



## Also Paul (II Peter 3:14-18)

*I have decided that after 22 weeks of studying the letters from Peter that I would end this part of our journey with something a little different. Instead of a typical Impact Discipleship teaching that has page after page of scripture references, I decided I would use the final five verses to talk through a summary of our journey. I encourage you to go back and review, download the notes and watch all the teachings. You can find them all here: [Impact Discipleship Notes & Videos](#). Just scroll back to the first one in this series which was taught on December 12, 2020.*

### **Don't Twist Paul**

“Therefore, beloved, **looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;** 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, 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**. 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**; but **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." II Peter 3:14-18 NKJV

## II Peter 3:14-18

- ☑ *"Therefore, beloved, **looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;**" II Peter 3:14 NKJV*
- ☑ **Looking forward to these things**
- ☑ What things? *"**Nevertheless** we, according to His promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**" II Peter 3:13 NKJV*
- ☑ Don't miss the last piece, where righteousness dwells. Righteousness—all things in right standing and right alignment with Yahweh. What a glorious place that will be. You would do well to look forward to these things!
- ☑ **Be diligent to be found by Him in peace**
- ☑ As a true disciple, your life will be a glorious journey that waves back and forth between difficult challenges and wonderful victories. It's all a process of sanctification.

Along the way you will discover some amazing things and find that support comes from strange places and oftentimes, so does the resistance.

- ☑ What do I mean by that? Well, the very people you'd expect to be behind you, propelling you forward will many times offer you the greatest challenges, while support will appear from the most unlikely places.
- ☑ But here's the thing. You are called to maintain peace along the way. And that will not be easy as you will be tempted more than you can imagine to get frustrated and angry, even wanting to quit the mission! Remember, we detailed what your journey to becoming like Christ looks like many weeks ago when we looked at the early verses of this very letter. We discovered two irrefutable facts that you must recognize if you want the most successful journey.
- ☑ #1: The process of discipleship begins after you come to faith and consists of seven very specific steps. On your faith add... Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, and Love! Do these and you will never stumble to the point that your journey ends!

- ☑ #2: Don't look back along the way. Forget your past sins; they've been handled at the foot of the cross. Looking back is the one thing that will cause you to stumble and could even stop your discipleship journey altogether.
- ☑ So... be diligent to pursue peace. Have no anxiety, and trust in the process. When things seem to be at their worst, that is the time you should be motivated and most desirous to cast your cares on the shoulders of Y'shua!
- ☑ **Be found without spot and blameless**
- ☑ See: [Without Blemish or...Apostate Religion](#)
- ☑ When you are tempted to fall back on the "No one is perfect; I'm only human!" excuse for anything, remember this one thing; that is NOT what the Bible says! Y'shua was perfect and you are being transformed from glory to glory into His image. And you are not only human! You are part human and part heavenly being! You'd be better off saying, "I'm called to perfection, and I'm on my way!"
- ☑ Think of the grace of God as both a direct connect to an infinite power source and a giant eraser. You have been empowered for transformation and you get to practice with a cushy safety net underneath you. If you fall, get

back up as Y'shua gently whispers in your ears, "do over!"

- ☑ Remember, God does not ask us to do the impossible, simply because with God, all things He asks of us are possible. When He says be perfect, and live without blemish, it is because He is empowering you to do just that. So, stop making excuses and get to it! And it is perfectly okay to recognize that there are reasons why you might fall short at times, and identifying those reasons is a good thing. But, also know this, a reason is NOT an excuse. They are two different animals!
- ☑ I've heard it said like this, "Once you become good at making excuses, you will never become good at anything else ever again!"
  
