

*Because of its references to letters of Paul (3.15) among other things, even in the early Christian era this text was not regarded as the actual writing of Peter, but of one writing in the spirit of apostolic teaching (2.16) and, specifically, of Peter, an eyewitness (2.17-18). To write under the name of an apostle ("pseudonymous authorship") was a widely accepted literary convention in ancient times and was not at all regarded as deceptive. It was seen as a way of preserving true teachings and reminding the Church that true doctrine was imparted by God to the apostles.*

*This text has two chief aims: to warn against false and manipulative teachers who are confusing believers and contaminating Christian Truth, and to refresh Christians' sensitivity to the promised and certain Return of Christ at the Last Day.*

1.1: Note comparison of "faith of the apostles" with that of "believers standing in apostolic faith."  
*Is there any other kind of true faith?*

1.3-4: "All things that pertain to life and godliness" provide us with certain unique resources.  
*What do these deliver us from? What do these make it possible for us to experience?*

1.5: *Do we make it our aim to follow this directive? Why or why not?*

1.19: *What "(dawning) day" is referred to here?*

1.20: *What does this teach us about faith and spirituality as we exist in this highly individualistic society?*

2.2: *What is 'licentiousness'? How does this relate to 1.16 and 1.20?*

2.4-7 refers to several past judgments (angels; Noah's peers; Sodom and Gomorrah).  
*What messages are conveyed here to those who are stumbling? To those offended by licentiousness and distorted teachings?*

2.14 refers to "unsteady souls." *Who are the "unsteady souls" and what is the danger?  
Does the writer provide any indication about what should be done re the situation?*

2.19: *How is this reflected in our own time? What is the fitting Christian response to the situation? Have we been willing to so respond, or have we been complicit? What kind of life will be experienced by those enticed (2.20)?*

3.2: "predictions . . ." *Predictions of what? Why should these be remembered (hint: 3.3)?*

3.8: A widely-cited verse. Contrast with the earlier form (Ps 90.4)

3.9: *Why is God delaying the End?*

3.10: *What are features/attributes of the Last Day? Do these confirm the need to remind ourselves that it will come?*

3.15: *How does this verse encourage us when we grow impatient while longing for deliverance? How can the advice of 3.11-14, if followed, foster a sense of "salvation?"*