

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

2 PETER 1-3

Peter was a **pastor** - the word means “*shepherd*.”

And by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus re-commissioned Peter. He told His defeated disciple, “**Feed My lambs, Tend My sheep, Feed My sheep.**” In other words, **shepherd God’s flock**, and to that calling Peter remained true for the rest of his life. *In fact, that’s what Peter is doing here in his two letters to the Church...*

As shepherds do - **he feeds and warns the flock.**

1 Peter dealt primarily with **persecution**. His second letter deals with **false teachers**. The Church was under attack from *without* and from *within*... Peter doesn’t want us to deny Jesus as he did. He wants us to build a strong faith, and be a faithful witness.

Chapter 1, “**Simon Peter, a bondservant...**” Literally, “**a love-slave.**” By the Galilee the resurrected Lord had asked Peter, “**Do you love Me?**” Peter said, “**Yes, Lord.**” Here again he says **yes**. He served Jesus out of love.

“**And (he was an) apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ...**”

Realize, faith alone is of no value. A person’s faith is only as good as its object. Folks of all religions believe in their gods, *but believing a thing doesn’t make it so.*

A Christian's faith proves precious because it’s in the right standing with God earned by our Savior Jesus.

And notice, Jesus is referred to as both “*God and Savior.*” Once, I had a muslim lady approach me after a Bible Study. She remarked, “I really enjoyed what you had to say about God, but I got confused when you mentioned Jesus. You talked about Him as if He were God.” *And she was accurate in her perception!*

Jesus is God! He is God incarnate - or “*in the flesh.*”

The deity of Christ is what sets Him apart from all other religious leaders. Jesus was not simply a rabbi, or a prophet, or a holy man... It’s not even enough to call Jesus “*the greatest man who ever lived.*” He was more than man! Jesus Christ was “*God and Savior.*”

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 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...” Jesus is the key that unlocks all things pertaining to a *full and holy life*. If life came with a treasure map He’d be the **X** that marks the spot!

It reminds me of Jeff Ferrera. He was reconciling his checkbook when he called the First National Bank of Chicago to check his balance. The electronic voice told him, “*You have a balance of \$924,844,204.32.*”

Sadly, it was a computer glitch. It wasn’t his to keep.

Yet in Christ, we’re spiritual billionaires, and *it’s no glitch - it’s grace!* Your account gets credited with God’s righteousness. We’re entitled to all Jesus has earned!

Verse 4, “by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises...”

Notice that “*precious*” is one of Peter’s favorite words in referring to the things of God. In 1 Peter He speaks of “the precious blood of Jesus” and calls Jesus “the precious cornerstone.” He spoke earlier of our “precious faith,” and here of God’s “*precious promises.*”

The blessings of Christ were Peter’s treasure.

And notice it’s through these “*precious promises*” we become “*partakers of the divine nature...*” When you come to Christ, God implants in you **His nature.**

His Holy Spirit writes God’s Law on your heart.

God’s desires, intents, and inclinations are uploaded to your basic nature. The Spirit installs a love for God and a love for others onto your spiritual **heart drive!**

This new nature enables us to “*escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.*” Society’s selfishness and violence is a direct result of man’s lust.

People are driven to evil by craving what they don’t have... *a hunger for greater pleasure and possessions fuels our sin.* We escape the clutches of lustful living only when we’re filled with the joy and life of Jesus.

Verse 5, “**But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue...**” All of God’s precious blessings are receive by faith alone, but faith has to be fed and fortified for it to become strong.

That's why we have to *add to our faith* qualities that *help it focus*, and *keep it pure*, and *enable it to grow*.

This is what Peter tells us... “*add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” We’ve saved by faith alone, but faith needs to be nourished for it to grow strong.

Like a bodybuilder, to grow muscle, workouts are mandatory, but you get more from a workout by adding supplements (protein).. This is true in your relationship with God. **It's all faith**, but faith grows by adding seven spiritual supplements: *virtue, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.*

Then verse 9, “*For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*” I heard a great definition for the word “**nostalgia.**” “*It's the pleasure of sitting in front of a fire, without remembering you had to cut the wood.*” In other words, we can get so use to a blessing, we forget it was gained at a great cost.

