisdom!
 - 2) This is possible because a born-again person is no longer confined to thinking like only a man can think, with all its limitations; he is capable of processing the things of God through the Holy Spirit working in his mind.
 - 3) Conversely, if you try to reveal the same deep things to the unredeemed mind, it will be received as absolute foolishness.
 - 4) God makes this wisdom available to His children, both for our own glory and so we can practice accessing the mind of Christ (thinking like Christ)!
 - 5) This is the Gospel of the Kingdom.

(4) The Disciple

- (a) You are a disciple if you...
1. "Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him, **"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth,** and the truth will make you free."*"* John 8:31-32 WEBUS
 - a) ...stay planted in God's word!
 - 1) ***"Give diligence to present yourself approved by God, a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed, properly handling the Word of Truth."*** 2 Timothy 2:15 WEBUS
 2. "By this everyone will know that **you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**" John 13:35 WEBUS
 - a) ...love one another!
 - 1) ***"If a man says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who doesn't love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"*** 1 John 4:20 WEBUS
 3. "Whoever doesn't bear his own cross and come after me, **can't be my disciple.** {33} So therefore, whoever of you who doesn't renounce all that he has, he **can't be my disciple.**" Luke 14:27, 33 WEBUS

- a) ...take of your cross daily and surrender your whole life to God! (Read Luke 14:25-35)
- 1) *“For I tell you that none of those men who were invited will taste of my supper. For **many are called, but few are chosen.**”* Luke 14:24

WEBUS

- 2) *“Salt is good, but if the salt becomes flat and tasteless, with what do you season it? **It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile.** It is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”* Luke 14:34-35 WEBUS

(b) The **Multilevel** Model of Discipleship

1. “You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**” 2 Timothy 2:1-2 WEBUS

a) Multilevel Discipleship

- 1) A disciple is a person who is being trained in the things of Christ by another godly person.
- 2) He is being trained in such a way that he can take what he is learning and pass it onto others.

- 3) Those receiving the training from the person being disciplined also becomes capable of doing the same and thus the message is perpetrated indefinitely!
2. “You therefore must **endure hardship** as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of life**, that he may **please him who enrolled him** as a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:3-4

WEBUS

a) Attitude and Allegiance

- 1) It won't be easy to live a life as a disciple.
- 2) *“Whoever doesn't bear his own cross and come after me, **can't be my disciple.** {33} ...whoever of you who doesn't renounce all that he has, he **can't be my disciple.**”* Luke 14:27, 33 WEBUS
- 3) *“Whoever **seeks to save his life loses it**, but whoever loses his life preserves it.”* Luke 17:33

WEBUS

- 4) A disciple is like a soldier who is focussed solely on his duties. He does not get enticed or distracted by the things of the world because he is completely committed to his recruiting officer (Christ)!

3. “Also, if anyone competes in athletics, he isn’t crowned unless he has **competed by the rules.**” 2 Timothy 2:5 WEBUS
 - a) A disciple follows the rules of his commanding officer!
 - 1) *“If you love me, **keep my commandments.**”* John 14:15 WEBUS
4. “The farmer who labors must be the first to get a **share of the crops.**” 2 Timothy 2:6 WEBUS
 - a) The needs of the disciple are met by the commanding officer!
 - 1) *“But **seek first God’s Kingdom** and his righteousness; and **all these things will be given to you** as well.”* Matthew 6:33 WEBUS
5. “Consider what I say, and **may the Lord give you understanding** in all things.” 2 Timothy 2:7 WEBUS
 - a) You must understand these things!
 - 1) *“[I, Paul] don’t cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you **a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him**, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may*

know what is the hope of his calling, and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,” Ephesians 1:16-18 WEBUS

(c) The **Imitation** Model of Discipleship

1. “Jesus therefore answered them, “Most certainly, I tell you, **the Son can do nothing of himself**, but what he sees the Father doing. For whatever things he does, these the Son also does likewise.” John 5:19 WEBUS

2. “**I can of myself do nothing**. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is righteous, because **I don’t seek my own will, but the will of my Father who sent me.**”

John 5:30 WEBUS

a) Y’shua imitated His Father!

