

A DEEPER DIVE

2 Peter 2
September 7, 2025

Micah 6:8—He has shown you, oh mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. — NIV.

Monday: Reading – 2 Peter chapter 2:4-16.

Consider this – 2 Peter 2:13-17

Peter continues his discussion about false teachers, their harm, their danger, and their judgement. Since this whole section is a continuous series of connected or related ideas, it's important to reread it all together. As you do so, read it in a few different versions. The NIV makes a sentence and paragraph break between verses 12 and 13; whereas, the NKJV inserts the word “and” at the beginning of verse 13 and continues the ideas in the same long sentence. Since punctuation as we know it wasn't used in the early manuscripts, it's up to the modern-day editors and translators to decide where and when punctuation fits best. Which version do you think expresses Peter's thoughts better?

Prayer Focus – Spend today in personal prayer. What are you in need of? What is weighing on your heart? Health concerns? Financial issues? Dealing with sin? Are there family members and friends who are lost? Pray for them by name and ask the Lord to give you more opportunities to act in love and speak with grace to them. Lay everything you are dealing with before the Lord. Put 1 Peter 5:7 into purposeful practice.

Tuesday: Reading – 2 Peter chapter 2; Numbers 22-24; 31

Consider this – 2 Peter 2:13-14

The captivating thing in these verses is that these people are pursuing their sinful ends while they “feast with you” (NIV). These false teachers will be right in our midst. And their acts of sin won't be hard to see, for they “carouse in daylight” (NIV). They aren't hiding their behavior, they feel no shame because of it. Because of who they are, or what they say, they are able to, verse 14, “seduce the unstable” (NIV). Devote yourself to your reading and studying of God's Word so when these people show up, you will be able to see them for who they really are.

Prayer Focus – Keep it local. Spend today in local prayer. Remember the prayer requests and needs from Sunday (refer to your prayer list if you keep one on Sundays). Lift up the fellowship. Pray for your pastors and elders. Pray for the workers at the church and the ministries. Pray for financial blessing so that the reach of the church can increase. Remind the Lord about what you prayed for yesterday.

Wednesday: Reading – 2 Peter chapter 2

Consider this – 2 Peter 2:13-15

Peter says that these false teachers “follow the way of Balaam” (NIV). Read the passages in Numbers—listed above—to reacquaint yourself with who Balaam was and what he did.

Prayer Focus – Pray for our nation. Pray for our leaders. Pray for the victims and survivors of the fires, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters. Pray that in each community the churches can come together to show the grace

and love of God through helping the recovery. Remember to pray for your personal needs, and the local needs.

Thursday: Reading – 2 Peter chapter 2

Consider this – 2 Peter 2: 16

So Balaam was admonished by a donkey. This is one of the stranger episodes in the Old Testament, and also one of the more humorous ones. Read this section, Numbers 22: 21-31. Pray that the Lord does not need to admonish you with a talking donkey, or other beast, because of your hardheadedness, or hardened heart.

Prayer Focus—Spend today in prayer for the world. Pray for those in war zones like Ukraine and Russia, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and any other place you know of. Continue to pray for the victims of the tragedy of the Texas floods. It's fire season, pray for the fire fighters and those impacted by fires. Pray for our missionary partners. Pray for those in disaster areas. Pray for a united, active, and gospel preaching church all around the world. Remember to pray for your personal needs, the local needs, and our country.

Friday: Reading – 2 Peter chapter 2; Matthew 7; 1 Kings 22

Consider this – 2 Peter 2:4-16

This section in 2 Peter should remind you of what Jesus says in Matthew 7:15-23.

Compare what Jesus says about false teachers and what Peter says about them. To see an example of true and false prophets, and what it takes to stay loyal to the word of God, read the story of Micaiah in 1 Kings: 22.

As you read his story, pray that the Lord will give you the strength and discernment to be true to what His Word says, and not simply go with the popular opinions that swirl around us today—no matter the consequences.

Prayer Focus – Spend today praying for the soon return of Christ. Pray that while Christ's coming is still in the future, God will use you to expand His kingdom. Lift up all of the needs from the week and pray for wisdom and readiness.

Saturday: Reading – 2 Peter chapter 2

Consider this – 2 Peter 2: 4-17

Going back to Matthew 7:15-23 consider what Jesus tells us about false teachers.

First, he says to “watch out” for them. Second, he says they are “wolves in sheep's clothing.” Third, he says we will know them by their fruit. Review the beginning of 2 Peter to remember what Peter says about false teachers. But there's a twist! In Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus says that there will be many who have done many miraculous acts in Jesus' name. It is interesting that Jesus does not contradict them when they boast about their acts, he simply says, “I never knew you” (NIV). So, these people will apparently be producing good fruit by healings, prophecies, and driving out demons. Seek the Lord, and ask him how we are supposed to tell if people doing these acts are true or false. Also pray that the Lord will say he knows you when you see him face-to-face.

Prayer Focus – Spend today praying for your Pastors and the people who are making things happen on Sunday. Include the teachers, the behind-the-scenes workers, the worship team, the regular attendees, and that there will be new people who come to the service and maybe meet Jesus for the first time.

Sunday: Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.