Our faith in Jesus is a great gift, let's keep it strong!

“*Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble...*” The more you add virtue and character to your faith, the least likely you'll stumble.

“For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Rather than stumble into the kingdom, wouldn’t you prefer an abundant entrance?

Notice these words in verse 10, “*to make your calling and election sure.*” That’s a strange sounding phrase.

A “*calling*” implies we did nothing to initiate the call. *God calls - we answer.* “*Election*” implies we’re chosen, *not that we choose.* So how do you **make certain** something you had nothing to do with in the first place?

Here’s another example of the Bible’s mysterious blending of free will and predestination. God chose you, but you had to choose God - and you chose by faith; therefore to make your salvation sure you need a strong faith. And you build up a faith by adding to it what supports it - *virtue, knowledge, endurance, love...*

Verse 12, “*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.*” Remember Peter is a pastor, and a pastor’s job is to remind you of truths you already know. We live in fallen flesh, and in the midst of a fallen world - our tendency is to forget. In a temporal world even **eternal truths** can grow fuzzy.

When we come to church we need the pastor to twist the lens and bring the spiritual realities back into focus.

Peter writes in verse 13, “*Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent...*” And notice, he refers to his physical body as

a tent, in contrast to a house. A tent is temporary. Our earthly bodies are like a tent - a “pop-up.” They *pop up* for a time, then they get *folded away*.

We’re all “[here today and gone tomorrow.](#)”

And while Peter has the opportunity, he considers it his duty, to remind the Church of God’s truths. “[I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.](#)”

Author Roselyn Aranson writes a beautiful piece she entitles, “[Oh, Mr. Tentmaker.](#)” Here’s a portion, “[It was nice living in this tent when it was strong and secure. But, Mr. Tentmaker, it's scary now. My tent is acting like it's not going to hold together. The poles seem weak, and the canvas has a rip. It's scary in here, Mr. Tentmaker, why did you give me such a flimsy tent?](#)”

The Tentmaker replies, “[As the Creator and Provider of tents, I know all about you and your tent, and I love you. I made a tent for myself once. It too was vulnerable, and attackers ripped it to pieces while I was still in it - but you'll be glad to know they couldn't hurt me. The experience now prepares Me to live in your tent with you if you invite me. You'll learn, as we dwell together, that real security comes from me being in your tent with you. When storms come, I'll hold you.](#)”

[Someday your tent will collapse \(it's only for temporary use\). And when it does, you and I will leave together. \(I promise not to leave before you do.\)](#)” Our bodies are but a tent. We await the heavenly model.

Verse 15, “Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.” This was why it was so important for Peter to put his reminders down in ink and on parchment.

Many Bible scholars believe Mark’s Gospel was also Peter’s remembrances. Mark was Peter’s disciple.

“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...” *We didn’t make up the Gospel we preach. The Gospels are not some ruse or hoax!*

Peter speaks for all the Gospel writers in insisting that they simply reported what they saw and heard.

He goes on to say, we “were eyewitnesses of His majesty.” On the top of Mount Hermon, when Jesus was transfigured in His glory, Peter saw “*His majesty.*”

Up-close he saw the *glory of God* radiating from the *Son of God*. It was a moment Peter never forgot!

And it wasn’t just what he saw, but what he heard...

Verse 17, “For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.” It wasn’t just Peter - “*we heard*” - three men, Peter, James, John all heard the heavenly voice.

God Himself audibly identified His Son, and testified of His sinless life. In Jesus the Father is “*well pleased.*”

There are two great apologetical proofs for the claims of Christ. First, are **the eyewitness accounts**.

Remember, all the Gospel writers suffered for the truths they recorded. If they'd gotten rich off the story they might've had motive to lie, but it's hard to imagine men martyred for what they knew to be a deception.

