

2 PETER CHAPTER 2 – Destructive Doctrines; Doom of False Teachers; Depravity of False Teachers; Deceptions of False Teachers

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

OUTLINE OF THE EPISTLE OF 2 PETER

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- II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (1:3–21)
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- V. CONCLUSION (3:17–18)

Barbieri, Louis A.. First & Second Peter- Everyman's Bible Commentary

THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION – S. J. Stone/Joslin

*The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*

*Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

*Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore,
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.*

Introduction to Second Peter

It is thought that Nero began a brutal persecution of Christians in October of AD 64 (about 30 years after the Jesus’ crucifixion/resurrection) and that this persecution swept through the Roman Empire persecuting Christians and their churches. First Peter was written to encourage these Christians under persecution and was given **to help them maintain a Godly perspective even in the face of severe persecution.**

First Peter deals with problems from the outside. Second Peter was written about a year later, probably in AD 66–67 along the same lines as First Peter, but **deals with problems from the inside..**

Three addition things were coming into the church that he addresses in Second Peter, which were a rise in apostasy and false teaching in the church. Also the fact that Peter knew his time on earth was drawing short. Jesus had told him that he would be faithful to the end and that others would take him where he didn’t want to go. – to be martyred. There is an urgency now to the closeness of eternity.

Peter is rather unique in understanding trials, failures and restoration in that he had failed in a number of occasions but is now finishing strong; – the three tabernacles at the Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9:1–7); refusing to eat with the Gentiles (Gal. 2:11–14); Three time denying our Lord (Mk. 14:27–31) and Jesus’ restoration (John 21:1–19) **2 Peter 1:1** (As we read the Gospel accounts, we see Peter talking when he should have been listening (Matthew 16:21, 22), sleeping when he should have been praying (Mark 14:37), stepping out when he should have held back (John 18:10), and holding back when he should have stepped out (John 13:8).

But **Peter finished well** in his faith after many failures!

Nero Persecutes The Christians, 64 A.D.

A generation after the death of Christ, Christianity had reached Rome in the form of an obscure offshoot of Judaism popular among the city’s poor and destitute. Members of this religious sect spoke of the coming of a new kingdom and a new king. These views provoked suspicion among the Jewish authorities who rejected the group and fear among the Roman authorities who perceived these sentiments as a threat to the Empire.

In the summer of 64, Rome suffered a terrible fire that burned for six days and seven nights consuming almost three quarters of the city. The people accused the Emperor Nero for the devastation claiming he set the fire for his own amusement. In order to deflect these accusations and placate the people, Nero laid blame for the fire on the Christians. The emperor ordered the arrest of a few members of the sect who, under torture, accused others until the entire Christian populace was implicated and became fair game for retribution. As many of the religious sect that could be found were rounded up and put to death in the most horrific manner for the amusement of the citizens of Rome. The ghastly way in which the victims were put to death aroused sympathy among many Romans, although most felt their execution justified.

Beginnings of Christian Martyrdom:

The following account was written by the Roman historian Tacitus in his book Annals published a few years after the event. Tacitus was a young boy living in Rome during the time of the persecutions.

“Therefore, to stop the rumor [that he had set Rome on fire], he [Emperor Nero] falsely charged with guilt, and punished with the most fearful tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were [generally] hated for their enormities.

Christus, the founder of that name, was put to death as a criminal by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea, in the reign of Tiberius, but the pernicious superstition - repressed for a time, broke out yet again, not only through Judea, - where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also, whither all things horrible and disgraceful flow from all quarters, as to a common receptacle, and where they are encouraged.

Accordingly first those were arrested who confessed they were Christians; next on their information, a vast multitude were convicted, not so much on the charge of burning the city, as of “hating the human race.”

In their very deaths they were made the subjects of sport: for they were covered with the hides of wild beasts, and worried to death by dogs, or nailed to crosses, or set fire to, and when the day waned, burned to serve for the evening lights.

2 PETER CHAPTER 2 – Destructive Doctrines; Doom of False Teachers; Depravity of False Teachers; Deceptions of False Teachers

OBSERVATION

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

2 PETER CHAPTER 2 – Destructive Doctrines;

False Prophets and Teachers

2Pe 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

2Pe 2:3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive (plastos; plastic, shapeable) words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

Doom of False Teachers: Peter proves that judgment finally does come, no matter how secure the sinner might feel. He used three vivid examples to verify this truth (fallen angels, the Flood, Sodom & Gomorrah)

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartaroō - the deepest abyss of Hades; to incarcerate in eternal torment), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

