

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 3

Lesson 41

GROWING IN GRACE *AND* KNOWLEDGE

15 May, 2015

Peter, a man who was rough and rugged, was nevertheless compassionate and loving toward the brethren and he reveals that in chapter by his repeated use of the term “beloved.” (3:1, 8, 14, 17). The Lord Jesus made the great change that we see in Peter’s life. Peter wraps up his letter by encouraging his beloved brethren to keep doing right.

VERSE 15 Peter instructs believers to account—that **“the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation.”** Peter has already given the example of the people of Noah’s day and Lot’s day (2 Pet. 2:5-6). God waited—in hopes that someone would repent and not have to be destroyed (1 Pet. 3:20). –This should be our attitude toward the lost, even toward them who hate you and curse you and despitefully use you” (Matt. 5:44). We all deserve judgment, but God saved us.

“Our beloved brother Paul” also wrote about God’s longsuffering in his epistles.

VERSE 16 The scriptures contain **“some things hard to be understood.”** The Bible can be a very dangerous book if not handled properly. Peter says there are those who **“wrest”** the scriptures. They fight against them, oftentimes **“unto their own destruction.”** Their religion or their doctrines will keep them from salvation and send them to hell.

“Unlearned and unstable” Christians will oftentimes oppose what the preacher says, though they still have much to learn about the Bible. Christians need to keep reading and studying the Bible to increase their own knowledge of the Scriptures. In the mean time, they should not criticize the preacher. He has prayerfully studied what he’s preaching and if it goes against your beliefs or your feelings, chances are you need to prayerfully consider changing your beliefs and feelings. Sincerely ask God to show you the truth about it.

VERSE 17 Beloved (steadfast Christians)—BEWARE! Why? Because it is POSSIBLE for you to be LED into ERROR and quit serving God and go back to serving unrighteousness (See 1 Cor. 10:12).

Peter is a great example of this. He was a steadfast servant of Christ. He exhibited faith that no other disciple showed. He stayed with Christ when other disciples quit (Jn. 6:66). And yet, he came to a terrible fall—when he denied the Lord he loved so much. Peter knows what he’s talking about. We ought to take heed to his words.

VERSE 18

Peter admonishes his beloved brethren to “**grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**” Both are necessary. Knowledge alone will puff you up with pride and make you unkind. Grace without knowledge will make you do unwise things out of pure kindness. We need an equal balance of grace AND knowledge.

“To Him be glory both NOW—and for ever. Amen.” That means we ought to be glorifying the Lord right NOW—the same way we’ll be glorifying Him in Heaven. We should begin living our heavenly life today—without delay.
