

Daily Bible Study

“The Final Word Among Final Words”

2 Peter 3:15b-16

February 24– 28, 2025

MONDAY –Our text for this coming week is, **2 Peter 3:15b-16**, “—*as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you 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 remember a few weeks ago when we left off in our study of 2 Peter, the first portion of **verse 15** mentioned *that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—...* Peter has reminded us of the patience of God (**verse 9**) which is His grace that leads to salvation. The Apostle Paul had given similar teaching in **Romans 2:4** where he writes, “*Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*” Both Apostles are pointing us to the goodness of God in delaying judgment in order that salvation would be obtained. Yet when the period of grace has come to an end, the door that leads to salvation will be shut forever. As we now move into the second half of **verse 15** and further we see Peter reference his dear brother Paul the Apostle as he begins to wind down his letter giving us what I have entitled *The Final Word Among Final Words*. Peter mentions Paul making a similar point in his *epistles* to the point Peter has just mentioned concerning God’s *longsuffering* in bringing judgment. He then also explains to us that these “*epistles*” from these men are actually Sacred Scripture, the very Word of God and there are many people then and also today who avoid it, dilute it, water it down and twist it *to their own destruction*. The supreme grandeur, glory and weight of Sacred Scripture shines forth in this text and we will pause to study it a bit although this is not the primary point and flow of thought in Peter’s mind as he is encouraging his readers living in the light of Jesus’ return.

(Meditate, Apply & Pray) Do I understand that the patience of The Lord is reason for me to be witnessing and spreading the gospel more fervently? Lord,

thank you for Your word written by men of God being carried along by Your Holy Sprit. Help me to submit to it and obey it rather than twist and distort it.

TUESDAY – **2 Peter 3:15b**: “—*as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you*”. In such wonderful terms Peter now brings *our beloved brother Paul* into the letter. Before we look at the content of this verse let’s get a little back history of these two men. Apart from one incident in Antioch where Paul rebuked Peter “*to his face*” for yielding to pressure from the Jews and refusing to eat with Gentile Christians (**Galatians 2:11–14**), the relationship between The Apostle Peter and Paul was and remained one of brotherly love and mutual care and respect. Paul frequently mentions Peter in **1 Corinthians (1:12, 3:22, 9:5, 15:5)** and we read that he visited Peter for fifteen days in Jerusalem at the beginning of his ministry as an Apostle of Christ (**Galatians 1:18**). Paul referred to Peter as “*an apostle to the Jews*” (**Galatians 2:8**) and a *pillar in the church* (**Galatians 2:9**). We also see them together with the other Apostles at the Jerusalem Council where both men spoke concerning the mission and situation of the Gentile converts (**Acts 15:6–21**). Suffice to say, these men labored together for Christ with true love for each other. Peter did not hold a grudge against Paul for the correction he received in Antioch and for seeing the incident recorded in Paul’s letter to the Galatians. Peter was not afraid to admit he was wrong and repent. Peter considers Paul a *beloved brother*. **Agapetos** ~ “beloved, esteemed, dear, favorite, worthy of love”; **Adelphos** ~ a word made up of the connective particle **A** and the word **delphos** which means “womb”. They were born from the same womb, born into the same loving family of God. In the New Testament, the term *brother* is used to refer to fellow believers and it seems fairly obvious that there is a warm relationship between these fellow believers, Peter and Paul. Also, an interesting side note is the fact that Silas, who was a close fellow worker of Paul (**Acts 15:40, 16:22–40**), serves Peter as a scribe and presumably as his letter carrier (**1 Peter 5:12**). The true family of God is close and can love each other as brothers, can correct and forgive each other, covering a multitude of sins, and can have sweet honest fellowship together.

(Meditate, Apply & Pray) Can I take correction from my brothers and sisters in Christ and humbly receive it and repent when necessary? Do I need to speak

up and be more involved in the lives of my brothers and sisters? Father, thank You for forgiving me in Christ and birthing me into Your family. Help me to love and get along with my siblings as I ought.

WEDNESDAY – 2 Peter 3:15b: “—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you”. Peter introduces our text with the words *as also*, which refers to the content of **15a** in which Peter tells them of God’s longsuffering in judgment in order for there to be salvation. He is saying in short, “Hey, even Paul wrote about this fact of God’s patience for repentance in his letters.” We have mentioned earlier Paul’s words in **Romans 2:4** which states parallel truth to **verse 15a**. Peter recognizes the spiritual gift that Paul had received from God as he says Paul wrote *according to the wisdom given to him*. This is tantamount to a claim of Divine inspiration for The Apostle Paul’s letters. These Apostolic letters were accepted by Christians as Scripture which we will see stated in **verse 16**. In these two verses Peter gives a general endorsement of Paul’s writings as Sacred Scripture. He is equating these *epistles* which would come to be gathered and placed into what we now call The New Testament to the very Old Testament Scriptures which were already received as Divinely given and were currently in existence. Peter is telling his readers as well as us beloved that these written words are not words from the Apostles alone but are actually the very Word of God to us through the pens of the Apostles. **1 Thessalonians 2:13**, “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

(Meditate, Apply & Pray) Do I consider the fact that God is speaking to me when I read the Bible? Do I treat the Sacred Scripture with the admiration and respect it deserves? Do I listen to God more than the media (whatever sort)? Father, help me to love Your Word and to see it as more necessary than my daily food. (Job 23:12)

THURSDAY – 2 Peter 3:16: “...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.” Peter reminds us that in all of Paul’s letters he refers to “these

things”; the fact that Peter and Paul are saying the same *things* concerning the day of the Lord and God’s patience toward the sinner. Peter has pointed out that these writings are Scripture but now he says something interesting when he writes, “*in which are some things hard to understand.*” The Greek word used here for *hard to understand* comes from two words the one which means difficulty. Peter is telling us that there are portions of Scripture difficult to interpret but it does not mean impossible. One must study and dig into Scripture with the help of The Holy Spirit for any true understanding. Peter acknowledges that Paul writes about certain things; namely here the Day of The Lord and the return of Christ which can be difficult to interpret. Any serious reader of the Scripture knows we often have to use Scripture to interpret Scripture and go to the clearer passage in helping us with the one that is not as clear. This Ancient hermeneutical principle is called the *analogia Scriptura*, or the analogy of Scripture. It means that the best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture, because Scripture always agrees with Scripture.

(Meditate, Apply & Pray) Are there things I call “to hard to understand” in God’s Word because I may be lazy and not a diligent student? Holy Spirit, help me to know the truths of Your Word and do the work necessary in study.

FRIDAY– 2 Peter 3:16: “...which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.” Again, Peter has false teachers primarily in view in this verse. Throughout history people *twist* the meaning of Scripture for their own selfish reasons. Primarily in view is the *twisting* of things pertaining to the end of time, the return of Jesus and the final judgment on The Day of The Lord. The word translated twist is the Greek word **strebloo** which can mean to torture or put on a torture rack. False teachers place Scripture on the rack and distort its message. We can see the prophecy hucksters are going wild today, just turn on Christian television. But it doesn’t stop at merely prophecy, it goes to *the rest of the graphe*, the written Holy Scriptures. We will talk more this Lord’s Day concerning the assault on The Word of God both without and within the church. Take heart beloved, God will not be mocked; people play loose with Scripture *to their own destruction*.

(Meditate, Apply & Pray) Father, help our church to continue to emphasize the importance of Sacred Scripture above all other things. Help me love it more.