

## Metro Women's Bible Studies

2 Peter 3:14-18

### **Lesson 8**

Peter closes his second letter with warnings and instructions that are close to his heart, encouraging believers to *look forward* and to *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*. May his final words inspire you to live your life for the glory of our precious Savior.

#### **DAY ONE: Read 2 Peter 3:14-18**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

2. 2 Peter 3:14-18 is one section/paragraph. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

a. How would you title this section?

b. How would you title the entire letter of 2 Peter?

**OPTIONAL:** From the list below record the key words listed below and their symbol (which you have chosen) on your Key Word and Symbol Chart.

**Previous Key Words:** *Jesus* (Lord) and *knowledge*

**New to this lesson:** *grace*

**OPTIONAL:** Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Peter 3:14-18. Remember, as you mark the word *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Him.

3. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, is used in verses 14 and 17. Choose one of them and record the conclusion that Peter made. What is the conclusion made and what is it based upon?

4. Peter used the contrasting term *but* in verse 18. What two thoughts are being contrasted?

5. Scan through the instructions given to the believer in verses 14-18 and record them below.

**DAY TWO: Read 2 Peter 3:14**

1. Observe the word therefore which links verse 14 with the previous verses of chapter 3. According to His promise what do we as believers look for?
2. Think about the phrase *looking forward* to these things. In what way is the promise of verse 13 to influence the way we live now?

a. Define the word *diligent* by looking it up in your Concordance or a dictionary.

**Diligent-**

b. Think of the opposite of diligence by supplying antonyms for the word diligent.

3. What do we learn about applying diligence from the following Scriptures? Underline or highlight your answer.

**Proverbs 4:23** Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life.

**2 Peter 1:5-7** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

**2 Peter 1:10** “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

4. Verse 14 states, *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent...* When we are looking forward with eager anticipation to Christ’s return there is a desire within us to be diligent. What reason does Peter give that we should have this attitude?

5. Thoughtfully write out verse 14.

6. Focus on these phrases by looking them up in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

**In peace -**

**Without spot -**

**Blameless -**

7. The Amplified version reads: *So, beloved, since you are expecting these things, be eager to be found by Him (at His coming) without spot or blemish and at peace (in serene confidence, free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts). After looking at verse 14 more closely what does it mean to you to be found in Him?*

7. What do the following verses say about *peace*? Highlight or underline what you learned.

**Romans 15:13** “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

**Ephesians 2:13-15** “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace.”

**Colossians 1:19,20** For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

8. What do the following verses say about being *without spot*? Highlight or underline what you learned. How do they personally apply to you?

**Ephesians 5:25b-27** “Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

**1 Timothy 6:12-14** “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, <sup>14</sup>that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing.”

9. What do the following verses say about being *blameless*? Highlight or Underline what you learned.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23,24** “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.”

**1 Corinthians 1:4-8** “I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Philippians 3:9** “And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”

**Colossians 1:21-22** “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.”

a. What encouragement and hope did you gain after looking at these scriptures?

**DAY THREE: Read 2 Peter 3:15,16**

1. 2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some found slackness, but is longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." How does this verse relate to the meaning of 2 Peter 3:15a.

a. Consider the *longsuffering* of the Lord by writing Psalm 86:15.

2. Peter refers to *our beloved brother Paul* and his writing to them in 2 Peter 3:15. What did Paul write about the *longsuffering* of God in Romans 2:4?

a. In this context, what has God's *longsuffering* meant in your life?

3. According to 2 Peter 3:15b, what was *given to him* for the writing of his letters?

4. Look up the word *wisdom* in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

**Wisdom-**

The Greek word for *wisdom* is sophia. This word describes the ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding. Regarding "**wisdom**" the author Hiebert writes, "Peter's use of **wisdom (sophia)** rather than the more general term **grace** calls attention to the God-given insight into the truths of the gospel which characterized Paul's letters. That **wisdom** enabled him to see and stress the practical moral implications of those truths for holy living."

5. According to these scriptures, what insight or truths did you learn regarding the word *wisdom*? Highlight or Underline what you learned. Look at the source of *wisdom* and share what you discovered.

**Romans 11:33** "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!"

**1 Corinthians 2:13-14** "These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. <sup>14</sup>But 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."

**2 Corinthians 1:12** "For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you."

**Ephesians 1:17** "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."

a. How do these scriptures bless you today in areas that you are struggling with?

4. Write out verse 16.

5. This verse has some very descriptive adjectives, *untaught*, *unstable*. Focus on these words by looking them up in a Dictionary or Concordance.

### Untaught (unlearned)-

### Unstable-

These individuals are vacillating in their spiritual character. They lack the spiritual stability and are thus unable to adhere to the moral demands of the Lordship of Christ, which conflict with their inner desires for self-indulgence. Both "**untaught**" and "**unstable**" are united by one article which identifies a single group exhibiting both of these characteristics. These individuals take difficult passages and *twist* them to their own ruin.

