

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT

"Here's the Keys to Winning" - 3:11-18

(Cyrillic)

Key Verses: 3:17,18 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be constantly on your guard, lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness. But be constantly growing 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.

TEXT:

v11. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

v12. Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens being on fire will be destroyed and the elements burning up are being melted.

v13. But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness is dwelling.

v14. Therefore, beloved, since you are looking for these things, make every effort to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

v15. And be considering the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you,

v16. As also in all his letters, speaking in them concerning these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are unlearned and lacking stability are distorting (twisting), as they are also doing with the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

v17. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be constantly on your guard, lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness.

v18. But be constantly growing 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.

Teddy Roosevelt:

"Far Better it is to
dare mighty things, to
win glorious triumphs
even though checkered
by failure than to take
rank with those poor spirits
who neither enjoy much
nor suffer much
because they live in
the gray twilight
that knows not
victory nor defeat."

Country Song: I tried to drown my sorrows
but the little buggers learned
to swim.

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Pinto + the Penguins.

INTRODUCTION:

Russian School teacher. . .

Charles Jones in his book Life Is Tremendous says, "If you're learning to say something positive to everybody about everything all the time, if you're disciplining your mind to see something positive in everything that happens, and if you're learning to see it big and keep it simple, you have a foundation on which to build a steady, expanding life."

One of the songs that we often sang at family camp is "Learning to Lean:"

"Learning to lean, learning to lean,
Learning to lean on Jesus
Finding more power than I'd ever dreamed,
I'm learning to lean on Jesus.

The joy I can't explain fills my soul
Since the day I made Jesus my king.
His blessed holy Spirit is leading my way
He's teaching me and I'm learning to lean.

Sometimes we can be like the man who said
My life is full now, I have everything.
But there is a strong rock in Jesus my Lord
Through my trials I've been learning to lean.

* Sad, broken hearted, so often I've knelt
And I've found God's peace so serene.
* And all that he asks is a childlike trust
And a heart that is learning to lean.

* There's glorious victory each day now for me.
* I have found his peace so serene
He helps me with each task, if only I'll ask
Every day now I am learning to lean."

2 Cor. 3:18

"But we all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord the Spirit."

They make you feel like you got to be a Christian to go there and then they preach the Gospel...

So many of our churches are spending their time preaching the Gospel to the saved!!

Philippians 1:6

"Being confident of this very thing: that he who has begun a good work in us will continue to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Eph. 4: "Equipping the Saints"

1 Peter 2:2,3

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby; if so be you have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

So much on Obstetrics + so little on Pediatrics!!

1 Cor. 3: Natural - Spiritual - Carnal

In this last study we are going to be considering: "Here's the Keys to Winning."

How can we win in the game of life? The KEYS are in verses 17 and 18 of this particular study.

Lot of People Going to Glory with their diapers on...

Are You Making Progress in Your Xian Life?..

v.11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness

"Since" indicates A Foregone Conclusion!!

"These things" refers to that which is dissolved, destroyed and disappears in verse 10.

"Since all these things are to be destroyed, there is no question about it that it is going to happen in this way."

Peter is resting on the prophetic word when he says "in this way." He has no doubts or questions that God is going to be faithful to fulfill the promises which he has made, and the only reason for delay right at this point is so that "none will perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Since our world is in a terminal situation and on a collision course with destruction, Peter says, in view of this, "what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness."

- ① Here's what you have
- ② Here's what you do
- ③ Here's how I'll help
- ④ Here's what you are going to see
- ⑤ Here's how they look
- ⑥ Here's what you need to remember
- ⑦ Here's what's going to happen

Not "if" just "when"

People Seem to be more Concerned About
what they do than what they Are !!

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it's Not what you see but what you be that counts!!
Singer teen board

It behooves us to be concerned about our conduct and
godliness because we are soon to be in his presence.

1 John 2:28

"And now, little children, abide in him, so that
if he should appear, we may have confidence and
not shrink away from him in shame at his coming."

I John 3:2,3

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth
not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that
when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for
we shall see him as he is. And everyone who is
having this hope in him is purifying himself even
as he is pure."

2 Cor. 7:1

"Having, therefore, these promises, dearly beloved,
let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of
the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the
fear of God."