2Pe 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

2Pe 2:8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—

v. 1 In Chapter one - the light of Jesus Christ draws men away from the world and toward God. Here, another force, that pushes people toward the world, away from the Word of God. Here we are told of false prophets and false teachers, bringing in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord, which goes on today as it did in that day. We see here “if the devil can’t beat us, he’ll join us” and secretly infiltrates into the church. (2 Co 11:13-15). False teachers, prevalent today, are better known for what they deny than what they affirm.

v. 2 Destructive or shameful, immoral, “licentious conduct.” Jude accused the false teachers of “turning the grace of God into lasciviousness” (Jud 1:4). They deny the truths of the Christian faith: because they want to satisfy their own lusts. They are popular because they don’t condemn sin.

v. 3 Satan is a liar and his ministers are liars. They use the Bible, not to enlighten, but to deceive. (Gen 3:1-6). These apostate teachers are not innocently ignorant of the Word. They know the truth but they deliberately reject it. They’re interested in one thing: making money of people and using their religion as “a cloak of covetousness” (1Th 2:5). It has often been said that immorality, love of money, and pride have been the ruin of many people. False teachers were guilty of all three!

v. 4 God judges rebellion and will not spare those who reject His will. If God judged the angels, who in many respects are higher than men, then certainly He will judge rebellious men.

v. 5 God waited 120 years before He sent the Flood. All during that time, Noah (preacher of righteousness) ministered, but nobody believed Noah’s message! Jesus made it clear that people were enjoying their normal lives up to the very day that Noah and his family entered the ark! (Luk 17:26-27) When you compare our world with Noah’s world, you see some frightening parallels. The population was multiplying; the world was filled with wickedness and violence.

v. 6 The record is given in Genesis 18-19, and God’s opinion of the people of these cities is found in Gen. 13:13 “*But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.*”

Peter said they were “ungodly,” and Jude said they were given to “fornication and going after strange flesh” (Jude 1:7). The men of Sodom practiced filthy behavior and unlawful deeds. vs. 7-8 Their filthy deeds were “unlawful” in that they were contrary to nature. The flagrant sin of Sodom and the other cities was unnatural sex, sodomy, or homosexual behavior, a sin that is clearly condemned in Scripture (Lev 18:22; Rom 1:24-27; 1Co 6:9).

v. 1 Our best defense against false prophets/teachers is prayerful watchfulness against any teaching that minimizes Jesus Christ. Satan will always try to come against every work. False prophets/teachers secretly show up and start their undermining of the truth of the Word. Watch and pray against wolves in sheep’s clothing, denying the Lord! False teachers are better known for what they deny than what they affirm. Mat 7:13 “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.*”

v. 2 Although false teachers speak popular things and many will follow, we must be sure to test their teaching by the Spirit, pray for them to repent and be sure not to follow them! 1 John 4:1

v. 3 How we need to be alert and refuse to support false ministries, who are motivated by making money, that exploit people and deny the Savior.

v. 4 We need to be aware of God’s previous judgements. In the next three verses, we have three examples of God’s judgment. We need to be sure in our understanding that God will judge sin and His judgement is coming on a Christ rejecting world. Rev. 9:1-11

v. 5 We need to understand the similarities of our world today to the world conditions at the time of Noah to that today. How accepting are you of present ungodly conditions that are thought to be “correct” today.

v. 6 One of the most vivid example of wickedness being accepted today is that of widespread sexually immorality and unnatural sexual practices. How do you and your children feel about what the Bible calls perverse sexual practices, same sex marriages? Even nature says it’s wrong – it doesn’t fit.

v. 7 Can you clearly see the parallel between delivering (out of, but now away from trials) righteous Lot, from the wicked, and that of the church, prior to the occurring of God’s judgement?

v. 8 How vexed are you with the current wickedness of the world? Is your soul being tormented?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

2Pe 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

2Pe 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

2Pe 2:11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

Depravity of False Teachers:

2Pe 2:12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,

2Pe 2:13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,

2Pe 2:14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing (entrap, catch with bait) unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.

2Pe 2:15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

2Pe 2:16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

v. 9 God has reserved the unjust for special punishment on that day of judgment. The false teachers may seem successful (for “many” follow them), but in the end, they will be condemned. Their judgment is being prepared now (“*does not slumbers*” 2Pet 2:3), and what is prepared will be reserved and applied on the last day.

v. 10 The reason for their reviling - flesh. The depraved nature of man does not want to submit to any kind of authority. “Do your own thing!” is its insistent message, and many people follow it. Man’s fallen nature encourages pride. When the ego is at stake, these apostates will stop at nothing in order to promote and protect themselves. In their arrogance, “they are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries. These apostates revile even the angels! And they do not even tremble when they do it! They are so secure in their pride, that they even dare God to judge them.