1) He did not make things up on His own. He watched His Father and duplicated what was in His heart.

2) He sought His Father’s will and gave it precedent over His own.

3. “Jesus therefore answered them, “**My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me**. If anyone desires to do his will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is from God **or if I am speaking from myself**. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but he who

seeks the glory of him who sent him **is true**, and no unrighteousness is in him." John 7:16-18 WEBUS

4. "He who doesn't love me doesn't keep my words. **The word which you hear isn't mine, but the Father's who sent me.**" John 14:24 WEBUS
5. "However, when he, the **Spirit of truth**, has come, he will **guide you into all truth**, for **he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak.** He will declare to you things that are coming." John 16:13 WEBUS
6. "He will glorify me, for **he will take from what is mine and will declare it to you. All things that the Father has are mine; therefore I said that he takes of mine and will declare it to you.**" John 16:14-15
WEBUS
 - a) Whose words (doctrine/teaching/truth) did Y'shua speak?
 - 1) His Father's
 - b) Whose words (doctrine/teaching/truth) did the Holy Spirit speak?
 - 1) Y'shua's
7. "**This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commandments.** One who says, "I know him,"

and doesn't keep his commandments, is a liar, and **the truth isn't in him.** But **God's love has most certainly been perfected in whoever keeps his word.**

This is how we know that we are in him:" 1 John 2:3-5 WEBUS

8. "Owe no one anything, **except to love one another;** for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. {10} Love doesn't harm a neighbor. **Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law."** Romans 13:8, 10 WEBUS
 - a) You can be sure you know the heart of God if...
 - 1) You obey God's word.
 - 2) Love and do not harm others.
9. "he who says he remains in him **ought himself also to walk just like he walked.**" 1 John 2:6 WEBUS
10. "**Be imitators** of me, even as I also am of Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1 WEBUS
11. "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ.**" Galatians 3:27 WEBUS
12. "My little children, of whom I am again in travail **until Christ is formed in you—**" Galatians 4:19 WEBUS
 - a) Imitation is the greatest form of respect, honor and reverence!

- 1) Walk like Christ
- 2) Talk like Christ
- 3) Wear Christ on the outside.
- 4) Be like Christ on the inside!

(d) The **Love & Obedience** Model of Discipleship

1. “**If you love me**, keep my commandments.” John 14:15 WEBUS
2. “One who has my commandments and keeps them, **that person is one who loves me**. One who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will reveal myself to him.” John 14:21 WEBUS
3. “Jesus answered him, “**If a man loves me**, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. **He who doesn’t love me** doesn’t keep my words. The word which you hear isn’t mine, but the Father’s who sent me.” John 14:23-24 WEBUS
4. “If you keep my commandments, you **will remain in my love**, even as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.” John 15:10 WEBUS
5. “This is my commandment, that **you love one another, even as I have loved you**. Greater love has

no one than this, that someone **lay down his life for his friends**. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you." John 15:12-14 WEBUS

6. "If a man says, "**I love God,**" and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who doesn't **love his brother** whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" 1 John 4:20 WEBUS

7. "One who says, "**I know him,**" and **doesn't keep his commandments**, is a liar, and the truth isn't in him." 1 John 2:4 WEBUS

a) If you love God you will obey Him and you will love others!

1) "*By this everyone **will know that you are my disciples**, if you have love for one another.*" John 13:35 WEBUS

(5) Calling and Election

(a) If you do these things...

