

SOME THINGS WE NEED TO BE
(2 Pe 3:14-18)

I. Peter tells them to be diligent (vs 14).

- A. Wherefore points back to what he has said in the previous verses.
- B. They are looking for:
 - 1. The second coming of Christ;
 - 2. The destruction of the earth;
 - 3. The new heavens and the new earth.
- C. Because they are looking for these things they should be diligent.
 - 1. Diligent means to exert oneself.
 - 2. This is the same word as in 2 Peter 1:10.
- D. They needed to be diligent in being found in peace.
 - 1. To be found means to be discovered, recognized, detected, to show one's self out, of one's character or state as found out by others.
 - 2. Peace only comes from Christ - Jesus said, "my peace I leave with you."
 - 3. If one is in peace, He must be in Christ.
- E. They needed to be diligent to be found without spot.
 - 1. This carries the idea of being free of vice or defilement.
 - 2. Sin defiles man and only the blood of Jesus can wash sin away.
 - 3. They needed to be found walking in the light when Christ returned.
- F. They needed to be diligent to be found blameless.
 - 1. Blameless means not condemned or without rebuke.
 - 2. The only way that we will not face condemnation is if we are in Christ.
 - 3. One must be a faithful Christian to be in Christ.
- G. Peter is telling them and us that when Christ returns we need to be found giving diligence to being a Christian.

II. Peter tells them to be faithful (vs 15-16).

- A. One of the problems faced by these Christians was that of false teaching about the second coming of Christ.
 - 1. They were being taught that the Lord's failure to appear quickly meant that He was not coming.
 - 2. Nothing has changed so do what you want is what they were being taught.
- B. Peter says that the Lord's not coming yet was His longsuffering, giving people the opportunity to repent and make things right.
- C. Now Peter makes a very interesting statement: He makes reference to Paul's having written them letters.
 - 1. Peter wrote to Christians in Pontius, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bythina.
 - 2. Paul had written to people in these same areas: the letters of Galatians and Colossians among them.
- D. This tells us that Peter was familiar with the writings of Paul and that he held them as equally authoritative as his own.
- E. More than likely when a congregation received a letter from an apostle they would read it and sent it to a nearby congregation.
 - 1. This way they would all be familiar with what we call the different books of the New Testament.

2. In Paul's letters there were references to the judgment or second coming or heaven or all of them.
- F. Some of the things that were written about these topics were hard to understand.
 1. If you have been taught one way about something and now another it would be hard to grasp.
 2. Hard subjects are hard to understand at first glance.
- G. What we need to be in this situation is faithful to the Bible.
- H. Sadly, there were those then that twisted and perverted it.
 1. They are called unlearned - either by choice or ignorance of the matter.
 2. They are called unstable - lacking definite convictions.
- I. Jesus said that if any man wills to do his will he shall know of the teaching (John 7:17).
 1. We cannot wrest, twist and pervert, scripture.
 2. God's word has one meaning and we must find out what it is and not change it to make it fit our thinking.
- J. If we cannot be faithful to the word then it will result in our destruction.
- K. We will never know all that there is about the Bible and we won't understand everything.
 1. We must view all interpretations in light of the general teaching of the Bible.
 2. If something is difficult, no matter what, my interpretation must be faithful to the rest of the book.

III. Peter tells them to beware (vs 17).

- A. Someone once said that to be forewarned is to be forearmed.
- B. Remember Peter's purpose is to have them remember what has been taught to them.
- C. Peter does not want these brethren to lose their salvation.
 1. The only way that will be possible is if they beware.
 2. Know that it is there or coming and look out for it and defeat it.
- D. This verse strongly teaches that one can fall away.
- E. We need to listen to everything that is taught us and view it against what is taught in the Bible.
- F. That is vigilance, that is what it means to beware.
- G. We can't look for a liberal or a false teacher under every rock but we need to pay attention to what is taught and make sure that it is in line with God's word.
- H. Don't believe it because I say it, believe it because you have found what I have said to be in line with the Bible.

IV. Peter tells them to be growing (vs 18).

- A. We need to grow in grace.
 1. Woods says this is used to sum up all the favor of God.
 2. This favor increases as we grow in Christ.
- B. We grow in grace by growing in knowledge.
 1. We must lean upon His word and not turn to our own understanding as the book says.
 2. As our knowledge increases so will our faith.
- C. This knowledge is the knowledge of Christ.

- D. Why would we not want to know all we can about the One who died for us?
- E. Why would we not attempt to learn all that He has to offer in order to please the One who payed our purchase price?