And the second great proof of His claims were **the fulfilled prophecies**. Over 300 Old Testament details were fulfilled by Jesus' first coming; predictions relating to where, when, how, and why Messiah would come.

They all amazingly came true in Jesus of Nazareth.

This is Peter's next point, verse 19, **"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts..."**

Prior to our seeing Jesus *one day* - **today** we rest in His Word! And He says of God's word, **"knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation..."** I often hear folks say, **"The Bible has a different meaning for everyone. You interpret the Bible your way, and I'll interpret the Bible my way."** *Not so!*

Peter says Scripture is not to be **"privately interpreted."** That means it has an objective intent.

It's not what you think it means, or what I think it means - but what God intended it to mean! And that meaning applies to us all. The Bible is universal truth!

Verse 21, “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” Here’s the genius of the Bible.

Human authors penned the message so it comes across in a vernacular humans can understand.

But those authors wrote only as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The end result is a book that *relates* to the *human mind*, but also *reveals* the *mind of God*.

The Bible is God’s authoritative Word! But there are people who dare to twist and cloud God’s Word...

Chapter 2, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.” *Holy men* were moved by the *Holy Spirit* to bring us God’s Word, but there’re also *unholy men* moved by *unholy spirits* like pride, lust, greed, fame, Satan - to distort God’s Word.

Beware of false teachers and destructive heresies. They twist the truth to the point of denying the Lord!

Take the Mormons for example. They support biblical morality, and promote family values. They make nice neighbors. There’s only one problem: they deny the uniqueness of Jesus and His atonement for our sins.

These are the most lethal type of false teachers. *It’s heresy wrapped in sweetness. It’s a pretty poison.*

They deny the deity of Jesus and they’re sending millions of people to hell. Sadly, verse 2, “And many will follow their

destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.” *“Many will follow...”*

Peter explains the lure in verse 3, **“By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words...”** The false teachers are fueled by their own ego and greed. They twist the truth to appeal to capture a larger audience.

Peter says, **“for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”**

Judgment is inevitable for these spiritual deceivers.

And in the next verses Peter gives three examples of how God will judge these wicked false teachers...

“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly...” Here’s the first example of God’s judgment - **the flood of Noah’s day.**

Remember, this destruction was necessitated by an angelic **“apostasy”** or **“a falling away.”** Jude 6 describes it, **“(the angels) did not keep their proper domain.”**

Some Bible scholars believe the demons crossed the God-imposed boundary between celestial and terrestrial. They took human bodies and engaged sexually with the daughters of men. This resulted in a perversion of the human race - *thus, the severity of God’s judgment.* He had to purify a polluted gene pool.

And according to Peter, God took the perverse demons, and chained them in the darkest part of hell.

Here, the Greek word translated “*hell*” is “*Tartarus*.” This is the only place in the NT where the term is used.

Apparently, God created a special holding cell for these vile demons who vexed and perverted humanity.

Another example of God’s judgment takes place later in Genesis. “And (God) turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly...” Sodom was also notorious for sexual perversions and an aggressive homosexuality, but that was only part of the reason God torched the city...

Ezekiel 16:49 tells us, “Look, this was the iniquity of... Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.” It wasn’t just sexual sin, it was pride and a lack of charity for the poor, that brought God’s judgment down on Sodom.

Lest we get haughty, and think the lesson of Sodom doesn’t apply to us... ***Selfishness was also her sin.***

God judged Sodom, but Peter reminds us of His mercy. He “delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)” Lot was righteous by faith. He knew God, and tried to follow His ways - but his close associations in Sodom made him a miserable man.

And here's the sad plight of many Christians. They refuse to separate themselves from worldly influences.

They end up oppressed and tormented. It was said of Lot, "He had enough of the Lord not to be happy in the world, but enough of the world not to be happy in the Lord." Lot was the classic fence-straddler. Recall what Jesus said, "be hot or cold - not lukewarm."