1. "Therefore, brothers, be more diligent to make your **calling and election sure**. For **if you do these things**, you will never stumble." 2 Peter 1:10 WEBUS

a) **Calling:** Be diligent to walk according to His purpose—**His will!**

1) *“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are **called according to his purpose.**”* Romans 8:28

WEBUS

b) **Election:** Since you’ve been called, then be diligent to be conformed into His image—**a testament!**

1) *“For whom he foreknew, he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Whom he **predestined**, those he also **called**. Whom he **called**, those he also **justified**. Whom he **justified**, those he also **glorified.**”* Romans 8:29-30 WEBUS

(b) His Will and Testament

1. *“Here is the perseverance of the saints, those who **keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**”* Revelation 14:12 WEBUS

a) Calling/Will: Faith of Jesus.

b) Election/Testament: Keep His commandments.

A FISHERMAN AND A SCHOLAR

2. Two Paths One Destination

A. The Destination

(1) Make Disciples

(a) Go baptize and teach!

1. **“Go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you.** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28:19-20 WEBUS

a) Baptize them: Calling/Will: Faith of Jesus.

b) Teach Obedience: Election/Testament: Keep His commandments.

(b) Go duplicate yourself!

1. “The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**” 2

Timothy 2:2 WEBUS

a) How?

B. Overview

(1) Peter’s Discipleship Model

(a) Extracted from 2 Peter

1. **Three Chapters:** 61 Verses; 1516 Words (WEBUS)
 2. **Main Premise:** The path to true discipleship and the roadblocks to getting there!
 3. **The foundation of everything:** The gift of Faith
 4. **The only way to obtain that faith:** The righteousness of Christ!
 5. **What you must do with it:** Add to your faith!
- (b) What must you add to your faith?
1. Virtue
 2. Knowledge
 3. Self Control
 4. Perseverance
 5. Godliness
 6. Brotherly Affection
 7. Love
- (c) What are God's exceedingly great and precious promises if you do?
1. His Grace
 2. His Peace
 3. Access to God's divine power
 4. All things that pertain to life and godliness
 5. Become partakers in His divine nature

6. Escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. (the Gateway Sin) See: [In His Image We Vote](#)
 7. You will be neither barren nor unfruitful (you will be effective and productive) in knowledge of the Lord
 8. Your call and election will be certain
 9. You will never stumble
 10. You will receive a rich entrance into the everlasting kingdom
- (d) What is the one thing that will block you from receiving God's promises and partaking in the divine nature?
1. Forgetting you have already been cleansed from your past sins and going back to them like a dog returns to lick up his own vomit!
- (e) 2 Peter is...
1. A prophetic word confirmed
 2. A warning against bad doctrine, false teachers, and false prophets
 3. A reminder to be steadfast and patient
 4. An affirmation that Paul taught all the same things, albeit in a much more complex and confusing fashion.
 5. The Simple fisherman vs. the Complex Torah scholar!

C. The Fisherman

(1) Author and Audience

(a) Peter and all people of faith...

1. "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have **obtained a like precious faith** with us **in the righteousness of our God** and Savior, Jesus Christ:" 2 Peter 1:1 WEBUS

a) Peter was one of the 12 disciples...

- 1) He was also among the closest three to Jesus, along with James and John.
- 2) His audience is anyone who has come to faith in the same way he has, through the righteousness of Christ. That extends to every believer everywhere at all times.
- 3) Note: that is the only way any man can come to faith!

(2) Why did he write the letter?

(a) To make mature disciples; to help them grow in their faith; to warn them about a number of key issues

1. "Yes, and for this very cause **adding on your part all diligence, in your faith** supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge;" 2 Peter 1:5 WEBUS

2. “Therefore, brothers, **be more diligent to make your calling and election sure.** For if you do these things, you will never stumble.” 2 Peter 1:10 WEBUS
3. “**We have the more sure word of prophecy;** and you do well that you heed it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts,” 2 Peter 1:19 WEBUS

a) Key Reasons:

- 1) To codify in writing a discipleship model to teach Christians how to practice their faith
- 2) To inspire God’s people with a sense of urgency
- 3) To confirm prophecy

(3) Is this new information to His first century readers?

(a) No, it’s a reminder!

