

II Peter 3:10-18

REVIEW...

- KNOWLEDGE of Christ...
 - o We have been GIVEN - Grace and Peace by multiplied...
 - o We have been GIVEN - all things that pertain to life and godliness...
 - o We have been GIVEN – GREATEST promises – making us partakers of the divine nature...
 - o GIVEN to us through the WORD - like a LIGHT that shines in a DARK place...
- FALSE teachers – we NEED to know the WORD - because they are be among us!
- The PROMISE of God...
 - o The purpose of the LETTER is to WAKE UP – our PURE MINDS...
 - o By getting us to remember the WORD of God – Old and New Testaments!
 - o Knowing FIRST – men will come who MOCK those who follow Jesus
 - o They will come in the Last Days - questioning where is the promise of Jesus return...
 - o But they CHOSE to forget that God CREATED the world...
 - o And that God JUDGED the world with a FLOOD – and will JUDGE it again one day by FIRE!
 - o The Lord is not SLOW to fulfill His PROMISE...
 - o God is LONGSUFFERING – wishing that none would PERISH – and all could be SAVED!

GROW IN GRACE...

- 1st – THE DAY OF THE LORD... vs. 10-11
 - o 1st – Like a THIEF... vs. 10
 - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night!
 - The DAY of the Lord – the phrase is used 32 times in the Bible...
 - 27 times in the Old Testament - 5 times in the New Testament...
 - IMPORTANT – the DAY of the Lord is not just one DAY...
 - It describes the TIME leading up the RETURN and Jesus – and JUDGEMENT of the world!
 - The companion term that comes BEFORE the DAY of the Lord - is the LAST Days...
 - The LAST days – began on the day of PENTECOST - **Acts 2:17**
 - And the LAST days CONCLUDE – when the DAY of the LORD begins - **Acts 2:20**
 - The DAY of the Lord – begins with RAPTURE of the church...
 - RAPTURE - from the Latin of the Greek word – [ἄρπάζω] – **I Thessalonians 4:17**
 - In CONTEXT - we are told the RAPTURE will happen like a THIEF in the NIGHT...
 - **I Thessalonians 5:2** – “You yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.”
 - We never know when a THIEF will come – the RAPTURE will be the same way...
 - No one knows the exact day or hour - only the FATHER knows - **Mark 13:32**
 - With NO warning – it will happen in the BLINK of an eye [ἄτομος] - **I Corinthians 15:52**
 - The trumpet of God sounds – the call for the church to go home - **I Thessalonians 4:16**
 - Those who have died will have already receive their resurrected bodies - **II Corinthians 5:8**
 - They will come with Jesus - to meet us in the air in the RAPTURE...
 - All of us who are still here will be changed [μεταμορφώω] – **II Corinthians 3:18**
 - Receive eternal bodies - and we will be caught up to heaven - **I Corinthians 15:53**
 - o 2nd - The Antichrist...
 - His rise to power - **II Thessalonians 2:3**
 - In the aftermath of the RAPTURE – one BILLION people disappear...
 - And the Magog invasion - God destroys armies of Russia and the Arabs - **Ezekiel 38**

