

Stand Fast

2 Peter 3:14-18 - Final Words
August 28, 2016

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. –**2 Peter 3:18**

I. OUR BELOVED BROTHER PAUL (vss. 15-16)

- Peter and Paul were contemporaries - and friends. Like friends, they had some confrontations (vs. 15; Acts 15; 1 Cor. 1:12; 3:22; Gal. 1:18; 2:11-14).
- Peter recognizes that Paul's writings are not easy reading. False teachers have deliberately distorted them. They can, however, be understood (vs. 16; 2 Tim. 2:1-7).
- Vs. 16 - "...as they do the other Scriptures." Peter gives Paul's writings the same stature as other "Scripture" [Old Testament] (Eph. 3:4-6; 1 Tim. 5:18; 2 Pet. 3:1-2).

II. WHILE YOU WAIT (vss. 14, 17-18)

- As Peter draws the letter to a close, a few themes reappear:
 - *Be diligent (1:5; 1:10; 3:14)
 - *Without spot or blemish (2:13; 3:14)
 - *God's patience and salvation (2:9; 3:15)
 - *Foreknowledge leading to wisdom (1:19; 2:1-3; 3:11; 3:17)
 - *Holding to the faith by rejecting heresy (2:20-22; 3:17)
 - *Growing in grace and knowledge (1:5-6; 2:20; 3:18)
 - *Jesus as Lord [God] and Savior (1:1; 1:2; 1:11; 2:20; 3:2; 3:18)
- We are called to wait patiently, but not idly. Stagnation is never the goal in the Christian life (vs. 14; Matt. 12:36; 1 Cor. 15:10; Phil. 3:12-16; Rev. 2:2-3).

KNOW: We are called to grow while we wait for Jesus' return. In the meantime, not everything is easy to understand in the Christian faith. We must set ourselves to the task of thinking clearly so that we might not be led astray.

DO: Practice diligence, that you might not grow weary.

Suggested Reading:

Truth Matters: Confident Faith in a Confusing World, by A. Kostenberger
Taking God at His Word, by Kevin DeYoung

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 2 Peter 3:14-18

1. Peter is big on working hard to keep our faith strong. Does that go against the idea of salvation by grace through faith alone? (See and discuss Paul's words in Philippians 2:12-13.)
2. Prior to Sunday's message, did you know that Peter knew Paul and that they mention each other in their letters? Read Galatians 2:11-14. What do you think about their little "blow up"?
3. Had you ever considered when the New Testament letters/gospels were deemed to be "Scripture"? Does it surprise you to hear Peter refer to another living man's writings as "Scripture"? If Peter thought Paul was writing Scripture, what do you think he considered his own writings to be?
4. Peter says that it is possible to take God's word and "twist [it] to their own destruction." Hard words there. So, can we take the Bible and use it in such a way to condemn ourselves? How?
5. What are your takeaways from our study in 2 Peter? How have you been challenged?