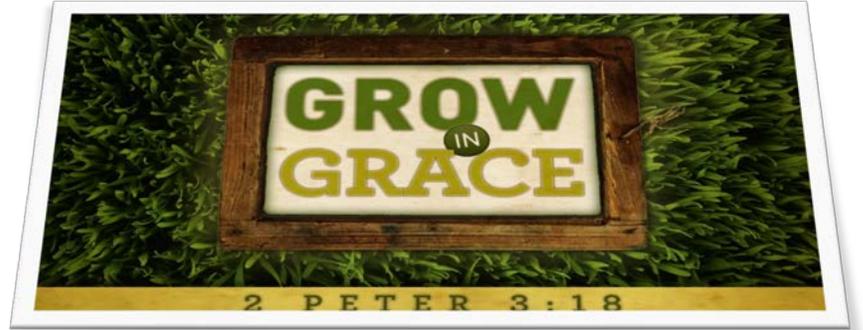


“GROW”

2 Peter 3:18

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



IMMEDIATE CONTEXT: 2 Peter 3:14-18.

Sometimes the main point to make is fully said and emphasized at the very end. In this case, it is the commission to *grow*! What is not growing is dying. 2 Peter 3:18 expresses the end of many important truths the apostle had taught. *Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord*, because:

1. There is a great day coming (2 Pet. 3:10-13).
2. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise but is longsuffering (2 Pet. 3:1-9).
3. There will be false teachers among you who can lead you astray (2 Pet. 2:1-22).
4. The prophetic word is confirmed (2 Pet. 1:12-21).
5. One is fruitless without such graces of virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (2 Pet. 1:5-11).
6. God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness through Christ (2 Pet. 1:1-4).

Questions:

Have I grown more this year than last or am I flat or perhaps digressing? What am I doing to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord? Am I easily distracted from attaining personal achievement in the word by things in the world? Is my measure of *growth* concurrent with my measure of *diligence*? Surely, we are never diligent in what we are disinterested.

Therefore, consider our highlighted passage in light of these segments from 2 Peter:

- “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge” (1:5).
- “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble” (1:10).
- “Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless” (3:14).

--Steven J. Wallace