Verse 9 tells us Sodom proved, "the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority."

Sodom teaches us that God knows how to **judge** the wicked, and **deliver** the godly from temptation. Sodom had failed to come under the authority of God's Word.

Peter says, "They are presumptuous and self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries." Woe to self-willed people who rename their sin an "alternative lifestyle." Renaming sin doesn't avoid God's judgment.

Verse 11, "whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord." Peter is referring to the story of Michael, the archangel, who fought the devil over the body of Moses. Jude tells us he was respectful in doing so. Apparently, respect is common among the angels.

Only sinful men arrogantly buck God-given authority.

“But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand.” Here’s modern society in a nutshell. **We speak evil of authority we don’t understand.**

We’ve tossed out male authority in the home and church... We’ve defied God’s plan for the sexes and his definition of gender... We scoff at God’s authority over sexual relations... We mock God’s authority over government... we turn a deaf ear to God’s morality.

We ignore God’s order without realizing His will is for our safety and betterment, and negative consequences result if we disobey. We’re like *brute beasts* who’re running roughshod over matters we don’t understand.

“**And** (these men who act like beasts) **will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime.**” Folks who “*carouse in the daytime*” are people with no shame.

It’s one thing to sin privately, in the dark, ashamed of what you’re doing. It’s another thing to sin openly and publicly, with no squint of conscience. This was the sin of Sodom. In Sodom, it was Gay Pride Day all the time.

And Peter says of the conscience-less, “**They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you...**” Sadly, his readers had accepted people with these false ideas as part of the Christian family. This created a blemish on their worship. Their Christianity was a polluted brand.

Verse 14, “having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls.” These false teachers preyed on believers with a weak faith.

“They have a heart trained in covetous practices...”

A false prophet is a skilled manipulators. He plays on your emotions - he uses circular reasoning - he employs familiar phrases while redefining the terms. He uses all this to take advantage of his listeners.

“They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness...” Balaam was greedy.

He was a soothsayer who went divining for dollars. Balaam was a prophet for hire. God warned him not to curse Israel, yet the Moabites bribed him with riches.

And “He was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.” God spoke to Balaam through a donkey.

God often speaks to us through strange methods.

Balaam reminds me of the CEO who offered his accountant \$100,000 to doctor the books. He agreed.

That's when the boss asked if he'd do it for a penny.

The accountant was upset. “Of course not, what do you think I am, a thief?” The boss replied, “I've already established that, **all that's undecided is your price.**”

It's been said, “**Every man has his price!**” I hope not. A false teacher sales out - a godly man stays faithful!

Verse 17, “These are wells without water...” The false teacher utters promises that never materialize.

He’s like “clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.” These spiritual deceivers are like clouds passing into oblivion.

Verse 18, “For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.” The false teacher gives you a religious justification for your lust.

People get lured into the idea they can please God and satisfy their flesh simultaneously. This is spirituality without morality. Believing without behaving. *It’s false.*

“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”

Here’s the pastor who condemns the evil of adultery, while involved in a secret affair... Or rails on the plague of porn, despite his secret life on the internet... He promises freedom, but he himself is trapped in a web.

“For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome...” The saddest man is he who was freed from sin by Jesus, only to revert back to the same sin.

Peter writes, “the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have

known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire." Imagine, a prisoner set free, yet because of his own laziness he returns to the jailhouse since **its easier...** At least in jail he's got a bed and hot meals.

Jesus sets us free from sin, but some Christians are too lazy to add to their faith the spiritual supplements: *virtue, self-control, endurance...* and they fall right back into the sin from which they were delivered. *It's tragic!*

I've met Christians who sob over the spiritual prison they occupy. But if the truth were known, they're not free because **they don't want to be...** at least not enough to do what it takes to add to their faith... Like a hog, some people are content with the spiritual slop.

Chapter 3, "Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior.." You've heard, "Repetition is the best teacher." Peter and His mentor, Jesus, often repeated a lesson.