1. “Therefore **I will not be negligent to remind you of these things,** though you know them and are established in the present truth. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,” 2 Peter 1:12-13 WEBUS
2. “Yes, I will make every effort that **you may always be able to remember** these things even **after my departure [death].**” 2 Peter 1:15 WEBUS

- a) According to Peter, this is not new information for those to whom he is writing.
 - 1) He is writing this down for posterity, so when he is gone, we would always have this information in which to refer.
 - 2) **Special Emphasis:** Clearly this is what Peter was using to disciple first century believers, and yet for modern Christians this model is almost completely unknown.

(4) From where is Peter writing this letter?

(a) A Prison Cell

1. While the Bible does not explicitly state that Peter wrote 2 Peter from prison, many scholars believe this based on internal evidence within the letter, particularly references to impending death and suffering, which aligns with the traditional understanding of Peter being imprisoned in Rome shortly before his execution, likely during the reign of Nero when Christians faced severe persecution (the same persecution that ended Paul's life).
2. Peter probably wrote this letter from prison in Rome (2 Peter 1:12–15 is often cited as supporting this theory) not too long before his death by execution,

sometime during AD 64–67 (same estimated date of Paul's death).

(5) When did he write the letter?

(a) At the end of his life!

1. “knowing that **the putting off of my tent comes swiftly**, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.” 2 Peter 1:14 WEBUS
2. “Yes, I will make every effort that **you may always be able to remember** these things even **after my departure [death]**.” 2 Peter 1:15 WEBUS
 - a) He's about to die and he knows it! How?
 - 1) Jesus showed him, so he can be really certain!
 3. Critical Personal Questions:
 - a) Who would you write to if you knew you were in the final moments before death?
 - 1) Your loved ones!
 - b) Where would you place the most important information in your letter?
 - 1) You don't know how much time you have left; you might have minutes, or hours, or days, or weeks, etc., but you have no guarantees...

2) Obviously, you would write the most important information as soon as you start writing—at the beginning of the letter.

c) What would you write about?

1) Only those things which are of critical importance.

(6) A Last Will & Testament

(a) Will & Testament

1. A will, also known as a last will and testament, is a legal document that outlines how a person's assets and property (what he is leaving behind for others to steward) should be distributed after their death.

(b) Y'shua's Last Will & Testament

1. **“Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, even so I have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. “Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who will believe in me through their word,”** John 17:17-20

WEBUS

a) What Y'shua leaves for us to steward!

1) He sends us like He was sent.

- 2) He sanctifies us with His word, which is the truth, so others would come to believe.
2. “saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, **not my will, but yours, be done.**”” Luke 22:42 WEBUS
 - a) In the Garden
 - 1) Y’shua demonstrates for us what it looks like to surrender our will to God—so we can do the same.
 3. “Jesus said, “Father, **forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.**” Dividing his garments among them, they cast lots.” Luke 23:34 WEBUS
 - a) On the Cross
 - 1) Y’shua demonstrates for us what it means to forgive unconditionally—so we can do the same.
 4. “**Go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28:19-20 WEBUS
 - a) After the resurrection

- 1) He commissions us to go make other disciples.
5. “But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit** has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.” When he had said these things, as they were looking, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight.” Acts 1:8-9

WEBUS

- a) Immediately before His Ascension

- 1) He tells us that we will be receiving power to witness!

(c) Peter’s Last Will & Testament

1. “Therefore, brothers, **be more diligent to make your calling and election sure.** For if you do these things, you will never stumble.” 2 Peter 1:10 WEBUS
2. “Yes, I will make every effort that **you may always be able to remember** these things even **after my departure [death].**” 2 Peter 1:15 WEBUS

- a) Again, Peter wrote 2 Peter right before his death.

(d) Paul’s Last Will & Testament (2 Timothy)

1. “You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit**

the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:1-2 WEBUS

a) Paul’s final words direct us to make disciples!

(7) What was Peter’s profession?

