

II-PETER

CHAPTER 3:14-18

TAPE NUMBER SM-277 - NOVEMBER, 1997

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

2-Peter 1:3

“as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue”

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“KEEPING THE FAITH UNTIL THE END”

THE CHRISTIANS JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS OF THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION:	Reading of the Text	3:14-18
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“KEEPING THE FAITH UNTIL THE END”

Faith for some people is a difficult thing...

- Some think that it's mystical and strange
- Others, that it's just for the weak and ignorant
- And Some feel their way through faith

Hebrews 11:1

Now **faith** is being **sure** of what we hope for (look forward to) and **certain** of what we do not see.

Mark 11:22

So Jesus answered and said to His Followers, "Have faith in God.

Luke 18:8

"I tell you nevertheless, when the Son of Man returns, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Faith, and Man's Ability to Have Faith
is in fact yet another fingerprint of the Creator God

Christianity is not a religion...
It's Faith, Founded Upon the God of Facts

As Christians

OUR FAITH IS ANCHORED AND SEATED IN THE PERSON,
JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH, GOD THE SON

But Having Faith in Someone assumes several things:

- 1.) *That you respect them*
- 2.) *That you appreciate things about them*
- 3.) *That you are committed to them*

And being committed to them would mean that you are
willing to be with them, to follow them

SO WHAT IS IT TO HAVE FAITH IN JESUS

To **have the knowledge** that He personally is involved in every area of your life

To **rest in his ability** to keep you right where He wants you to be

To **trust that he will be dependable** to do to you and for you what is the very best

Luke 17:5

And the apostles said to the Lord,
"Increase our faith."

1.) Keeping the Faith Results in a Diligent in Life vv. 14

Verse 14

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

Verse 14a

1a) Real Faith Affects What We See Ahead vv. 14a

looking forward to these things

Real Faith Affects Us!

The “Looking forward” means a with a great
excitement and joyousness

see Verse 13 (look)

Luke 12:36a-37a

"and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master...
Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.

Real Faith Affects Us!

1 Peter 1:13-14

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the
grace that is (to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;) as obedient
children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

- **With Assurance:** We Know That We Are His
- **With Hope:** Looking Forward Because The Future is Secure in Christ

- **With Excitement:** “These things” is the new heaven and new earth that’s coming

The Reality of Who we are in Christ and
Where we’ll spend eternity energizes us to
follow Jesus with a passion

Verse 14b

1b) Real Faith Controls Who We Are

vv. 14b

be diligent to be found by Him in peace,

If you’re excited about how things finish
– you be excited about being diligent

be **diligent** to be (Speaks of You and I Here and Now)

*

Diligent

GRK 4704 spoudazo (spoo-dad'-zo);

to make effort, be prompt or earnest to endeavor,
labor, study.

To Shove Off The Excuses

Luke 14:16-24

Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' ¹⁸ "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' ¹⁹ "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' ²⁰ "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' ²¹ "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' ²² "Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' ²³ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

Make A Personal Effort to be Diligent

not at making **money**, not at your **hobbies**, not at your **basketball** tourney or you **golf** game

But at Knowing Jesus!

“I am not going to go to church on Sunday...
it’s my only day off”

- **What If Your Car Goes Screeching Out of Control** - Crashes over the side of a freeway overpass and you’re falling headfirst toward the ground... “God Save Me” is your cry. “Sorry” says God “I am not going to save you on Sunday, it’s my only day off”
- **There will be a quiz** at the end of our lives, and God the Father will be asking us the questions and giving us the test and you and I had better have the right answers.

You Need To Get Diligent About God and Put Him First in Your Life

Matthew 6:26-33

"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁸ "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Verse 14c

1c) Real Faith Reminds Us of How We Are

vv. 14c

*without spot and blameless;
Can I Ask You... "How Are You?"*

This Diligence
Will Make a Difference When We Meet Jesus Christ

Being found by Him
is coming face to face with him

*(When Jesus Receives You and I to
Himself)*

- * **Peace** **GRK 1515 eirene (i-ray'-nay);**
peace (literally or figuratively); by implication,
prosperity: quietness, rest, + set at one again.
- * **Spot** **GRK 784 aspilos (as'-pee-los);**
free from pollution, without marring, unspotted.
- * **Blameless** **GRK 298 amometos (am-o'-may-tos);**
unblameable, blame-free

Meaning: He will Greet us in Peace
HAVING NO JUDGMENT OR CONDEMNATION TOWARD US

**We're Spotless and Blameless Right Now
Because Jesus Says So**

1 Peter 1:15-16

but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶
because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Tell Them;

"I AM THE ONE YOU NEED FOR EVERYTHING"

Exodus 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

We Can Be Holy Now,

Because He is Holy

We Can Be Christians Now,

Because He is Christ

We Can Be Peaceful Now,

Because He is Our Peace

We Can Be Strong Now,

Because He is Our Strength

Right Now, We Are To Be Living

in **peace**, (with God and Of God) without **spot** and **blameless**;