Titus 2:12,13

"Teaching us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires,
and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the
present age, looking for the blessed hope and the
appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior
Christ Jesus."

chap. 1:3

"Seeing that his divine power has generously given
to us everything pertaining to life and godliness
through the true knowledge of him who called us
by means of his own glory and virtue."

chap. 1:5

"Now for this very reason also, having added on
your part every intense effort, provide lavishly
in your faith the aforementioned virtue, and in
the virtue, knowledge"

v.12

Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens being on fire will be destroyed and the elements burning up are being melted.

We are to be "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God." The question comes: How can we be looking for and hastening this coming?

To be looking for something we would be living in light of that event. Matt. 24: Alert → Active → Aware

And then the question comes: How may we hasten it?

* Barclay points out, "The New Testament itself gives us certain ways in which this may be done:

1. It may be done by PRAYER. Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come." The earnest prayer of the Christian heart hastens the coming of the King. If in no other way, it does so in this, that he who prays, opens his own heart for the coming of the King into it.
2. It may be done by PREACHING. Matthew tells us that Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations, and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14). All men must be given the chance to know and to love Jesus Christ before the goal and end of creation is reached. The missionary activity of the church is the hastening of the coming of the King.
3. It may be done by PENITENCE and obedience. Of all things, this would be nearest to Peter's mind and to Peter's heart. The rabbis had two sayings. It is the sins of the people which prevent the coming of the Messiah. If the Jews would genuinely repent for one day, the Messiah would come. The other form of the saying means the same: If Israel would perfectly keep the law for one day, the Messiah would come. In true penitence and in real obedience, a man opens his own heart to the coming of the King and brings nearer that coming throughout the world. We do well to remember that it is our own coldness of heart and our own disobedience which delays the coming of the King.

I think chap. 3:9 helps us with this:

"The Lord of the promise is not delaying, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not desiring for any to perish but for all to make room for (come to) repentance."

if everyone came to repentance He wouldn't have any reason for delaying

The day of God is the eternal state. It is spoken of in Rev. 21:1

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away; and there is no longer any sea."

No Sex ; No Swimming

"On account of which the heavens being on fire will be destroyed and the elements burning up are being melted."

chap. 3:10

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens with a rushing roar will be dissolved, and the elements will be destroyed by burning, and the earth and the works in it shall be found and disappear."

v.13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness is dwelling.

By contrast, we are not so deeply upset and distraught over what is going to happen to the present heavens and earth. "But according to His (that is, the Lord's) promise" you can trust his prophetic promises.

chap. 1:4

We Are Looking For = Goal - The Finish Line !!

"Through which things he has generously given to us his precious and exceedingly great promises, in order that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the destruction in the world caused by desire."

Long Beach - Cars on The Beach

John 14: ; I Cor. 2:9

("But according to His promise) we (as believers) are looking for something--we are looking for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness is dwelling."

Rev. 21:22-27

"And I saw no temple in it; for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it; for the glory of God has illumined it and its lamp is the Lamb.
And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it.
And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed.
And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.
And nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."

v.14

αγαπῶντες

Therefore, beloved, since you are looking for these things, make every effort to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

"Therefore" helps us to see that Peter is telling us in light of these cataclysmic prophetic events, "beloved, since you are looking for these things" and he mentioned we are looking for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness is dwelling in the previous verse; and since all things are to be destroyed in this way, "since you are looking for these things" the command is "make every effort."

There are many times in this letter that Peter has admonished us to:

"make every intense effort"
"to be all the more diligent"
"to be paying attention"
"to have our sincere minds stirred up"
and now again,
"make every effort to be found by Him."

Peter experienced this in the post-resurrection appearances of our Lord to him.

*Not At Peace, Egg All over his Face,
Scared to death....*

Matt. 25:1ff

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them. But the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, Behold, the bridegroom, come out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the prudent, Give us some of your oil; for our lamps are going out. But the prudent answered, saying, No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves. And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came; and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. And later the other virgins also came, saying, Lord, Lord, open up for us. But he answered and said, Truly I say to you, I do not know you. Be on the alert, then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."

"Make every effort to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless"

There are three things that are outlined here.

This takes us back to verse 11 -

"Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness."

"Make every effort to be:"

Past
Present
Future

1. **Found by Him in PEACE** - That is, that peace has been made by the blood of the cross; and therefore being made right with God, we have peace. It is the evidence of a right relationship with him.

