



Study for the Disciple Peter (1933)
Henry O. Tanner

There are two literary genres to which 2 Peter belongs: the letter and the testament. Peter uses these writing techniques in order to assure that his teachings continue well after his death (1:14-15).

VOCABULARY (Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms by Donald McKim).

- **Apologetics** (Gr. *Apologetikos*, “suitable for defense”): The endeavor to provide a reasoned account of the grounds for believing in the Christian faith.
- **Polemic** (Gr. *Polemikos*, from *polemos*, “a war”) Confrontational argument challenging a particular position.



Crucifixion of St. Peter (1660)
Luca Giordano

I. LETTER BEGINNING

1. *Sender (from whom)*

- Simeon Peter, a servant & apostle of Jesus Christ (1a)

2. *Recipient (to whom)*

- To those who received faith through our God and Savior, Jesus Christ (1:1b).

3. *Formulaic Greeting*

- Grace and peace in knowledge of God Jesus, our Lord (1:2)

4. *Thanksgiving/ Blessing (N/A)*

II. LETTER BODY

1. *Initial Exhortation*

- Peter's "testament" *Thesis Statement* (1:3-15)

2. *Thesis Statement*

- Christian teaching comes through eyewitnesses and the Holy Spirit (1:16-21).

3. *Theological Discussions*

- Punishment for false teachers (2:1-22)
- Promise & delay of the Lord's coming (3:3-18a)

4. *Ethical Admonitions*

- Found throughout (2:10-22 in particular)

III. LETTER CONCLUSION

1. *Practical Matters*

- Proper understanding of *Paul's* letters (3:15-16)

2. *Individual Greetings (N/A)*

3. *Personal Postscript*

This is my second letter... to remind you... (3:1-2)

4. *Prayer or Doxology*

- To Lord/ Savior Jesus Christ be glory now & eternally (3:18b)