v. 11 The seriousness of their reviling - The angels are reviled by the apostates, but the apostates are not reviled by the angels! Even the angels, though greater in strength and power, will not intrude into a sphere that is not their own. The angels remember the rebellion of Lucifer and know how serious it is to revolt against God’s authority. If God judged the rebellious angels, how much more will He judge rebellious men!

v. 12 The judgment of their reviling -*brute beasts* - whose only destiny is to be slaughtered! At the end of this chapter, they are pictured as pigs and dogs! Animals have life, but they live purely by instinct. They lack the finer sensibilities that humans possess. Jesus warned us not to waste precious things on unappreciative brute beasts (Mat 7:6).

v. 13 The words translated “*carouse, carousing*” carry the meaning of “sensual reveling.” They also contain the idea of luxury, softness, and extravagance. At the expense of those who support them (2Pe 2:3), the apostates enjoy luxurious living. Not only do they deceive others, but they even deceive themselves! They can “prove” from the Bible that their lifestyle is right.

v. 14 Here it is clear that the apostates attend these church meetings for two reasons: first, to satisfy their own lusts; second, to capture converts for their cause. As “*accursed children*” they will be banished from the presence of the Lord forever.

vs. 15-16 Peter had already used Noah and Lot to illustrate his words, and here he used the Prophet Balaam. The story of Balaam is found in Numbers 22-25. Balaam is a mysterious character, a Gentile prophet who tried to curse the Jews. Greed-love of riches! And so he is used here as an example of these false teachers because it was for the money, for the greed, the desire for the rewards that had been offered which he could not get legitimately through a legitimate prophecy.

v. 9 Note the double action described here: The Lord knows how to deliver the righteous and how to judge the wicked. How vast is the resulting difference?

v. 10 What will be the ultimate disposition of those who insist on continuing to walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority?

v. 11 Notice the difference between those despising authority, being self-willed, presumptuous, not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries and that of anger, who are greater in power and might?

v. 12 Peter refers to these false teachers as natural, irrational, animals, who live purely by instinct, lacking the finer sensibilities that humans have. We need to concentrate on the still, small, voice of the Lord and not on the “big mouths” of any false teachers.

vs. 13-14 Apostates enjoy luxurious living at the expense of those who support them. Not only do they deceive others, but they even deceive themselves, “proving” from the Bible that their lifestyle is right. These apostates attend these church meetings for two reasons: first, to satisfy their own lusts; second, to capture converts for their cause. We need to be watchful not to fall for any apostates.

vs. 15-16

Balaam knew it was wrong to cooperate with Balak, but his heart was covetous and he wanted the money and honor that Balak promised him. Balaam knew the truth of God and the will of God, yet he deliberately abandoned the right way and went astray. He is a perfect illustration of the apostates in their covetous practices. How often has that happened to us?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

2Pe 2:17 *These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*

Deceptions of False Teachers

2Pe 2:18 *For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure (entrap, catch with bait) through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.*

2Pe 2:19 *While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.*

2Pe 2:20 *For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.*

2Pe 2:21 *For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.*

2Pe 2:22 *But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A DOG RETURNS TO HIS OWN VOMIT," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."*

v. 17 wells or springs *without water* are not springs at all! A well is still called a well even if the water is gone, but a spring ceases to exist if the water is not flowing. “*Clouds carried by a tempest*”- clouds of fog or mist being driven by a squall over a lake or sea. They ought to announce the possibility of rain, but these clouds only announce that a windstorm is coming. “*blackness of darkness*” These apostates promise to lead people into the light, but they themselves end up in the darkest part of the darkness! (*Jude 1:6, 13*)

v. 18 First, the teachers are eloquent promoters of their doctrines. They know how to impress people with their vocabulary, “inflated words that say nothing” (literal translation). The second reason the apostates are so successful is that they appeal to the base appetites of the old nature. This is part of their bait! The third reason they are successful is that they appeal to immature people, people who have “very recently escaped” from their old ways. The apostate has no message for the down-and-out sinner, but he does have a message for the new believer.

vs. 19-20 You cannot set someone free if you are in bondage yourself, and these false teachers were in bondage. Peter made it clear that these men had temporarily disentangled themselves from the pollutions of the world, but then they went right back into bondage again! They professed to be saved but had never really been redeemed (set free) at all! It is interesting to compare the three men Peter named in this chapter — Noah, Lot, and Balaam. Noah kept himself completely separated from the apostasy of the world of his day. He boldly preached God’s righteousness and was faithful in his walk and witness, even though no one but his family followed the Lord. Lot knew the truth and kept himself pure, but he did not keep himself separated; he lost his family as a result. Lot hated the wickedness of Sodom, yet he lived in the midst of it and, by doing so, exposed his daughters and wife to godless influences.