2. **SPOTLESS** - **1 John 1:9** says "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

It is being sensitive to that which is an offense to the Holy Spirit, that we have grieved or quenched him in some way, we would be quick to confess and make it right and experience the cleansing so that we might be found by him not only in peace but also spotless and

3. **BLAMELESS** - **Acts 24:16** "Herein do I exercise myself to have always a conscience void of offense toward God and toward man." **Ps. 119:145**; **Ps. 37:23,24**

Jude 24,25 "Now to him who is able to guard you against stumbling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever, Amen."

v.15

And be considering the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you,

The command in verse 15 is to "be considering the patience of our Lord to be salvation."

This takes us back to **verse 9** of this chapter:

3:9

"The Lord of the promise is not delaying as some count slowness but is patient toward you, not desiring for any to perish but for all to make room for (come to) repentance."

I think it is important for us to see salvation in all three of its tenses:

Mike on Friday in Waco

Mark " Tuesday in Austin

1. The first tense of salvation is PAST - when by faith we come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and we are born again by the Spirit into God's family.
2. PRESENT tense of salvation - This is the daily working of the Lord by his Spirit in our lives to produce growth and spiritual development, making us more like our Savior.
3. FUTURE aspect of salvation - When ultimately we are delivered as the purchased possessions to glory. We stand before him complete, to bring glory and honor to his work of grace in our lives.

"Just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you"

Peter here makes reference to Paul and calls him a beloved brother.

Forgiveness - MATT. 12: — "3 Times." Healing power of the gospel.
Paul - John Mark II Tim 4:

This is an amazing thing because of what happened in Galatians 2: beginning at verse 11

Reconciling of Relationships
I beseech Euodia & synuche to be of the same mind in the Lord. -

"But when Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned; for prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in the presence of all, If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like the Jews? We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles. Nevertheless, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; since by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

How Traagic to go to glory with a broken Relationship⁻¹¹⁻

Paul is a beloved brother because they both belong to the same spiritual family.

"According to the wisdom given to him." This wisdom, of course, was given by the Spirit of God.

James 1:5

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

1 Cor. 1:21

"For since in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believed."

1 Cor. 1:30

"But by his doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption."

"According to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you." The question that comes to us is: Where did Paul write about the patience of our Lord to be salvation?

2 Cor. 6:1,2

"And working together with him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain; for he says, At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you. Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

v.16

As also in all his letters, speaking in them concerning these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are unlearned and lacking stability are distorting (twisting), as they are also doing with the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Peter mentions that "in all his letters is speaking in them concerning these things" that is, the prophetic themes of the destruction of the heavens and the earth and the new heavens and the new earth, "in which" that is, his letters "are some things hard to understand."

What are some of the things hard to understand in Paul's epistles:

1. The doctrine of justification
2. The doctrine of identification of the believer with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
3. The doctrine of the flesh and the spirit
4. Romans 9, 10 & 11 and the relationship of Israel to this age
5. The subject of spiritual gifts
6. The subject of law and grace
7. The priesthood of Melchizedek

"Which those who are unlearned and lacking stability"

There are two characteristics here of these that he is talking about:

1. They are UNLEARNED.

1 Cor. 2:14

"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually appraised."

2. and LACKING STABILITY

Back in chap. 2:14 we noted "the false prophets are enticing unstable souls."

Ephesians 4:14-16

"As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness and deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

ONE These who are unlearned and lacking stability are doing ~~two~~ things. They are distorting ~~and~~ twisting not only Paul's writings as they are doing with the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Satan is a master at distortion and twisting.

Genesis 3

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Indeed, has God said, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?
And the woman said to the serpent, From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat, but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.
And the serpent said to the woman, You surely shall not die,
For God knows that in the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Matt. 4:6

"And he said to him, "If you are the Son of God, thrown yourself down, for it is written, He will give his angels charge concerning you, and on their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."

Paul's writings are put on an equal footing with the rest of Scripture. 2 Timothy and 2 Peter are their last letters.

When you distort ~~and~~ twist God's word, it ends in destruction. All we need to do is ask Eve. "So many people overlook + hope".

"Many will say to me in that day".

Romans 5:12

the Lord is not going to overlook, cancel, or change His word... it is the declaration of His will.

"Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men."