(a) A Commercial Fishermen

1. “Walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers: Simon, who is called **Peter**, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea; **for they were fishermen.**”

Matthew 4:18 WEBUS

(b) Peter’s New Profession

1. “Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you **fishers of men.**”” Matthew 4:19 NKJV

a) Y’shua calls him to become a disciple...

1) Follow Me!

(c) Peter had a few glitches along the way...

1. **Glitch #1 (Your own mind):** “He said to them, “But **who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ.**” He commanded them that they should tell no one about him. **He began to teach** them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He spoke to them openly. **Peter took him and**

began to rebuke him. But he, turning around and seeing his disciples, rebuked Peter, and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you have in mind not the things of God, but the things of men.” He called the multitude to himself with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wants to come after me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life** for my sake and the sake of the Good News **will save it.**” Mark 8:29-35 WEBUS

- a) Peter tended to be a bit impetuous. (See: [Stay in the Boat](#))
- 1) Of course Peter was a man of faith, but at times he had difficulty accepting teachings that ran contrary to some of his preconceived notions!
 - 2) When you do so, you are worshiping and serving the god of your own making!
- b) It is no coincidence that Y’shua responded to Peter’s reactions with the same words He used for Satan during His temptation in the wilderness!
- 1) *“The devil, leading him up on a high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. The devil said to him, “I will*

*give you all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I want. If you therefore will worship before me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “**Get behind me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall serve him only.’**”” Luke 4:5-8 WEBUS*

2. **Glitch #2 (Three Denials):** “Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of me tonight, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you into Galilee.” **But Peter answered him, “Even if all will be made to stumble because of you, I will never be made to stumble.”** Jesus said to him, “Most certainly I tell you that tonight, **before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.**”” Matthew 26:31-34 WEBUS
3. “Then he began to curse and to swear, “I don’t know the man!” **Immediately the rooster crowed. Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.**” Then he went out and wept bitterly.” Matthew

26:74-75 WEBUS (See Matthew 26:69-75 for the three denials)

- a) Three denials...
 - 1) Requires three restorations!

(d) Peter's Restored Profession

1. "Simon Peter said to them, **"I'm going fishing."** They told him, "We are also coming with you." They immediately went out and entered into the boat. That night, **they caught nothing.**" John 21:3 WEBUS

- a) But first... he tried to go back to his old ways! And obviously he learned his lesson before he would write 1 & 2 Peter

1) *"Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind; for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that you no longer should live the rest of your time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For **we have spent enough of our past time doing the desire of the Gentiles, and having walked in** lewdness, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, carousings, and abominable idolatries."* 1 Peter 4:1-3 WEBUS

2) *“For he who lacks these things is blind, seeing only what is near, **having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins.**”* 2 Peter 1:9 WEBUS

3) *“But it has happened to them according to the true proverb, **“The dog turns to his own vomit again,”** and **“the sow that has washed to wallowing in the mire.”**”* 2 Peter 2:22 WEBUS

2. “So when they had eaten their breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, **“Simon, son of Jonah,** do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you.” He said to him, **“Feed my lambs.”** He said to him again a second time, **“Simon, son of Jonah,** do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you.” He said to him, **“Tend my sheep.”** He said to him the third time, **“Simon, son of Jonah,** do you have affection for me?” Peter was grieved because he asked him the third time, “Do you have affection for me?” He said to him, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I have affection for you.” Jesus said to him, **“Feed my sheep.”** John 21:15-17
WEBUS

a) Making Disciples (Restored three times)

- 1) Feed my lambs (make new baby believers)
- 2) Tend my sheep (grow babies into disciples)
- 3) Feed my Sheep (disciple the disciples)

(e) All this before you die!