- ☑ *"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, 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.**" II Peter 3:15-16 NKJV*

- ☑ **Paul also taught you the things I just wrote about in this letter; he wrote about them in his letters!**
- ☑ Time and again I have referenced inside the teachings of Peter why I believe we have such a diverse style of presenting information when comparing Peter and Paul. Peter was simple fisherman who writes in a way that is direct and to the point, whereas Paul is a genius Torah scholar who takes paragraphs and even chapters to say what Peter says in a sentence or two.
- ☑ This is important to understand, so you can use the simple ideas of Peter as a skeletal framework on which you can hang all the details of Paul, the muscle and ligaments and organs!
- ☑ For example: Peter says, “add to your faith... Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, and Love!” And Paul writes the details about what each of these things are in the life of a disciple. This we have proven throughout the 22 weeks in Peter’s letters.
- ☑ **Many of these concepts are difficult to understand as it is, but with Paul’s complex and detailed style of writing, even more so!**

- ☑ But herein lies the controversy...Paul's complex writing invites those with an agenda of their own to take his words and bend them to their own belief system. You can take almost anything that Paul teaches, isolate it out of context, and create your own doctrine out of it, even your own denomination or religion.
- ☑ Take one of dozens of examples I could give you!
  - ☑ *"(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;"*  
Romans 2:13 NKJV
  - ☑ *"Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."* Romans 3:20 NKJV
- ☑ So, don't do that! Don't be part of the problem! We already have 40,000 sub denominations of what we call Christianity. And they will not last...ultimately we will have one faith, one baptism, one God!
- ☑ **It is common for two type of people to twist Paul's words and make a mess out out what he is saying.**
  - ☑ #1: The Untaught—opportunists who see a crack and weasel their way in to siphon off some followers for themselves. They don't have much knowledge but they are gifted in all the ways that attract people. Who cares

that they know very little when they are so charismatic and can easily draw your attention away from truth. It's more fun to look at the smoke and lights anyway. Who cares if what they are saying is true!

- ☑ #2: The Unstable—These are the narcissists who will do anything to satisfy their own selfish desires. The flavor of the day is fine as they shamelessly shift, juking and jiving to keep as many people happy as they can, all with one goal in mind. They must have your allegiance. They can never be satisfied unless they are sucking the life out of someone else!

☑ **These two types of people twist Paul's words, but it is really to their own demise they do so!**

- ☑ Trust me, these pair of beauties will ultimately fall victim to their own self-deception. You see, in the end, the long list of obvious inconsistencies and apparent self-satisfaction-driven policies and doctrines will eventually cause their destruction. They eat their young and if they could catch up to it, they would eat their own tails. Their lust for power, attention, fame, worship and significance ends in total collapse. You've seen this, yes?

☑ **People like this have the propensity to twist all the scriptures!**



- ☑ You cannot live a life like this and teach the truth of God's word at the same time, so you are forced to bend the scriptures to say what you need them to say. It's easy to do as God formed most people as sheep. That is not a bad thing; it is a God thing. It's just that sheep are programmed to follow, and thus, will even follow a bad shepherd over a cliff.
- ☑ That is why you **MUST** check the word for yourself. Don't believe the words of man, **UNLESS** those words are in alignment with the words of Yahweh! It's that simple, but not easy. Why? Because you are not to remain passive in this quest. It will take effort, and the thing about effort is that...well, it **REQUIRES EFFORT!**
- ☑ *"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**; but **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." II Peter 3:17-18 NKJV*
- ☑ **I am warning you of this ahead of time so you don't buy into these bad teaching, the teachings of the wicked!**

- ☑ Notice how there is no room here to believe that the untaught and unstable people are just making honest errors as Peter then calls them wicked!
- ☑ It's should not then come as a surprise that the word wicked has it's origin in the concept of "twisted". Yes, when you want to twist God's word to align it with your own selfish motives and desires, that is the very definition of wicked!
- ☑ Here, Peter does what humans do best. He has learned a lesson or two about rushing impetuously into things and how that all was an attempt to satisfy what he believed, his preconceived notion. Y'shua's grace met him in his weakness and transformed him. This upgraded Peter is the man capable of issuing this warning!
- ☑ **Instead, continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Master and Savior!**
- ☑ Bottom line, summary statement to end our journey... grow in grace and knowledge.
- ☑ Grace: the supernatural empowerment of God for you to do all things and become all things He has called you to. Is grace an excuse to sin? Our beloved Paul says, "Let it not be!" No, grace is the very reason we don't sin!

- ☑ How would you know that? Oh, that too is simple, but not easy! Grow in knowledge, and never stop growing. The Bible is the endless well of living water. Dive in, drink, and fear not, no one drowns in this well; and if your head goes under you'll make the awesome discovery that you can breathe under water!

### **NEXT WEEK**

Practice the Truth (1 John 1:1-10)