It stands written

How gracious Peter is. It is the love of God shed forth in his heart which enables him to speak of the apostle Paul who had openly criticized him in Antioch as "beloved."

healing is there in the power of the Spirit

There is nothing of jealousy in Simon Peter's nature, and we can be sure that his reference to Paul is with a pure and sincere heart.

v.17

οὐκ ἔστιν ὑμῖν! You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be constantly on your guard, lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness.

v.18

But be constantly growing 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.

These two verses are the key verses to this 8th study: "Here's the Keys to Winning."

The two KEYS are:

1. BE CONSTANTLY ON YOUR GUARD - Defensive
 2. BE CONSTANTLY GROWING - Offensive
- weapons!

Peter now in these final words is addressing the believers again. "You therefore, beloved, (just like he has spoken back in verse 14) knowing this beforehand, (that is, there are going to be the unlearned and those lacking stability distorting and twisting the word of God):

Whole Reason For Chapter Two !!

1. You be constantly on your guard. *Chapter Two!!*

The reason he gives this command is "lest, being carried away."

"Tossed to And fro" = Eph.4:

* Hebrews 2:1-3

"For this reason, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? after it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard."

The instrument of this carrying away is "by the error of unprincipled men."

In chap. 2:7 Peter says,

"And if he rescued righteous Lot, being completely worn down by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men..."

Now he is saying "the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness."

Galatians 5:4

"You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law. You have fallen from grace."

* * Peter had this very experience in Galatians 2 and at Calvary in Luke 22.

"You fall from your own steadfastness" *"You were running well."*

Galatians 6:1

"Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted."

1 Cor. 15:58

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

→ Like A Roaring Lion Seeking Whom He May Devour. . .

Satan Really works on this... childish + carnal

2. But the second key to winning is "be constantly growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Doesn't want believers reaching puberty

LITTLE child
Young men
Fathers
Marvelous Grace

It is constantly growing in two spheres:

1. In the GRACE — Past, Present, Future
2. The KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peter Needed this

→ Legalistic + SELF-Righteous

It is growing in grace, not the law or legal requirements, and knowledge; it is getting to know the Lord Jesus more and more.

Grace produces the humble, broken spirit, the tender, compassionate, contrite heart... Genuine, Good, Gracious, Godly person... chap. 1:3

"Seeing that his divine power has generously given to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of him who called us by means of his own glory and virtue."

Philippians 3:10

✱✱

"That I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death."

Hebrews 5:11-6:6

✱✱

"Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For every one who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe."

But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Therefore, leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity; not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Of instruction about washings and laying on of hands and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

And this we shall do if God permits.

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted the good word of God, and the power of the age to come,

And then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put him to open shame."

The solution to drifting is a concentration on personal growth. It is getting ready for war. ① World ② Flesh ③ Devil

Arrayed to divert us from the Father's primary objective

The solution to all these problems is constant growing. And that is

"As a newborn babe in Christ desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."

Growth

The Word → The written The Living Prayer → fellowship → Live w/ our wife Acc. to Know

Servant

Peter here is dropping the mantle on others, even as he himself has grown to such Christlikeness in his years of relationship with the Savior and ministry. He now places this responsibility on others in these last two key commands:

whatever You do: Saves the best to last!!

① "Be constantly on your guard"

② "Be constantly growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Jowett points out, "Yes, we can grow. It is our dignity and our privilege to grow. We can grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How then can we increase our capacity for God? How may we best grow in grace and knowledge-in the two-fold gifts of reception and perception.

John 17:17
Sanctify them
in the truth;
Thy word is
truth.

Dan 11:32 "The people who know their God
will display strength and take action."

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"And the third means of growth is to be found in the ministry of unselfish service. In the sphere of the Spirit, expenditure is ever the condition of expansion. We get while we give; we grow while we serve. 'He that loseth his life shall find it.' The man who goes out to serve his brother shall meet his God and shall be partially transfigured into the Savior's likeness. He shall pass into ever richer acquisitions of grace, and he shall be taken into the deeper secrets of his Lord."

Kramer points out, "The informed Christian has no excuse for stopping short in attainment of all God provided for maturity and stability. By the inspired writings they had been exhorted to godly living, to a knowledge that comes from God only, and to a hope transcending all human difficulties. The passions and pitfalls leading to bondage and blindness cannot enslave the informed Christian who has learned to rely on God's grace and to counter reasonings of men with the true knowledge of him who is both Savior from sin and Lord of life. To this end is the word of the living God recorded in Scripture."

