

Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

An Expository Journey Through **2Peter** 12- Regard the Patience of our Lord as Salvation

August 2, 2020

2Peter 3:14-18

14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

15 and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

16 as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

To the Glory of God

Now to a degree, I'm always sad when we come to the end of a particular Book that we have journeyed through, because I know that I probably will never go back through this Book again during my life time. And I am also sad, because I really don't think I have done justice to this magnificent Epistle. This Book deserves a better Preacher than me to uncover its riches and depth. But, in any event, this is my final Sermon in **2Peter**.

Now there are at least six main points that the old fisherman makes in these final five verses. The *first* is found in verse 14 and the *beginning* of verse 15, that says,

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by

Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation

The *second* point is found in verses 15&16 that says:

... just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you as also in all *his* letters ...

The *third* point is found in the *middle* of verse 16 that says:

... speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand ...

The *fourth* point is found at the *end* of verse 16 that says:

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

The *fifth* point is found in **2Peter 3:17&18a** where Peter said,

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

... and the *sixth* and *final* point is found at the *end* of verse 18 that says,

... To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Now we could *summarize* these six points this way:

1. The Age that we live in now- is the "Age of Salvation"
2. Paul taught *exactly* what Peter taught; and Paul's Teaching is equated as being "Scripture" (thus Peter's Teaching is *also* Scripture)
3. Some Divine Truth is difficult to grasp
4. People will use the Reality of some Scripture being hard to grasp as an excuse to distort it and fall into Destruction

5. We must guard ourselves from Error and Destruction by growing in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus
6. Everything we do- is to be to God's Glory

... so, let's examine each one.

1. The Age we live in now- is the "Age of Salvation"

... regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation ...

Now this Statement, at the beginning of verse 15, is a *continuation* of the Apostle's thought of verse 9, which answers the Question put forth in verse 4, where ungodly mockers asked,

Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.

... and, as I told you, these heretics were NOT trying to learn from Peter- they were simply mocking him and what he was teaching. And so, in *response* to this sinful accusation, Peter said,

2Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

... where Peter said that the Reason Jesus has not yet returned is to give time for the full number of God's people to be saved. Which, in Alabama English means,

God is not slow/apathetic/weak concerning His Promise to come back to this earth, as some of the mockers and unbelievers understand slowness/apathy/weakness; but is patiently persevering toward all His beloved; not wishing/willing that any of those whom He chose to save, (but who have not yet been saved) would perish, but for all those whom the Father gives to Jesus should/will come to Repentance and Salvation.

The bottom line is that God is so completely committed to save all of His elect- that He is *more* than willing to allow this fallen and broken

world to go on for thousands of years- until every single one of the elect are saved; and have come to repentance. And *that* is why Jesus has not already come back to this earth. And now in verses 14 & the beginning of verse 15, Peter *continues* this thought and says,

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation

So, now when Peter says, "Regard the Patience of our Lord as Salvation", he is telling us how to think about the time of delay in which we live before the Second Coming.

You see, the human mind always desires to see Meaning and Direction and Coherence in History. And so, we describe periods of History as the "Dark Ages"; and the "Renaissance"; and the "Enlightenment"; and the "Industrial Age", etc. And in general, in trying to understand History, we "key off" of Man- how Man has *progressed*; or what Man has *achieved*; or how Man *relates* to what is happening. And this is what normally determines the meaning of History.

But there is one group of people in the world- the Church of Jesus Christ- who should always "key off" of God- rather than Man. And so, as we look at the world and what is happening- we see things the way God sees them.

And verse 15 is God's Word on *how* to interpret the time in which we live. And what Peter tells us is that the History of the world between the first and second Coming of Jesus- is, above everything else, the *Age of Salvation*. And one thing marks this time as utterly unique, and it is more important than the Renaissance of classical Learning; the emergence of Science; and the rise of Industry: namely, it is the Age of Salvation. The Savior has come and opened the Way to God. And while God continues to forbear- and delay His Return- the Way is still open. Because when Jesus comes back- the Way to God will be closed and the Age of Salvation will be over.

So, from the perspective of Eternity, we will look back on these brief 2,000 years or so, and the relative conditions of human life from the Dark Ages to the moon-landing; from the creation of the Internet to wrist-watch televisions- will all be utterly insignificant in comparison to

the all-important distinguishing Mark of this period of History between the first and second Comings of Christ- this was the Age when unworthy sinners could be forgiven and made Righteous by trusting in Jesus alone.

