



Don't Lose Your Way

Peter closes his second epistle with a final warning and a powerful doxology. Peter's greatest concern is that we do not 'lose' our way in the faith through false teaching, false teachers and the way of the world. The way of the world or the way of faith...what is your decision?

A. Looking Forward 2 Pet 3:14

In light of Christ's return, Peter encourages us to focus on (be diligent) about maturing in the following three attributes:

- 1. Be in peace:** Specifically that we be at peace with the Lord, with others and with ourselves. This peace is also resting in the Lord and in His provision. (See *John 16:33*)
- 2. Be without spot:** This is in contrast to false teachers (2 Pet 2:13). We are to flee from every appearance of evil and the world. (See *James 1:27*)
- 3. Be blameless:** To be blameless we must be forgiven. And there is only One who can do that, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." *1 John 1:9*

B. Considering the Past 2 Pete 3:15-16

Remember that in Peter's day many were saying that the Lord is NOT coming back. (2 Pet 3:3-4) Here Peter looks back and tells why the Lord has not come yet.

- 1. The patience of God:** We mentioned in lesson 8 of this series that God is not slow—He's just patient. His desire is that all might be saved. (2 Peter 3:9). When I consider that Christ has not yet come—in one sense I rejoice as there is more time for more to be saved.
- 2. The revelation of Scripture:** Peter says that the Apostle Paul has already written about these things. See *Eph 2:3-5, Col 1:21, 1Tim 2:3-4*. Also, these truths are found in all of the Scriptures—including the Old Testament.

C. Living in the Present 2 Pet 3:17-18

In closing his epistle, Peter gives us a warning and a challenge that he expects us to walk in every day of our life.

- 1. Beware lest you fall:** Peter revealed to us the 'secure' position in 2 Pet 1:3-4 where we are encouraged to grow and a reminder that "...if you do these things you will NEVER fall [stumble]." (*vs :10*) Paul also spoke of those who go back to the things of the world in *Gal 5:4* as "You have fallen from grace."
- 2. Grow in grace and knowledge:** This is Peter's 'doxology' his final 'glory' to God. He challenges us to live in 'process' of growth. Specifically, in the 'grace' and 'knowledge' of Jesus. If we will do this—we will give to Him (*our Lord and Savior*) glory: both NOW and forever.

2 Peter 3:14-18 (NKJV)

:14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

:15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

:17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 16:7-11

:7 I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons. **:8** I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. **:9** Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.

:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.