Because Jesus Has Made Us

Spotless and Blameless

We're Spotless and Blameless

Practically we're growing through it - Positionally, we're coming from it

Ephesians 1:4b-7

in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

1 Corinthians 1:7-9

so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Philippians 2:14-15

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become (walk in) blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

2.) Keeping the Faith Means Reaching the Lost vv. 15

Verse 15

and account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation-- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

2a) Reaching the World for Christ is God's Will for You vv. 15a

Verse 15a

*and **account** that the **long-suffering**
of our Lord is **salvation***

This is Peter's final word *to the mockers regarding the Lord's apparent delay*
His Patience Results in More Being Converted and Saved

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering
toward us,
not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

The Lord is an Evangelist

Jesus Called Paul to the Gentles (the world)

Acts 9:15

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before
Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

The Lord is Calling the World

Acts 17:30

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to
repent,

Paul was a special apostle to the gentiles

Ephesians 3:8

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach
among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Jesus Commanded You and Me to Go

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven
and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the
name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all
things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
Amen.

Be a Sender, a Goer, - a Doer

2 Timothy 4:5

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions,
do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
((Do what evangelist do))

3.) Keeping the Faith Depends Upon Knowing the Word vv. 16

Verse 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.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

3a) It's Our Responsibility to Understand the Scriptures vv. 16a

*as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things,
in which are some things **hard to understand**,*

Peter doesn't say impossible to understand
- just hard to understand

Some things take time to and experience to come to the
full understanding of

3b) Our Faith Must be Firm and Confident vv. 16b

which **untaught** and **unstable** people **twist** to their own destruction,
as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

- * **Untaught** **GRK 261 amathes (am-ath-ace');**
those who remain in ignorance: unlearned because they are unwilling to mold
- * **Unstable** **GRK 793 asteriktos (as-tay'-rik-tos);**
unfixed, or loose, vacillating:
- * **Twist** **GRK 4761 strebloo (streb-lo'-o);**
to torture, to disfigure, cripple and leave shattered

TO MANIPULATE THE SCRIPTURES TO FIT YOUR PERSONAL GOALS

WHEN THIS IS DONE - A CULT IS BORN

The Twisters are not Christians

Who Struggle with Understanding the Bible -
We All Struggle to Understand.

They're the false prophet and teacher
and those taught by them...

- * **Destruction** **GRK 684 apoleia (ap-o'-li-a);**
ruin or loss (physical, spiritual or eternal):
damnable (-nation), destruction, waste.

2 Timothy 3:7

always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

The How To's

of Understanding Scripture

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| #1) | Read Through it: | Receiving the Word | Being in Studies |
| #2) | Pray Over It: | Digesting the Word | Being Alone |
| #3) | Then Apply It | Living the Word | Being in Ministry |

4.) Keeping the Faith Causes Us to Grow vv. 17-18

Verse 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;

4a) Considering the Tenderness of The Lord vv. 17a

You {therefore, beloved,} since you know this beforehand

TO BE FOR WARNED IS TO BE FOR ARMED

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

*beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness,
being led away with the error of the wicked;*

- * **Beware** **GRK 5442 phulasso (foo-las'-so);**
set a guard or watch. To reinforce against attack

The error of the wicked

- *The error* = is the false representing of what the Bible teaches
- *The wicked* = are those who are false in their interpretation

Belief Effects Behavior & Behavior Effects Belief

Verse 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.

*but grow in the **grace** and **knowledge**
of our **Lord** and **Savior Jesus Christ**.*

But... grow in grace

1161 de (deh); a primary particle (adversative or continuative); but, and, et. also, and, but, moreover, now [often unexpressed in English].

- * **Grow** **GRK 837 auzano (owx-an'-o);**
to grow ("wax"), i.e. enlarge, to increase.

*in the **grace** and **knowledge***

Romans 5:1-4

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also glory in **tribulations**, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our **tribulation**, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

- * **Lord** **GRK 2962 kurios (koo'-ree-os);**
from kuros (supremacy); supreme in authority, i.e. (as noun) controller; by implication, Mr. (as a respectful title) master, Sir.
- * **Savior** **GRK 4990 soter (so-tare');**
from 4982; a deliverer, i.e. God or Christ:
- * **Christ.** **GRK 5547 Christos (khris-tos');**
from 5548; anointed, i.e. the Messiah, an epithet of Jesus:

5b) In the End, All Will Know That He is Lord

To Him be the glory both now and forever,

Romans 14:11

For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

Acts 4:12

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, ¹¹ and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I.) Keeping the Faith Results in a Diligent in Life vv. 14

II.) Keeping the Faith Means Reaching the Lost vv. 15

III.) Keeping the Faith Depends Upon Knowing the Word vv. 16

IV.) Keeping the Faith Causes Us to Grow vv. 17-18

5c) Keep the Faith, Because This Has Been the Whole Truth

Amen!

*

Amen

GRK 281 amen (am-ane');

firm, i.e. (figuratively) trustworthy; adverbially, surely (often as Interj. so be it):

This Is Truth

Timothy Meaney Sings

“My Friends May You Grow in Grace
and in the Knowledge of Our Lord and Savior...”