

Sermon Notes for Unshakable: Our Unshakable Faith (2 Peter 1:1-2)

- How unshakable is your faith? Peter writes some believers who were being rattled by false teachers and he wants to make sure their faith is on a firm foundation and continuing to grow.
 - In the opening two verses, we learn four truths about this faith-building, faith-stabilizing book.
1. **Notice the faith-driven author** (1:1a: “*Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ*”)
 - There have been lots of discussion and debate about whether this letter was written by Peter and should be included in the canon (due to concerns from the slowness to accept by the early church, its primary audience being Gentile when Peter is the apostle to the Jews, its reliance upon Jude or vis-versa when Peter’s an apostle, thematic and stylistic differences and other issues)
 - What settles is the first two words of the letter in 1:1 (“*Simon Peter*”) and notice how he presents himself:
 - a. Peter was driven by being a **slave** (“*bond-servant*”). A *doulos* was the word for a voluntary or involuntary slave.
 - It’s not an expression of humility or servant leadership.
 - It’s an expression of someone who knows they are totally owned by and devoted to the ultimate Master Jesus Christ.
 - b. Peter was driven by being a **sent-one** (“*apostle*”). An apostle is one who has been sent on a mission and when it comes from Jesus Christ, this is a special mission.
 2. **Notice the faith-receptive audience** (1:1b: “*to those who have received...*”)
 - **Who** are the “*those*”?
 - **v. 1** identifies them as believers
 - **3:1** identifies a previous letter which most likely is 1 Peter and therefore points to believers from Asia Minor (1 Pet 1:1)
 - A big clue seems to point to the way Peter addresses his audience (in 1 Peter, he encourages believers in the midst of external opposition and in 2 Peter he warns and prepares believers who are facing internal opposition from false teachers)
 - **The audience** is said to have “*received a faith*”. The word “*received*” means to obtain an allotted portion. Faith is a God-given gift and not due to human effort or merit.

3. **Notice the faith-sharing association** (1:1c: “a faith of the same kind as ours...”)

- Our “*faith*” is equally **valuable**. It’s “*of the same kind*” (NASB) or “*as precious*” (NIV), but the ESV brings out the clearest meaning (“*of equal standing*”). It’s unlike the false teachers who’s faith is dishonorable and not genuine.
- Our “*faith*” is equally **valid** because “*the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ*”.
 - Peter says the false teachers do not “*know the way of righteousness*” (2:21) and won’t inherit the coming world where “*righteousness dwells*” (3:13)
 - The act of giving this faith of equal honor was an act of divine justice (“*righteousness*”) as God (Jesus Christ) was just in granting this faith because He earned it (perfect obedience) and paid for it (died in our place).

4. **Notice the faith-growing address** (1:2)

- Peter offers a typical and traditional greeting (a prayer-wish) of “*grace and peace*”
 - a. The **Greek** greeting of “**grace**” highlights God’s free and undeserved favor which is His prerogative through the saving work (saving us) and empowering work (enabling us to do His will) of Christ.
 - b. The **Hebrew** greeting of “**peace**” highlights the wish of prosperity and well-being like the shalom of the Old Testament.
- Peter wants this blessing “*multiplied...in the knowledge of our God and of Jesus our Lord*”. The word “*knowledge*” and its various forms is used 11x (1:2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 20; 2:20, 21; 3:3, 18)
 - The greatest knowledge is knowing Jesus Christ
 - The word highlights a coming to know someone in conversion
 - The word also highlights the experience of fellowship that motivates an ethical committed living.
- This is what Peter addresses in this knowing, growing book on unshakable faith.
 1. **Chapter 1** teaches us **HOW** to make progress in your unshakable faith (look inside to see the development of your faith)
 2. **Chapter 2** teaches us **WHO** the predators are who want to undermine our unshakable faith (look around for the deceivers)
 3. **Chapter 3** teaches us **WHAT** God is planning in the future will protect our unshakable faith (look ahead at the Day of the Lord)