

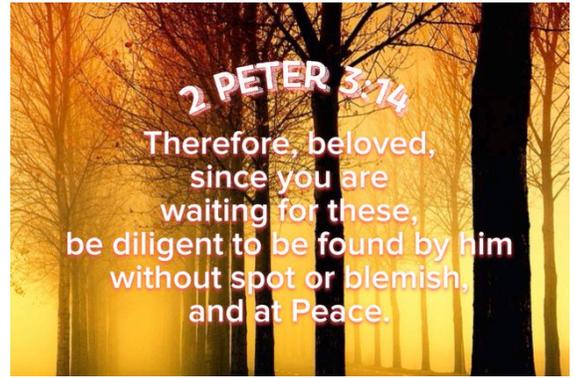
**A Study of The Epistle of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter**  
**Theme: "Grow in Grace and Knowledge"**

Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK.

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**Lesson: 25 Chapter 3:14-18 Date: 2-13-22**



**BIBLE TEXT and STUDY NOTES**

(14) Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found **by him** without spot or blemish, and at peace.

**(Lev 1:3; Rom 5:1; 1 Cor 1:8; 15:58; Php 1:10; 2:15; 1 Thess 3:13; 5:23; Jas 1:27)**

(15) And count **the patience of our Lord as salvation**, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

**(Ac 15:25; Rom 2:4; 16:4; 1 Cor 3:10; Eph 3:3; 1 Pet 1:1,2)**

(16) as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do **the other Scriptures**.

**(Ps 56:5; Is 28:13; Jer 23:36; Lk 10:7; Rom 3:5-8; 6:1; 1 Tim 5:18; 2 Tim 3:16-18; Heb 5:11; Jas 1:8)**

(17) 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.

**(Mk 13:5,9,23,33; 1 Cor 10:12; Rev 2:5)**

(18) 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.**

**(Rom 3:24; 11:36; Eph 4:15; Php 2:11; Col 1:10; 2:19)**

## **LUTHER'S COMMENTARY**

14. *Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace.*

Since you have escaped such misfortune and are coming to such great joys, he says, you should let this induce you willingly to despise everything on earth and gladly to suffer what you must. Therefore you should be zealous to live “without spot or blemish.”

15. *And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation.*

Count it as your gain that **God** is forbearing, delays, and does not judge at once. Indeed, He would have reason to be angry and punish; yet His grace prevents Him from doing so.

*So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,*

16. *speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction.*

Here St. Peter bears witness of his teaching to the apostle Paul, which is ample proof that this epistle was written long after Saint Paul's epistles. This is one of the verses which might induce someone to believe that St. Peter is not the author of this letter. And earlier in this chapter there is a verse in which he says: “**The Lord** does not wish that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (3:9). For he descends a little below the apostolic spirit. Yet it is credible that this is nonetheless the apostle's letter. For since here he is not writing about faith but is writing about love, he also descends. It is the nature of love to descend toward one's neighbor, just as faith moves upward.

He saw that many frivolous spirits were jumbling and twisting St. Paul's words and teaching, because some things in the latter's epistles are difficult to understand, as, for example, when he says that “man is justified by faith apart from works” (Rom. 3:28), that “the Law came in to increase the trespass,” that “where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (Rom. 5:20), and when he makes other similar statements. For when people hear this, they say: “If this is true, we will be idle, do no good work, and thus become pious,” just as it is also said today that we forbid good works. For if St. Paul's words have been twisted, is it surprising that our words are also twisted?

17. *You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, beware lest you be carried away with the error of lawless men and lose your own stability.*

18. *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.*

Since you know everything that has been stated above, he says, and since you see that many false teachers who seduce the world must come, and that there will be scoffers who twist **Scripture** and do not want to understand it, be on your guard, lest you fall away from faith because of false doctrine. And grow, in order that you may become stronger from day to day by constantly occupying yourselves with and proclaiming **God's Word**. Behold, how greatly concerned the apostle is about those who have come to faith! This concern also impelled him to write the two epistles, which contain in rich abundance everything a Christian should know and also what is still to come. **May God give His grace** that we, too, may grasp and retain this! Amen.

## **LIFE APPLICATION**

“Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous  
to be found **by Him** without spot or blemish,  
and at peace.”

How can we discipline ourselves to obey these words of exhortation?