6. Contrast Peter's description of the believers in 2 Peter 1:12?

7. What were the untaught and unstable people doing with Paul's words?

a. Look up the word twist (distort) in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

### Twist (wrest)distort-

8. Peter thus chose the word twist (distort) a singularly graphic word to picture the tortuous perversion of the scriptures. Highlight or underline what you learned.

**2 Corinthians 4:2** "But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

**Ephesians 4:14** "That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting."

9. Rather than *twist* the Scriptures we are to be taught by them, believe them, and apply them to our lives. How does Romans 15:4 add to this?

### DAY FOUR: Read 2 Peter 3:17

1. Write out verse 17.

2. Peter starts chapter three with the endearing term *beloved* and the fourth time he uses it is in verse 17. Why do you think he used that word four times in this chapter?

3. Observe the phrase *since you know this beforehand*. To what things might Peter be referring to? See Jude 1:3,4

- a. According to verse 17 what are believers to do in response to the knowledge of *these things*?
4. Focus on the word *beware*.
- a. List some synonyms for the word *beware*.
- b. List some antonyms for the word *beware*.
5. In the context of this verse, explain what the word *beware* means to you?
6. Consider the phrase *fall from your own steadfastness*. Define the word *steadfastness* by using a dictionary and your Concordance.

**Steadfastness(dict.)-**

**Steadfastness (gk.)-**

- a. Considering these definitions, what does it mean to *fall from your own steadfastness*?
- b. It should be the fervent desire of every believer to be *steadfast*. Write out from the following verses the key phrases and share what ways believers can avoid *falling from their own steadfastness* and *the error of the wicked*.

**Acts 2:42**

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

**Jude 1:20,21**

7. Consider the serious implication of the words *being led away*. How does this speak to you?
- a. What can you as a believer do to *beware* so that you will not be *led away* from the truth?
8. From the perspective of Romans 16:18 and Ephesians 4:14, describe the *wicked* and those who are *led away*. What did you discover?

**DAY FIVE: Read 2 Peter 3:18**

1. Believers are exhorted to *beware* and are warned against *falling from their own steadfastness* and *being led away with the error of the wicked*. What instruction in verse 18 follows the warnings of verse 17?

a. How will *growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* keep us from *falling from our own steadfastness*?

2. *Growing in grace* is applying what we have in Christ to our lives. *Knowledge* of Him is how *we grow in grace*. What does 2 Peter 1:2 say about this?

3. Look up the following Scriptures regarding the word *grow* and note your responsibility. Highlight or underline the phases that stood out to you.

**1 Peter 2:2** "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."

**Hebrews 5:12-14** "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

**Colossians 2:6-8** "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

**2 Timothy 2:15** "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

4. Why is the *knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* vital to our *growth in grace*?

The Greek word *grow* **auxano** means to cause to grow, to increase, to enlarge. Auxano is present imperative which is a command that calls for this to be the believer's continual **passionate** pursuit. Why? Because, if we are not growing, we are ever in danger of being carried by error that results in further spiritual instability. Trees with shallow roots are easily uprooted (I am not saying a genuine believer can lose his or her salvation -- that is impossible (Jn 10:27, 28, 29, 30, 1Jn 2:19, 5:13, Jude 1:24, 1Pe 1:5, He 7:25, Php. 1:6) -- but that their roots can become "loosened" and they be easily blown hither and yon by every wind of doctrine!) The only way to prevent falling is to **grow**; the tree that grows will not fall over.

5. Peter in this last verse closes with a doxology (praise to God). Write the closing praises of this letter.

6. Concentrate on the words, *to Him be the glory both now and forever*. Believers are to bring *glory* to Jesus both *now* and *forever*. How do we bring *glory to Him now*?

**DAY SIX: Review 2 Peter 3:14-18**

1. How has this lesson encouraged you to focus on what is eternally important?
  
2. Personal: What adjustments need to be made in your focus so that it is more eternally based?
  
3. Think about the *longsuffering* of the Lord. Share some insights on this that comfort you.
  
4. We learn from 2 Peter 3:16 that Paul wrote *some things hard to understand*. What do you do about Scriptures you do not understand?
  
5. In what way have you been challenged through 2 Peter 3:17,18:
  - a. to *beware*-
  
  - b. to *be steadfast*-
  
  - c. to *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*-

In closing thoughts 2 Peter has been an encouraging book that has showed us our need to grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior. Only by growing will we be able to stand effectively against the free thinking, and the loose and twisted theologies that are being taught today. It may not be too long before we, like our brethren in the book of Peter, will pass through the fires of testing that prove the reality and pureness of our FAITH. How shall we endure? By seeing Him who is invisible; by standing firm; by remembering and reminding each other that His coming is at hand. By fixing our hope steadfastly and completely on the grace that is to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ; by diligently supplying moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness; and by growing in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Beloved, I pray that the words of 2 Peter have established and grounded you in the truth of Scripture and that you will be ready to meet Him.

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting,  
because your faith grows exceedingly,  
and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.

- 2 Thessalonians 1:3