

Studies in 2 Peter (16)

Growing in Grace & Knowledge

2 Peter 3:14-18

2 Peter - Previously

- Tonight, we conclude our study of **2 Peter 2**. In our last lesson (**3:10-13**), we addressed the day of the Lord coming as a thief in the night and our need to be ready.
- In 2 Peter, we have addressed the need to work to be grounded in truth so that we are not deceived by false teachers. We have also noted that the Lord is returning, even if He delays His return.

Be diligent to be found in Him in peace - 3:14

- The importance of diligence
 - intense effort.
- **2 Timothy 2:15** - needed to properly understand God's word
 - **2 Peter 1:10** - make your call and election sure
 - **2 Peter 1:15** - Peter would be "careful" to ensure they had a reminder...
- The answer to addressing the problems of this letter include diligence.

Be diligent to be found in Him in peace - 3:14

- *To be found in Him in peace*
- In good standing with Him. Everything we do is intended to please Him **cf. 2 Corinthians 5:9** -
- Ultimately, peace with God and Jesus (we are in a saved condition)
- We need peace in our lives:
 - **Galatians 5:22-23** - fruit of the Spirit
 - **Romans 5:1, 2 Cor. 13:11** - with God
 - **Rom. 14:19, 1 Cor. 14:33** - with one another
 - **Philippians 4:6-9** - within ourselves
- If we had to choose between peace with God or man, which would we choose?

Be diligent to be found in Him in peace - 3:14

- *Without spot and blameless*
- Without spot - there is no blemish or stain of sin in you RIGHT NOW
- Blameless - no accusation will stand
(cf. **Philippians 2:15** - “*without fault...*”)
- How can we be without spot & blameless?
By the blood of Jesus -
Revelation 1:5, 1 Peter 1:18-19
- As Christians, when we sin - **1 John 1:7-9, 2:1-2**
- NOTE: We have a part in making ourselves right

The Longsuffering of the Lord - 3:15

- Israel's history in the Old Testament reveals the longsuffering of God.
Understand, while it is great, it has limits!
- *Is salvation* - Recall **2 Peter 3:9** - His longsuffering means more opportunity for others to obey
- The parable of the wise and foolish virgins - **Matthew 25:1-13, esp. vs. 11-12**

Corroborating sources - Paul - 3:15-16

- Appealing to Paul's writings:
 - 1) He calls Paul a "beloved brother"
 - 2) He was "endued with wisdom" (from God - **1 Corinthians 14:37**)
 - 3) He has written "letters" "to you"
 - 4) "All his epistles" - several were available
- Exactly what letters he has in mind is not mentioned. If Peter wrote this letter in the 60s, most of Paul's letters were completed and being circulated.

Corroborating sources - Paul - 3:15-16

- The point: Peter and Paul were preaching the same gospel. What were they preaching?
 - 1) Jesus is Savior - **1 Pet. 1:18-19, Eph. 1:7**
 - 2) False teachers - **2 Pet. 2, 2 Thess. 2, etc.**
 - 3) Be diligent - **2 Pet. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:15**
 - 4) God is longsuffering - **2 Pet. 3:9, Rom. 2:4**
 - 5) Jesus will return - **2 Pet. 3:10, 1 Thess. 5:1-2**
 - 6) Work out your salvation - **2 Pet. 1:10-11, Phil. 2:12**
- They were in agreement! Note: **Galatians 2:11-16**

Corroborating sources - Paul - 3:15-16

- *Some things hard to understand* -
There are passages of scripture that are challenging.
But does this mean we cannot understand scripture?
- No! The more we study the more we learn.
Ephesians 5:17 – understand His will
- When it comes to how to be saved and live, it is easy to understand (not always easy to do).
- Peter does not say “impossible”.

Corroborating sources - Paul - 3:15-16

- *The untaught and unstable twist it*
These are NOT properly grounded in truth.
 - Ignorance - willful and accidental
 - Failure to study
 - Looking to wrong sources
 - Dislike of the truth
 - Failure to understand how to apply authority
- NOTE: The fact that Peter identifies WHO twists scripture, we see that we can avoid that!

Corroborating sources - Paul - 3:15-16

- *To their own destruction*
 - There are eternal consequences to error
 - We need to ensure that we believe the truth**cf. 2 Peter 2:20-22**
- Remember: God means what He says and says what He means.

Corroborating sources - Paul - 3:15-16

- *As also they do to the rest of scriptures*
 - Peter is speaking of the Old Testament -
2 Peter 1:19-21
- Note how Peter equates the established Old Testament with the writings of Paul
Cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Therefore Beware - 3:17-18

- *“Since you know this beforehand?”*
 - either they had been previously warned while Peter was with them, OR Peter is warning them of what will be happening (or both)
- They will have no excuse
Cf. John 15:22

Therefore Beware - 3:17-18

- *“Beware, lest you fall from your own steadfastness”*
 - This letter has been filled with warnings. But warnings require that we be alert - to both the danger AND the consequences
- We are also again reminded that one can “fall” -
1 Corinthians 10:12, Romans 11:20-22
1 Timothy 1:19-20 - shipwrecked faith
- Our faith is not trivial, it has eternal consequences!

Therefore Beware - 3:17-18

- *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*
Growth is often emphasized.
“Grow” is present tense & an imperative - “keep growing”
- In grace - favor with God (by being faithful)
- And knowledge - God’s word is always part of our solution - **Cf. Colossians 1:9-10** - *that you may walk worthy; 1 Peter 2:2*

Concluding thought - 3:17-18

- As Peter concludes this letter, he brings us back to the beginning: **2 Peter 1:2-4**
- Knowledge provides all that we need to live godly and have eternal life and peace with Him.
- He follows this up with the admonition to diligently build upon our faith - **2 Peter 1:5-11**

“To Him be the glory, both
now and forever. Amen.”

2 Peter 3:18b

Have you begun your walk
with Him?

Are you growing as you
ought to?

Let us pray!