- The world will be in CHAOS – one man will offer PEACE and SAFETY – **I Thessalonians 5:3**
- This man has more than THIRTY titles in the Bible - the Man of Sin - the Son of Perdition...
- The big mouth – **Daniel 7:8** - we most often refer to him as the Antichrist – **I John 2:18**
- But he is a LIAR – because he will bring neither PEACE nor SAFETY...
- It brings what is known as the time of Jacobs trouble – **Jeremiah 30:7**
- The SEVEN years of Tribulation laid out in - **Revelation 6-18**
- PEACE - he will confirm a treaty with Israel for SEVEN years - **Daniel 9:27**
 - He will be a leader who will rise out of Europe – the little horn – **Daniel 7:8**
 - He will make PEACE by offering to build the THIRD Temple for Israel...
 - North of the Dome of the Rock [monument] – in a place called the Dome of the Spirit...
 - He will build the Temple – as proof he is the MESSIAH – and Jews will embrace him!
 - **John 5:43** - "I have come in My Fathers name - and you do not receive Me. [When] another comes in his own name - him you will receive."
- SAFETY – he will bring STABILITY...
 - He will bring STABILITY to governments - financial markets - and religion!
 - He will rule the worlds political system – he will be the government...
 - He will rule the world financial system – 666 – mark of the beast – **Revelation 13:16-18**
 - He will present himself as the Messiah – god come to earth - **Revelation 13:3-5**
 - But after 3 ½ years of the tribulation – he will enter the temple – into the Holiest of All...
 - There he will claim he is god – the Abomination of Desolation – **Matthew 24:15**
 - There is a good chance that this man is alive today – waiting for the right time...
 - Because he cannot be revealed UNTIL the church is removed – the RAPTURE...
 - If he revealed himself now – we would tell everyone NOT to follow – **II Thessalonians 2:7**
- o 3rd - Wrath of Jesus Christ...
 - God pours out His wrath and judgment on a God rejecting world!
 - Laid out in the Book of Revelation – 21 judgments in what we call the Tribulation...
 - Broken up into THREE sets of SEVEN judgments – Seal - Trumpet - and Bowl judgments...
 - The terror will be so great - unless God limited it – no one would survive!
 - **Matthew 24:22** – "Unless those days were shortened - no flesh would be saved."
 - The good news is we will NOT be here for during this time of terror...
 - We will NOT be RAPTURED at the END of the Tribulation – Post Tribulation...
 - Because no man knows the day or the hour – **Matthew 25:13**
 - If we are in the Tribulation – and count 3 ½ years from the Abomination of desolation...
 - We would know the exact day that that RAPTURE of the church would take place!
 - We will NOT be RAPTURED in the MIDDLE of the tribulation – Mid Tribulation...
 - As believers are not appointed to WRATH - **I Thessalonians 5:9**
 - Yet the Tribulation is all about the WRATH of God being poured out!
 - People hold a Mid Tribulation view because of the LAST trumpet – **I Corinthians 15:52**
 - They see this as LAST of the SEVEN trumpets blown in **Revelation 11:15**
 - Believing the WRATH of God only begins halfway through the Tribulation...
 - But by the time the SIXTH trumpet is blown – 60% of the world has already perished!
 - CHURCH [ἐκκλησία] – used NINETEEN times - in the first THREE chapters of Revelation...
 - Then NOT mentioned again until the very end of the book – **Revelation 22:16**
 - The CHURCH is ABSENT throughout the entire time of the Tribulation!
- o 4th – The SECOND coming...
 - At the end of the SEVEN years of Tribulation...
 - The Antichrist will gather his army to the Valley of Megiddo - **Revelation 19:11-21**
 - Then Jesus will come out of Heaven on a white horse – King of Kings / Lord of Lords...

- He will return with us – ten thousands of His saints – **Jude 1:14**
- With one word he will defeat the Antichrist and his army – **II Thessalonians 2:8**
- And the Antichrist will be the first to be thrown into the Lake of Fire – **Revelation 19:20**
- The Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives - **Zachariah 14:4**
 - The mountain will split in two – water will come out – giving life to the Dead Sea...
 - 30 days after the Return of Jesus – 1290 days after the Abomination – **Daniel 12:11**
 - Jesus will judge the nations – those who survived the Tribulation – **Matthew 25:31-46**
 - Then Jesus will establish His Millennial Kingdom - **Revelation 20:1-4**
 - And we – the CHURCH - will rule and reign with Him for 1000 years – **I Corinthians 6:2-3**
- At the end of the 1000 year reign...
 - Satan – who was chained in the bottomless pit – is released - **Revelation 20:3**
 - He will deceive the nations into one final rebellion against God - **Revelation 20:7-8**
 - But God will devour them by fire – and satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire!
 - Then all will stand before the throne of God to be judged for the works of their lives...
 - **Revelation 20:11-12** – “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it... And I saw the dead - small and great - standing before God...”
 - There will be two sets of books opened - the books and the Book of Life...
 - If your name is not found written in the Book of Life – the Books are opened...
 - Then you are then judged according to your works – written in The Books...
 - Everything you do - every word you say - every thought you think...
 - Not to see if you will go to heaven or hell – but to show you why you go to hell!
- o 5th – The end... vs. 10-11
 - The heavens will pass away with a great noise - and the elements will melt with fervent heat.
 - Both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up!
 - The conclusion of the Day of the Lord – is the DESTRUCTION of the earth...
 - GREAT noise [ῥοιζήδόν] – only here NT – a BIG BANG
 - It may not be how the universe BEGAN – but it is how it will END...
 - The elements will MELT [λύω] with extreme HEAT – 2x NT – both in **II Peter 3**
 - Jesus will let go – and the universe will erupt in a nuclear inferno - **Colossians 1:16**
 - And all the WORKS that are in it will ALSO be burned – it is all FUEL for the FIRE!
 - Then God will create a prefect – sinless – NEW heaven and NEW earth - **Revelation 21-22**
 - Where those who believe in Jesus will live with Him FOREVER!
 - What manner of persons...
 - Therefore - since all these things will be dissolved...
 - What manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness!
 - Considering EVERYTHING will one day DISSOLVE [λύω] - how should we live our lives...
 - The answer is simple and obvious – we should be HOLY and GODLY in our conduct!
 - Everything in this life is destined to burn – we cannot take any of it with us...
 - People strive their whole lives to find success – but what is success worth apart from God...
 - We might end up rich – but all we really get is a lot of nice FIREWOOD!
 - Therefore - do not miss the purpose of life by devoting TIME to something that is DOOMED...
 - How much better to invest our TIME and efforts into a Kingdom that will NEVER fade!
 - Invest is something that we can take with us to heaven – people we share Jesus with!
- 2ND – BE DILIGENT... vs. 12-14
 - o In light of the judgement that is coming – the end of the world by FIRE...
 - And the exhortation to therefore live a life that is HOLY and GODLY...
 - Peter is going to FINISH his final letter by giving us FOUR commands...