Balaam not only followed the ways of sin, but he encouraged other people to sin! He told Balak how to seduce the nation Israel and his plan almost succeeded. Lot lost his family, but Balaam lost his life. **v. 21-22** Peter called these apostates “*natural brute beasts*” v.12, and then ended the warning by describing them as pigs and dogs! But he was not simply showing his personal disdain for them; rather, he was teaching a basic spiritual lesson. It is very important that we understand that the pronoun *they* in this entire paragraph (2Pe_2:17-22) refers to the false teachers and not to their converts. It is also important that we remember that these teachers are not truly born-again people. Jude described these same people in his letter and stated clearly that they were “sensual, having not the Spirit” (Jud_1:19). It is not profession of spirituality that marks a true believer but possession of the Spirit of God within (Rom_8:9).

v. 17 These ungodly false teachers are empty - useless as wells without water - and like clouds that bring only darkness, and no nourishing rain. We must insure that our lives are not empty and fruitless because of following false teachers.

vs.18-19 The apostates, who make great promises of freedom to those who are already entrapped in sin) appear to have successful ministries, but in the end, they are bound to fail. The important thing is that you and I have the assurance of a true experience with the Lord, and that we have nothing to do with these counterfeit ministries, no matter how popular they may be. **1Co 2:1-5** *And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. [2] For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. [3] I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. [4] And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, [5] that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

v. 20 Christ is “the truth” (Joh_14:6) and following Him leads to freedom. The apostates are liars and following them leads to bondage. There can be no middle ground! If after escaping the pollutions of the world through Christ, they come again and entangles and are overcome, the latter is worse than the beginning. (*Mt. 12:45*)

v. 21 If after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it to turn from the holy commandment delivered

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Some of the Bible Accounts of False Prophets/Teachers:

2 Co 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. [14] And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. [15] Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Jer 14:13-18 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.' "[14] And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart. [15] Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who prophesy in My name, whom I did not send, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not be in this land'—'By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed! [16] And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; they will have no one to bury them—them nor their wives, their sons nor their daughters—for I will pour their wickedness on them.' [17] "Therefore you shall say this word to them: 'Let my eyes flow with tears night and day, And let them not cease; For the virgin daughter of my people Has been broken with a mighty stroke, with a very severe blow. [18] If I go out to the field, Then behold, those slain with the sword! And if I enter the city, Then behold, those sick from famine! Yes, both prophet and priest go about in a land they do not know.' "

Jer 23:25 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' [26] How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, [27] who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. [28] "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD. [29] "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? [30] "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor. [31] Behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.' [32] Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the LORD, "and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the LORD. [33] "So when these people or the prophet or the priest ask you, saying, 'What is the oracle of the LORD?' you shall then say to them, 'What oracle?' I will even forsake you," says the LORD. [34] "And as for the prophet and the priest and the people who say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' I will even punish that man and his house. [35] Thus every one of you shall say to his neighbor, and every one to his brother, 'What has the LORD answered?' and, 'What has the LORD spoken?' [36] And the oracle of the LORD you shall mention no more. For every man's word will be his oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God. [37] Thus you shall say to the prophet, 'What has the LORD answered you?' and, 'What has the LORD spoken?' [38] But since you say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' therefore thus says the LORD: 'Because you say this word, "The oracle of the LORD!" and I have sent to you, saying, "Do not say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' " [39] therefore behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you and forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and will cast you out of My presence. [40] And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.' "

Granville Sharp's rule (Greek-Original Text)

Granville Sharp's Rule is a grammatical principle applied to the translation of New Testament Greek whereby the deity of Christ is explicitly affirmed. This is specifically associated with the translation of Titus 2:13 and **2 Peter 1:1**.

Statement of the rule

"The following rule by Granville Sharp of a century back still proves to be true: 'When the copulative **KAI** connects **two nouns of the same case, if the article HO or any of its cases precedes the first of the said nouns or participles, and is not repeated before the second noun or participle, the latter always relates to the same person that is expressed or described by the first noun or participle**; i.e., it denotes a further description of the first-named person.'" (A *Manual Of The Greek New Testament*, Dana & Mantey, p. 147)

"Basically, Granville Sharp's rule states that when you have two nouns, which are not proper names (such as Cephas, or Paul, or Timothy), which are describing a person, and **the two nouns are connected by the word 'and,' and the first noun has the article ('the') while the second does not, both nouns are referring to the same person.**" - James White

The basic formula (in the Greek word order) may be seen in this manner: Article (*ho*) + noun1 + and (*kai*) + noun2
The bulk of Sharp's *Remarks* was a discussion of eight Christologically significant texts (Acts 20:28; Eph 5:5; 2 Thess 1:12; 1 Tim 5:21; 2 Tim 4:1; Titus 2:13; **2 Pet 1:1**; Jude 4), encompassing more than two-thirds of the body of the work.