Weisiger points out, "The three Christian obligations are:

< to know
to show
to grow.

Christians are to be knowledgeable in these things. Christians should show the vitality of their conviction about the day of the Lord. Chap. 3:12-14 stresses looking, looking, looking. Holiness and godliness belong to the order of eternity. Christians should never stop growing. Grace and knowledge may be taken together as perpetual gifts of the Lord who bestows upon all earnest followers all that they need, and who grants both as a favor and a condition of growth and increasingly intimate fellowship with himself. Our task is never over until the last duty is done, the last service rendered, the last perishing soul witnessed to, the last bit of character polished, the last breath drawn, or until the last trumpet sounds and the great day dawns. We keep on growing into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

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English points out, "So wrote Simon Peter, fisherman, apostle, disciple, man of letters. Himself long since into glory, his body in an Eastern grave, but Simon Peter, being asleep, yet speaketh, and we join with him in everlasting praise of the one whom Peter loved and served, our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

★★ Ephesians 4:15

"But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ."

★★ Barclay points out, "The Christian is a man with a developing life." The inflexibility of the Christian life is not the rigidity of death. The Christian must daily experience the wonder of grace and daily grow in the gifts which grace can bring. The Christian must daily enter more and more into the wonder which is in Jesus Christ. It is only on a firm foundation that a great building can tower into the air, and it is only because it has a deep root that a great tree can reach out to the sky with its branches. The Christian life is at once a life with a firm foundation and with an ever outward and upward growth."

we ought to be changing !!!

★★ One poet wrote:

"We mutter and sputter
We fume and we spurt.
We mumble and grumble,
Our feelings get hurt."

We can't understand things,
Our vision grows dim.
When all that we need
Is a moment with him."

--Author unknown

Psalm 1;

★★ John Bunyan says, "Read and read again, and do not despair of help to understand something of the will and mind of God, though you think they are fast locked up from you. Neither trouble your hands, though you have not commentaries and expositions. Pray and read, and read and pray; for

★★ I'm pressing
on the upward
way...

"a little from God is better than a great deal from men. Also, what is from men is uncertain and is often lost and tumbled over and over by men. But what is from God is fixed as a nail in a sure place."

Oyler says, "The believers are to resist the influence of false teachers by diligent personal growth in Jesus Christ. Following the warning in 3:17, Peter concludes with a positive exhortation in 3:18 'But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.'

Growth is the greatest safeguard against false teaching. Therefore, the purpose of 2 Peter could be stated thus: To exhort believers to diligent personal growth in Jesus Christ in order to resist the influence of the false teachers."

Smith points out, "What is growth? It is progress but not the progress of a stone rolling down a hill nor yet of a traveler journeying on a road. It is progress by assimilation and necessarily implies the existence of life. Only that which has life grows as the plant or the human body. For a dead plant ceases to assimilate to itself the properties of the soil in which it is planted and a dead body can no longer partake of the food by which when living it was nourished. Growth is gradual, not by a series of leaps does a plant grow, but by a steady progress, for the most part unobservable. You cannot see it grow, however narrowly you can watch it. And yet, compare it with what it was in a few weeks or months ago, and you perceive that it has grown, perhaps very considerably. A Christian's growth is gradual and not always perceptible even to himself. In the experiences of many a believer there comes a crisis in which, realizing a higher degree of the spiritual life than he possessed before, he makes a bound in his progress as if he has been transplanted to a more fertile soil, or as if some disease in his nature has suddenly been cured. And such is indeed the fact. And growth in a really healthy plant is constant. It may seem far otherwise sometimes. What is the tree growing which has been stripped by the winter's blast of all its leaves and stands there in your orchard as if all its very life were gone. Yes, it is striking its roots more deeply into the soil and is growing downwards if not upwards. And when the spring returns, you will see it put forth fresh leaves and flowers and fruit, and it will appear more beautiful than it ever was before. The Christian has his winters, when it seems as if his growth has been arrested by the blast of adversity and the storms of time.

Must
have SP.
Life before
You can
Grow!!

"But no, he is growing in patience and fortitude and submission. He is getting firmer hold on the promises of God. He is striking his roots more deeply into the soil, and e'er long it will appear to all around that he is a better and holier man."