- FIRST – as we LOOK forward - we are commanded [imperative] to be DILIGENT!
- o 1st – LOOK for the DAY of the Lord... vs. 12
 - Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God - because of which the heavens...
 - Will be dissolved - being on fire - and the elements will melt with fervent heat!
 - LOOKING [προσδοκάω] – to expect or to anticipate something...
 - HASTEN [σπεύδω] – 6x in NT – to desire earnestly...
 - The Day of God [the end] – when the heavens will burn - and the earth will melt [λύω]!
 - I do not get attached to my trash – I do stay up at night wondering what will happen to it...
 - I know that it is destined to be destroyed – I recognize it will not last!
 - That is the same way we are to LOOK at all possessions in this world – house - car - etc.
 - Since we know WHAT will happen to them – it keeps us from getting too attached to them!
- o 2nd – LOOK for a NEW heaven and earth... vs. 13
 - Nevertheless we - according to His promise...
 - Look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells!
 - BUT - we according to His PROMISE – **Revelation 21:1**
 - We LOOK [προσδοκάω] constantly [present] – it is something we do DAILY...
 - Because we know that in the NEW heaven and earth – righteousness dwells!
 - There are those today who believe that we can establish the Kingdom of God here on earth...
 - As if somehow there is hope of REDEEMING this world – saving the PLANET...
 - Not to burst a bubble – but RIGHTEOUSNESS does NOT dwell here...
 - This world is destined for DESTRUCTION – it will be replaced with something BETTER!
 - The Kingdom will come with the NEW heaven and earth – not this old broken down one!
- o 3rd – LOOK forward... vs. 14
 - Therefore – beloved - looking forward to these things...
 - Be diligent to be found by Him in peace - without spot and blameless!
 - Therefore - since we are LOOKING [προσδοκάω] forward to a NEW heaven and earth...
 - Be DILIGENT [imperative] - to be found by Jesus when He returns with THREE things:
 - PEACE – because we are not living for this fallen world – we are looking for a NEW one!
 - Without SPOT – because we are looking to Jesus Christ who CLEANSED us – **I Peter 1:19**
 - BLAMELESS – because all of our sin has been PAID for on the cross!
 - Be DILIGENT to look forward – because there is a danger to looking back...
 - Lots wife LOOKED back - and she became a pillar of salt – **Genesis 19:26**
 - She was un-willing to leave the world behind - and it cost her life!
 - The danger of living life on the fence – is falling off on the wrong side...
 - It is not worth the danger to play around with the love of this world...
 - It is far too easy to fall in love with this world – miss Jesus - be left behind!
- 3RD – CONSIDER... vs. 15-16
 - o 1st – The longsuffering of the Lord... vs. 15
 - Consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation!
 - SECOND command [imperative] we are given in light of living a HOLY and GODLY life...
 - CONSIDER [ἡγέομαι] – to count - think about - or ponder...
 - We are to CONSIDER that the longsuffering of our Lord is SALVATION...
 - LONGSUFFERING [μακροθυμέω] – compound word – LONG [μακρο] ANGER [θυμέω]
 - We are DILIGENT to LOOK for the Day of the Lord – and the NEW heaven and earth...
 - BUT we also need to CONSIDER – the longer it takes to come – the more who can be saved...
 - It can be frustrating to see the moral decline around us – infuriating to see men mock God...