Here he reminds them, "knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? "You Christians always talk about the end of the world, Jesus is coming back! *Well, where is He?"*

They say, **For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”**

Here is a modern theory that goes by the name, **“uniformitarianism.”** First espoused by Charles Lyell, an geologist in the 1800s, it’s the foundation for Darwinian evolution. *And Peter predicted 1,950 years ago...*

Uniformitarianism is the belief that the Earth has been shaped through history by the same natural laws at work in the world today. A uniformitarian will stand on the edge of the Grand Canyon, look down five miles below, at the blue thread called the Colorado River, and claim that slender river is what cut out that giant canyon - **given enough time anything is possible.**

A uniformitarian asserts that the Grand Canyon formed the same way the *gullies* in your yard form - **through simple erosion.** Sorry, I’m not that *gullible*.

And neither is Peter, verse 5, **“For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.”** The historical truth omitted by most modern scientists is the global flood of Noah

And a catastrophic, worldwide deluge, as the Bible describes, is a far better explanation for the earth’s geology than natural processes over millions of years.

For one thing, **fossils don’t form over time.** A bird falls to the ground and either decomposes, or scavengers eat it. But the fossil of that bird forms when intense pressure follows the

bird's immediate compaction... *the type of scenario caused by a flood!*

Understand the biblical flood isn't ignored because of a lack of scientific credence. Peter says, it's "*willfully forgotten.*" Arrogant men can't admit to a flood, or they validate God's judgment. They've chosen instead to deny God, and pretend to be their own authority.

"But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

Admit God judged the Earth in the past, and you concede He can do it again. This scares wicked men.

They stick their head in the sand, and live in denial!

"But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." So it's been 2000 years since Jesus promised He would return. With God time is relative. Up against eternity 1000 years is as a day. From God's perspective we haven't been waiting long!

Peter assures us, *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

God is no slacker! He's not in the habit of putting off duties. *He delays Jesus' coming out of love for people.*

Verse 10, *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise,*

and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” Some read verse 10 and imagine a missile, and the detonation of a nuclear warhead.

But I believe when the time comes to retire this physical universe it will occur by a direct act of God.

Hebrews 1:3 tells us Jesus is “upholding all things by the word of His power.” He is the atomic glue that binds the positive charges in the nucleus of every atom. All He has to do is let go, and the universe will incinerate.

“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness...” Certainly, not a materialistic person! *Why live for stuff that will eventually burn up?*

Instead, “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?” We should live looking for Jesus! Peter even says we can even “*hasten*” the Lord’s return. What a provocative thought - *we can speed it up!*

Romans 11:25 tells us that the end times events won’t begin “Until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.” Implied is that there’s a set number to be saved.

Apparently, when that number is reached the Father will say to the Son, “*Go get them.*” That means every person we lead to Jesus we’re one person closer to His return. Thus, the more we share our faith the more we can speed up - or “*hasten*” - the Lord’s return.

Verse 13, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” The world we live in still bears the curse of sin. It’s subject to randomness and decay. But one day, this universe will melt with fervent heat, and God will form a new heaven and new earth.

An awful end leads to a glorious beginning.

“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...” *Think about it, if Jesus came today, someone you love would be left behind. We can wait a little longer for a few more souls to be saved.*

Peter continues, “As also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you...” Peter says Paul agreed with his conclusions.

“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.”

If you’ve ever read Romans 9-11, or 2 Thessalonians 2, or 1 Corinthians 11 you too may’ve concluded Paul was difficult to understand. *Don’t worry, you’re in good company, Peter thought so too. Paul got complicated.*

But notice Peter equates Paul’s writings to the rest of the Bible. He believed Paul’s writings were inspired. He says, “*as they do also (in) the rest of the Scriptures.*” This is important. Peter had no doubt Paul’s letters should be included in the sacred canon of God’s Word.

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; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” Peter closes by repeating his theme. Here’s how we can mature in Christ: **Let’s guard against error and grow in grace and knowledge.**