1. “Most certainly I tell you, **when you were young**, you dressed yourself and walked where you wanted to. **But when you are old**, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you don’t want to go.” Now **he said this, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God**. When he had said this, he said to him, “**Follow me.**”” John 21:18-19 WEBUS

a) Brings us back to 2 Peter

- 1) “*Therefore, brothers, **be more diligent to make your calling and election sure**. For if you do these things, you will never stumble.*” 2 Peter 1:10 WEBUS

- 2) “*Yes, I will make every effort that **you may always be able to remember** these things even **after my departure [death]**.*” 2 Peter 1:15
WEBUS

(f) Qualities of a Fishermen

1. Not Educated: Peter is a simple fisherman; Paul is trained scholar. With whom would you prefer to begin your training: Peter? Paul?
2. Peter creates the framework; Paul hangs the details. It's like he builds the skeleton and Paul hangs the muscle, tendons, ligaments, organs, and skin.
3. Peter's letter is a step-by-step program for growth—from salvation to the ultimate maturity.
4. Peter organizes his plan just as you'd expect from a man who fished for a living. It's simple, systematic, predictable, measurable, effective, consistent and duplicatable.
5. It won't take a genius to learn, nor teach.
6. A fisherman must be able to work as part of a team, be patient, committed, knowledgeable, and disciplined.
7. He must be dedicated, persistent, strong, and capable of simple communication.
8. He must overcome frustration and be able to persevere until he gets the result he wants.
9. He begins with a strategy to be successful.
10. He appreciates maintenance for his vessel and equipment.

11. He understands the need to cast a net to first catch and then sort his fish!

D. The Scholar

(1) Paul's Last Will & Testament: like Peter in 2 Peter...

(a) Peter connected his Last Will & Testament to Paul!

1. "Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; **even as our beloved brother Paul** also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you, as also **in all of his letters, speaking in them of these things**. In those, there are some things that are **hard to understand**, which the **ignorant and unsettled twist, as they also do to the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.**"

2 Peter 3:15-16 WEBUS

a) In his letters Paul teaches the same topics as Peter.

- 1) But, his way of communication makes it more difficult to understand.
- 2) Ignorant and unstable men then twist and distort his words, as they do the Scriptures.
- 3) That is always very damaging to themselves and to those who trust them.

(b) Paul's last will and testament! (2 Timothy)

1. "You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you

have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**" 2 Timothy 2:1-2 WEBUS

(2) Paul's Last Will & Testament: like Peter in II Peter...

(a) Paul's last will and testament!

1. 2 Timothy was written from prison, right before he was executed, much like Peter wrote his final words from prison shortly before his death.
2. "...**knowing that shortly I must put off my tent**, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover **I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.**" II Peter 1:12-15

- a) Both men knew the end was near.
- b) Both men were martyred for their faith.
- c) Both men penned critical lessons and reminders, what we are called to do; who we are called to be!

(3) Paul's Final Days

(a) Paul wrote 2 Timothy during his second imprisonment in Rome—after imprisonment of Acts 28.

1. Probably written in AD 64–65, as late as 67.

(b) Paul had in his heart to get to Rome! (Romans 1:7-15)

1. Whatever it takes and whenever I'm permitted, I am getting to Rome! See: ([Rome or Bust](#))

(c) Paul headed to Jerusalem (to end his 3rd Missionary Journey)! (Acts 20:22-26)

1. I am going to Jerusalem no matter what.
2. I am not 100% certain what awaits, but I know this... the Holy Spirit says it involves arrests and persecution.
3. None if it phases me! My physical life means nothing!

(d) For sure Jerusalem is not the last stop! (**Acts 23:11**)

1. How does Paul know? More prophecy! **The Lord told him he would testify in Rome just like Jerusalem.**

(e) Paul was arrested in Jerusalem as prophesied, but it does not end there!