* * * Barbeieri says, "The apostle Peter admonishes believers to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He ends this letter as he began it, with the subject of Christian growth. The Christian life is either a life of growth or it is a life of deterioration. The growth must be both in grace and in knowledge. The knowledge of the Lord, which seems to be the key, will be the safeguard against all apostasy and heresy. The Christian life begins with the knowledge of the Lord, continues in the knowledge of him as a safeguard, and will eventually culminate in the full knowledge of him." Peter's final statement forms a fitting close to this epistle. 'To Jesus Christ alone belongs glory, both now and forever, Amen.' Peter's words emphasize again our wonderful Savior and the eternal glory which will be his. There is no more fitting expression with which to close the study than these same words of Peter: 'To him be glory both now and forever, Amen.'"

* * * It was F. B. Meyer who said, "We may measure our growth in grace by the measure in which we grow in the knowledge of the word of God."

* * * Tom Westwood says, "There is no such thing as standing still for the Christian. You stand still; you'll be caught with the tide of worldliness and carried in the stream of life away from the Lord, until you no longer enjoy communion with him. There must be constant progress; grow in grace and in the knowledge." These are the two hand maidens that travel together in successful Christian living: grace and knowledge. They must go together to be effectual. If we seek to grow in grace without the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, we become sentimentalists and walk in an unreal world of sanctimonious pretense. Grace and knowledge must be commensurate, the one with the other to make a mature and successful Christian."

Ironside says, "No one will ever thus fail who keeps his eyes on Christ and his heart fixed on those things that are above, where Christ sits at God's right hand. Doctrinal error of a serious character is almost invariably connected with some moral failure. As we walk before God in holiness of life, we will be preserved from the destructive heresies; and as we walk in the truth, we will be kept from sin in the life. This is the unfailing panacea for all spiritual ills. As we go on to know Christ better and become increasingly like him, and as we feed upon his word, and it has its sway over our hearts, our progress will be consistent and continuous."

Fulton J. Sheen in his book Treasures in Clay says, "I can remember when, after four months in the hospital, I began to recover. I was reading mass on the altar constructed over the bed before a few priests and friends. I spontaneously gave a sermon, which I remember so well. I said that I was glad that I had open heart surgery because when the Lord comes to take us all, he will look to see if we have any marks of the cross upon ourselves. He will look at our hands to see if they are crucified for sacrificial giving. He will look at our feet to see if they have been thorn-bruised and nail-pierced searching for lost sheep. He will look at our heart to see if that has been opened to receive his divine heart. O what joy is mine just to have endured the miniscule, imitation of his suffering on the cross by having a wounded side. Maybe he will recognize me from that scar and receive me into his kingdom."

Grady Nutt in his book So Good, So Far says, "I can say confessionally and with the joy of humor in place, that because of my pivotal characters, it has been so good, so far; and I can hardly wait for the next turn in the road."

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Holy conduct and godliness ought to be top priorities in our lives.

LESSON #2: The present heavens and earth are going to be destroyed by fire.

LESSON #3: We need to be making every effort to be found by him in peace, spotless and blameless.

LESSON #4: The two keys for winning in the game of life:

1. Be constantly on your guard
2. Be constantly growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Rev. 3: Lukewarm: Burp, Bottle, Dirty Britches

The apostle Peter ends his letter with a doxology:

"To him (that is, the Lord Jesus Christ) be the glory both now..."

John 15:8

"By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples,"

"And to the day of eternity"

The apostle Peter ends the letter by focusing on eternity. All of this glory is to be directed to Jesus Christ. It is only through a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and a growing and developing relationship with him on a daily basis, that we can ultimately win the game of life.

It is altogether fitting that Peter would place his final focus upon the Christ 'who is all and in all.'

We have been sharing together "How to Win the Game of Life: Written By One Who Did". We have considered this in eight segments:

1. "Here's What You Have"
2. "Here's What You Do"
3. "Here's How I'll Help"
4. "Here's What You're Going to Face"
5. "Here's How They Look"
6. "Here's What You Need to Remember"
7. "Here's What's Going to Happen"
8. "Here's the Keys to Winning"

Phil. 3:12-14

"To God be the glory, great things he hath done
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice.
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son
And give him the glory
Great things he hath done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood
To every believer the promise of God.
The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives

Great things he hath taught us,
Great things he hath done.
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son.
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see."