

**PETER'S FINAL WORDS TO  
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**(Part 1)**

April 12th, 2026

**TEXT:** II Peter 1:1-2; 3:18

**CONSIDER THIS:** History is filled with examples of the last words spoken by famous Christians. On October 16, 1555, Christian preacher Hugh Latimer, along with Nicholas Ridley, was burned at the stake by the orders of Queen Mary Tudor ("Bloody Mary"). Latimer's final words were, "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out." Latimer had lived his life in obedience to Peter's famous last words which we will study today. They are powerful, they are wonderful, they are true and they open the door to greater blessings than we can even begin to imagine.

**I. PETER'S FINAL WORDS**

- A) Peter invested the last 30 years of his life carrying out the commission given to him by Jesus (John 21:17)

*Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."*

- B) Peter wrote II Peter knowing his time on earth was soon coming to an end (see John 21:18-19 and II Peter 1:12-15)

However Peter ends this letter, it will be his last opportunity to say what matters most. So what did he write?

*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. II Peter 3:18*

**II. GROW**

- A) These are words of command. Do this! Christian, whatever else may be an appropriate purpose in your life, it must be connected with this ultimate purpose → GROW! THAT YOU MIGHT GLORIFY HIM!

**KEY:** Peter was very concerned about 2 great dangers he knew his beloved Christian friends would be facing:

1. False prophets/teachers and the immorality that inevitably follows them (II Peter 2:1-3)

2. Skepticism/confusion about the return of Christ (3:1-4;11-14)

*You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.*

II Peter 3:17

B) “grow in the grace” **Q:** What does that mean?

**A:** Saving grace is transforming grace

The grace that saves us (justification) is the grace that changes us (sanctification).

**NOTE:** Peter’s own life was a powerful example of growing in the grace of the Lord Jesus. Look at Galatians 2:11-14 and then read II Peter 3:15-16. **WOW!** Christian, the greatest way you can bless your family, your church and your friends is for those relationships to be lavished with Christ’s sanctifying grace that is in your life. **Grow!!**

C) Grace is what God freely gives us = **God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense**. We did not deserve it to begin with, and we don’t get “more grace” by earning it. But we do have the responsibility to “grow into it”, and this comes by choosing to yield control of our lives to the Lord. This is how we become more like Jesus; “Father, not my will but yours be done.”

D) **KNOWLEDGE**. This is huge. Peter uses the word knowledge or know eleven times in this short letter. But Peter used a special form of the word *epignosis*. This is a full knowledge that is more than true information, it is knowledge that comes through personal experience of being in a relationship. Christian, your knowledge of Christ should be a living, growing thing.

The Christian life is like riding a bicycle; unless you keep moving you will fall off.

E) To grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will cause you to:

1. be a blessing to the people around you... your desire will be to reflect Jesus in your relationships
2. resist the deceptions and doubts of the world (II Peter 3:17)
3. bear eternal fruit (works that God rewards and uses)
4. long for the appearing of Christ (II Peter 3:11-14 and II Timothy 4:6-8)
5. glorify Christ with every part of your life