1. Appeals case to Caesar. He will get to Rome by any means possible, so off to Rome he is sent. (Acts 25:10-11)
2. He might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar. (Acts 26:32)

(f) Paul arrives in Rome (Acts 28:16)

1. Paul is placed under house arrest—certainly better than a prison cell!

(g) Paul finally gets to testify in Rome! (Acts 28:17-20)

1. God used all the persecution and suffering to fulfill Paul's desire and great purpose!
- (h) The Jews in Rome want to hear what Paul has to say...
(Acts 28:21-24)
1. Paul preaches about the kingdom and convinces many that Y'shua is the Messiah, using the Law and Prophets.
- (i) Two years under house arrest...(Acts 28:30-31)
1. Winter AD 58, sets sail for Rome, arrives in the Spring of AD 58 after his third missionary journey.
 2. Remained in custody for 2 years (Acts 28:30), brings us up to AD 60—end of Acts.
 3. After the Roman Imprisonment—freed as he predicted in his letter to the Philippians (written during his first Roman imprisonment).
 4. Paul affirms going to Rome as a prisoner worked out for the best! (All things work for good, Romans 8:28.)
Willing to do whatever it takes to get to Rome.
- a) *“But I want you to know, brethren, that the **things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel**, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, **that my chains are in Christ**; and most*

of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.” Philippians 1:12-14

5. And we see a hint that he knows that this particular time in chains **will not lead to his final demise.**
 - a) *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. **And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,** that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.” Philippians 1:21-26 NKJV*
6. References to being freed are in {historical documents} — probable that he visited Spain—likely when he wrote of 1 Timothy and Titus.
7. He then returned to Rome, where he was martyred **between AD 64-67**, in connection with the persecution of Nero: *“...**the time of my departure is at hand.**”* II Timothy 4:6

8. Paul's body was buried in Rome two miles from the place of his execution.

(4) Paul's Final Words (Words to live by!)

- (a) Make Disciples! (**II Timothy 2:1-7**)
 1. "You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.** You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 2:1-3 WEBUS
 2. Never forget that your strength comes from God's supernatural power (grace)!
 - a) Teach what you have learned to others.
 - b) Be sure that you teach in such a way that they also can teach others what you are teaching them.
 - c) Those whom they teach can do the same.
 - d) This is how disciples are made.**
- (5) Assignment: Read 2 Peter
 - (a) Three time per day for the next seven days.
 - (b) Separate the readings: Morning, Afternoon, Evening
 - (c) Read aloud, so you are slowed down and less distracted.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Describe the maturation process for a Christian.**
 - A. How does growth as a Christian mirror human physical and emotional development?
- 2. What is the mechanism by which one becomes a Christian?**
Then, discuss the relationship between the following:
 - A. Grace and faith
 - B. Belief and confession
 - C. The gift of faith and the practice of faith
- 3. What are the distinctions between the Gospel of Salvation and the Gospel of the Kingdom?**
 - A. Use 1 Corinthians 2 to elaborate your answer.
- 4. What distinguishes and convert to Christianity from a disciple?**
 - A. Describe the **Multilevel** Model of Discipleship.
 - B. Describe the **Imitation** Model of Discipleship
 - C. Describe the **Love & Obedience** Model of Discipleship
- 5. Use the sermon notes to craft a short essay describing Peter's Discipleship Model. Include the following:**
 - A. What is the foundation of everything?
 - B. What must be added to your faith?

- C. What are God's exceedingly great and precious promises if you do?
- D. What is the one thing that will block you from receiving God's promises?

6. In a separate essay contemplate the following about 2 Peter:

- A. Who is the author and audience?
- B. Why did he write the letter?
- C. Is this new information or repeat information?
- D. From where is Peter writing this letter?
- E. When did he write the letter?
- F. Why might 2 Peter be considered Peter's last will and testament?
- G. What is Paul's equivalent letter and why?

7. What was Peter's original profession?

- A. Describe the many qualities of that profession that would make Peter a good disciple and good at discipling.
- B. Contrast those to Paul's original profession.

8. According to the sermon notes, describe a few glitches Peter had along his discipleship journey.

- A. How does it relate to his profession and his restoration we see in John 21?

9. Preparation Assignment: Read 2 Peter

- A. Three time per day for the next seven days.

- B. Separate the readings: Morning, Afternoon, Evening
- C. Read aloud, so you are slowed down and less distracted.