

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 3

Lesson 42 FINAL SURVEY

22 May, 2015

KEY VERSE: 2 Peter 3:18— **“But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.”**

KEY WORDS: **Knowledge** (1:3, 1:5, 1:6, 1:8, 2:20, 3:18). Don’t be content to be ignorant of the Bible.

Diligence (1:5, 1:10, 3:14). Try your best to be the best Christian God can make you.

Remembrance (1:12, 1:13, 1:15, 3:1, 3:2). We will forget things if we don’t get reminded.

THE DANGERS OF HYPER-DISPENSATIONALISM

We are told to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15). But Hyper-dispensationalists make divisions in the Bible that do not exist. Parts of the Bible that were written for Christians are effectively rendered inapplicable by this false teaching. They try to separate the writings of Paul from the writings of Peter and apply them to different groups.

In our studies, we have seen that Peter’s writings are in full agreement with Paul’s writings. Peter writes to born-again believers who have eternal life (2 Pet. 1:1, 3:15). He writes the same thing about salvation that you find in the Apostle Paul’s letters. He writes to the same people Paul wrote to. There are not two different plans of salvation coming from these men. Peter’s letters are not written exclusively to Tribulation believers as the Hyper-D’s teach.

Hyper-D’s say Paul got a revelation that Peter didn’t know about. In 2 Peter 3:16 Peter refers to “ALL” of Paul’s epistles. All of Paul’s epistles were completed at the time Peter wrote those words (66 A.D.). Peter knew everything Paul knew.

THINGS HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD

No one has the entire Bible figured out. The Holy Spirit will open your eyes to some things as you continue to grow and learn, but there will always be some things that are “**hard to be understood.**” (2 Pet. 3:16). Peter was able to admit that he didn’t have all the answers. We should never pretend to know it all. That is a lie that leads to false teachings.

PROOF THAT 2 PETER IS WRITTEN TO CHRISTIANS

1. Lot is given as an example to us in chapter 2. Lot wasn’t saved for keeping the Law. He escaped the fire because he was a just man with a righteous soul. He belonged to the Lord.
2. 2 Peter 2:1, There WERE false PROPHETS among “**the people.**” There WILL BE false TEACHERS among “**you.**”
 - a. Who are “**the people**” who were abused by false prophets? The Jews.
 - b. In contrast, “**you**” refers to someone who is NOT a Jew, but is a Christian. Peter is clearly writing to born again Christians.

WARNINGS ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS

1. False teachers arise from within the church. This is the only place saved people should be getting their Bible teaching. That’s why God warns Christians about heretics in the church (2:1).
2. False teachers do things “**privily.**” If a teacher is right, he doesn’t need to sneak around spreading his teaching privately.
3. False teachers bring in damnable heresies (divisions). They want to divide Christians into opposing groups. God says that’s a damnable thing.
4. They are covetous (vs. 3). Their motivation is personal gain. See Absalom (2 Sam. 15:5-6).
5. They despise government (vs. 10). They don’t encourage believers to obey the Lord’s command to be righteous and holy. They downplay the importance of those things. They worship the Lord their “own way.” See Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2). See any “Mega-church” today.

WHO CORRUPTED THE SOCIETY IN NOAH'S DAY? (2 Pet. 2:4-5)

The godly human theory: Seth's children were all righteous. Cain's children were all unrighteous. Men from Cain married women from Seth. The result: bad giant babies who became "men of renown."

- Problem with this theory: there is none righteous, no not one (Rom. 3:10, Eccl. 7:20)
- When a bad man marries a good woman, they don't have giant babies. (See Og, King of Bashan, Deut. 3:11, Goliath the Philistine, 1 Sam. 17:7).
- This theory wasn't taught in the church until the reformation in the Middle Ages (1500's).

The fallen angel theory: fallen angels cohabitated with human women. Their offspring were the ungodly giants called "mighty men" and "men of renown." (Gen. 6:4). This is the "iron mixed with miry clay" (Dan. 2:41) that will be destroyed by Jesus Christ (Dan. 2:33-34).

- The argument: Angels aren't capable of marital relations with women.
 - Jesus said the angels DON'T marry. He didn't say they COULDN'T marry. (Mt. 22:30).
 - Angels are always referred to in masculine terms. They always appear as men.
- This theory was taught throughout Jewish history and for 1500 years of Church history until the time of Luther and Calvin.

SPEAKING EVIL OF DIGNITIES (2 Pet. 2:10-12)

"The deification of man is always followed by the humanization of God." When you start changing God's rules or making your own rules, you must make a god after your own image; one who agrees with everything you say and do. In order to lift yourself up, you will drag God down below your level.

DON'T GET ENTANGLED AGAIN WITH THE POLLUTIONS OF THE WORLD (2 Pet. 2:20-22)

If you experiment with sin, it will become harder and harder to escape the bonds of sin—until finally you are completely "**overcome**" by sin. The "**latter end is worse...than the beginning**" because it will be harder to pull you out of the wicked world the second time than it was the first time, since you think Christianity "*didn't work*" the first time. It would have worked if you hadn't gotten "**entangled**" until you were "**overcome**."

If you don't maintain your Bible reading, studying, prayer, fellowship with other believers, etc., you'll go back to your old nature (dogs and hogs, vs. 21), only NOW you can't even enjoy it because you "**have known the way of righteousness**." You must either go forward in your Christian walk or you'll go backward. You can't "maintain" your current level of spirituality if you quit doing the things that strengthen you spiritually.

AS A THOUSAND YEARS (2 Pet. 3:8)

This verse is not intended to give you an exact measurement of God's "day." This is not a formula to measure time. In the context, it is given as an illustration to show that God is not in a hurry like men are. Men have a limited lifespan (Psalm 90:10-12) so we "**number our days**." God is eternal. When a thousand years goes by, it's like one day to Him. We get impatient with God when He doesn't make a move during our brief lifetime. But God is outside the bounds of time. He's not late, He's not early. He's is the great "I AM!"

THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH (2 Pet. 3:5-7, 13)

Fallen man is continually trying to exalt himself (Gen. 11) and get to heaven without God. Space exploration is all about what man can do without God; "One giant leap for mankind" (Neil Armstrong, Apollo 11). The "Eagle" landed (pride), but God says "**Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the STARS, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD**" (Obadiah 4).

In the "**new heavens and new earth**," redeemed man will glorify God in righteousness. Everything that hath breath will praise the Lord. —No one will give honor and glory and praise to mankind—but all will give glory to GOD!