- But God is longsuffering – giving those very same men TIME to turn and be SAVED!
- o 2nd – Cross reference... vs. 15-16
 - As also our beloved brother Paul - according to the wisdom given to him...
 - Has written to you - as also in all his epistles - speaking in them of these things!
 - Peter was not the only one who wrote about the LONGSUFFERING of the Lord...
 - Paul also wrote according to the wisdom given [passive] to him...
 - We are not sure which particular passage Peter is referring to...
 - But in general - he is confirming the principle of cross referencing to validate biblical truth!
 - You may have noticed that we often will quote verses from other parts of the Bible...
 - The reason is because it helps us make sure we are interpreting the passage correctly...
 - If something is important: Jesus taught it - disciples did it [Acts] – the epistles confirm it!
- o 3rd – Interpret the Word... vs. 16
 - In which are some things hard to understand!
 - Some of the LETTERS of Paul were HARD to understand...
 - Not because Paul wrote them in a way that was difficult to comprehend...
 - But because SPIRITUAL truths cannot be understood by SINFUL minds!
 - I Corinthians 2:14 – “The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
 - It might seem HARD to understand – we are to LOOK for Jesus to RETURN...
 - But at the same time we also CONSIDER – it is good if He WAITS...
 - But when through the Spirit we realize – although the God will JUDGE a sinful world...
 - It is His LOVE that causes Him to WAIT – giving men a chance to REPENT!
 - Which some untaught and unstable people twist...
 - Which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction...
 - As they do also the rest of the Scriptures!
 - UNTAUGHT [ἄμαθής] – someone who has is NOT a disciple [μαθητής] of Jesus...
 - UNSTABLE - negative of [στηρίζω] – describing one who is not established - no foundation...
 - TWIST [στρεβλόω] – only here NT – a word that means to torture or to pervert...
 - NOT just the teachings of PAUL – they twist the rest of the Bible as well...
 - And they do this to their own DESTRUCTION [ἀπώλεια] – eternal separation from God!
 - One of the most important concepts in understanding the Bible is CONTEXT...
 - Interpreting a verse or passage in relation to the surrounding verses....
 - Most errors in Bible interpretation come from taking a verse out of CONTEXT...
 - It is easy to change the meaning of a single verse when taken out of CONTEXT...
 - That is why we study the whole Bible - teachings chapter by chapter - book by book...
 - So we learn the Bible in CONTEXT – making sure we do not twist the Word!
- 4TH – BEWARE... vs. 17
 - o 1st – We KNOW...
 - You therefore – beloved - since you know this beforehand!
 - Therefore BELOVED [ἀγαπητός] – those whom God LOVES...
 - KNOW before [προγινώσκω] – where we get the word PROGNOSIS...
 - We already KNOW - we are to be DILIGENT to LOOK for a NEW heaven and earth...
 - We already KNOW - we are CONSIDER the longsuffering of the Lord...
 - We already KNOW - we are to be careful not to TWIST the Word of God!
 - o 2nd – BEWARE...
 - Beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness - led away with the error of the wicked!
 - THIRD command [imperative] we are given in light of living a HOLY and GODLY life...

- BEWARE [φυλάσσω] – to GUARD or PROTECT from danger...
- So we are not - LED AWAY [συναπάγω] – to be CARRIED off captive [passive]
- By the WICKED [ἄθεσμος] – used to describe the sinner in Sodom and Gomorrah – **II Peter 2:7**
- FALL – STUMBLE in our walk – losing our FOUNDATION [adjective form of στηρίζω]
- Paul had to confront Peter when he would NOT eat with GENTILES...
- Barnabas did not BEWARE - and was LED ASTRAY by Peter in a WICKED error...
- They had FALLEN back into the trap of the LAW – they could ONLY eat with JEWS...
- As a result they FELL from the sure foundation that is the GRACE of God!
- **Galatians 2:13** – “And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with [Peter] - so that even Barnabas was carried away [συναπάγω] with their hypocrisy.”
- Too often men believe what they are told - because they are looking to a person...
- We should not just accept the words of men - no matter who is teaching...
- Instead look to the Bible for the answers – verifying what they say in the Word!
- **Acts 17:11** - “Search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so.”

● 5TH – GROW... vs. 18

o 1st – In GRACE...

- Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
- FOURTH command [imperative] we are given in light of living a HOLY and GODLY life...
- GROW [αὐξάνω] – to increase or become greater...
- We are commanded to constantly [present] be growing in GRACE...
- GRACE [χάρις] – 156x in NT [its important] – means a GIFT...
- It SPEAK of the POWER of God – given FREELY to those who HUMBLY ask – **I Peter 5:5**
- Paul asked God THREE times to take away his thorn - **II Corinthians 12:9-10**
- And THREE times God answered and told him no - the thorn stayed...
- Because His GRACE was sufficient for Paul – his weakness made Paul depend on God!
- The KEY to the living a HOLY and GODLY life – is the POWER of God...
- When we realize we CANNOT – when we FAIL enough times...
- In HUMILITY we come to the LORD and ask for HELP – He gives us GRACE...
- He freely gives us His SPIRIT – so we have the POWER to live for Him...
- When we LEARN to look to the Lord – depend upon Him – and NOTHING is impossible!

o 2nd – In KNOWLEDGE...

- We are commanded to constantly [present] be growing in KNOWLEDGE...
- KNOWLEDGE [γνῶσις] – indicates a relation - knowing a person...
- Who are we to get to KNOW – our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
- The KEY to the living a HOLY and GODLY life – is the KNOWING Jesus...
- The more time with SPEND with the Lord – the more we will KNOW the Lord...
- The more excited we will be for the Lord to come!
- To Him be the glory both now and forever [every day]. Amen!