

2 Peter

(Lesson 17)

Introduction:

1. Peter began his second letter (1:1-4) by showing that God has provided special blessings for the benefit of His people.
 - a. He has provided what we need to be *"partakers of the divine nature."*
 - b. Included are *"all things that pertain unto life and godliness"* and *"exceeding great and precious promises."*
2. Peter continued (1:5-11) by showing that God has provided special responsibilities [the Christian graces] for the benefit of His people.
3. (1:12-15) Peter emphasized the importance of "always remembering these things."
4. Peter showed in 1:16-21 that the teaching of the apostles is reliable.
5. In ch.2 Peter issued a strong warning against false teachers.
6. (3:1-9) Peter warned against "scoffers" who would question the Lord's return.
7. (3:10-14) Peter presented the truth about "the day of the Lord."
8. In this lesson we are studying Peter's concluding remarks (3:15-18).

Discussion:

- I. (vs.15a) PETER MENTIONED *"THE LONGSUFFERING OF OUR LORD"*
 - A. The scoffers would question the Lord's return because of the delay in the arrival of that last great day (vs.3-4).
 - B. Peter showed that this delay should be accounted "salvation," as explained earlier in vs.9.
- II. (vs.15b-16) PETER MENTIONED PAUL'S WRITINGS
 - A. Peter referred to Paul as *"our beloved brother,"* even though Paul had earlier rebuked him (Galatians 2:7-13).
 - B. Peter acknowledged Paul's inspiration (Ephesians 3:1-7).
 - C. In his letters Paul had addressed the same subjects as Peter, including:
 1. the day of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16; 5:1-4)
 2. the judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10)
 3. living righteously (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Romans 12:1-2).
 - D. Peter stated that Paul wrote about *"some things hard to be understood."*
 1. While some Scriptures may be challenging, they can be understood (Ephesians 3:4).
 2. Unfortunately, some who are unlearned and unstable twist Scriptures to their own destruction (Galatians 1:6-9; 1 Corinthians 4:6).
- III. (vs.17) PETER MADE AN APPEAL FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL
 - A. Peter was aware that his readers knew the things he wrote.
 - B. Peter warned Christians not to fall into error.
- IV. (vs.18a) PETER PRESENTED THE KEYS TO REMAINING FAITHFUL
 - A. Grow in grace.
 - B. Grow in the knowledge of Christ [which requires going to the right source -- 1:16].
- V. (vs.18b) PETER MADE A SHORT BUT POWERFUL STATEMENT OF PRAISE FOR THE LORD