So, the only History of eternal Significance is the History of Missions and its off-shoots in both "Sound Doctrine" and "Holy Living." And the only biographies that will be cherished in the Age to come are the lives of the saints- the people who knew that these were times for Salvation. So, may we be a people, who "key off" of God; and see the Times in which we live from His perspective.

regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation

2. Paul's Letters as Scripture

2Peter 3:15&16

... just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you as also in all *his* letters speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Notice that this is exactly what the Apostle Paul taught. And also notice that Peter puts Paul's Letters (Epistles) in the very same category as inspired Old Testament Scripture.

So, while Peter says, "**Regard the Patience of the Lord as Salvation**"; Paul said,

Romans 2:4

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

... both of these men taught that God's withholding of Judgment is an Act of Patience that should be regarded as giving added time for Repentance and Salvation. And in **2Corinthians 6:2**, Paul said,

AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU. Behold, now is "***THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,***" behold, now is "***THE DAY OF SALVATION***" —

So, by calling in Paul's Support, Peter shows that there is agreement among the Apostles. The false teachers may reject the second Coming of Christ. But the Apostles of Jesus are united: Christ is coming, and the time while He delays is for the Salvation of all of God's elect.

Now when Peter lumps Paul's Letters together with "**the rest of the Scriptures**" (in verse 16), we gain an insight which is of terrific importance. Jesus Himself viewed the Old Testament Scriptures as fully Authoritative and Binding- when properly interpreted and applied (**Matthew 5:17**). They are considered to be the "Word of God" (cf. **Mark 7:13**). Peter taught in 1:20 & 21 that prophetic Scripture (and I think he would include all of the Old Testament) was inspired by God as men were moved by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, when he puts Paul's Letters in this very same category, he is, I believe, claiming an *equal* Inspiration and Authority for Paul's Teaching. And by doing this- Peter confirms what Paul claimed for himself. Paul said of his own Teaching in **1Corinthians 2:12&13**,

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

And this is why the Bible stands at the very center of the Christian life. It is why this Pulpit is at the center of the front and is lifted up. For we believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God- that it stands "before us" as our Guide; it stands "over us" as our Judge; and it stands "under us" as the Rock of our Hope. John Wesley wrote, in the preface of his *Standard Sermons*:

"I am a spirit come from God and returning to God; just hovering over a great gulf; 'til a few moments hence I am no more seen; I drop into an unchangeable eternity! I want to know one thing—the way to heaven . . . He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be *homo unius libri* (a man of one book)."

O that we might be a people of the Book! **Psalm 1** says,

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

The Apostles are united with each other and with the Old Testament in one great inspired Book of God. The more you read it, the more you will see with the eyes of God.

3. Scripture Can Be Hard to Understand

... speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand ...

Now even though Scripture is inspired- it is not always easy to understand. And I have said this many times before, but it bears true again this morning: We are NOT better off by avoiding hard subjects. The Reality is that every single major Doctrine of Christianity (i.e. Original Sin; The full Deity and Humanity of Christ; Justification by Faith alone; the Trinity, etc.) was hammered out in the fires of Controversy and is difficult to grasp. And I would love to preach an hour on the implications of that Reality. But since I don't have time- here is an outline of that Sermon:

Point 1: Being Inspired, the Scriptures reveal the Mind of God

Point 2: The Mind of God is vastly greater than our mind and will often be perceived by us as strange and complex, not familiar and simple

Point 3: Therefore, the Scriptures will sometimes be strange and complex and hard to understand

Point 4: The continued selection only of what is simple in the Bible would be a sin in the regular Preaching of the Church, because **Hebrews 5:13** says, "**Everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness; for he is a child.**"

Point 5: Therefore, Preaching which aims to deliver the “Whole Counsel of God” in Scripture (and which does not presume to be wiser than the Apostles) will sometimes be complex and will demand from God's people the utmost in Humility and mental effort.

You see, I realize that, in my preaching, I am addressing a visually oriented and TV influenced people. I know that 98% of you have televisions, and in 2001, the average adult in America watched 23 hours of TV each week. So, I believe John Stott¹ was right in his book on Preaching when he said,

“... the lengthy exposure to television tends to produce physical laziness, intellectual flabbiness, emotional exhaustion, psychological confusion, and moral disorientation.”²

Now what this means for us Preachers (especially me) is that we must improve our ability to communicate effectively and hold attention with no antics, no stringed orchestras, no violence, and no sex. But it does not mean that we can abandon our Calling to preach the “Whole Counsel” of God. And therefore, it should be expected that Preaching will sometimes be the most difficult thing you hear all week. I can't see how it would be otherwise, unless I make easy- what the Apostles couldn't.

4. Misinterpretation Can Lead to Destruction

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

Another way to put this is that the Interpretation of Scripture is a matter of Life and Death. James said this:

James 3:1

Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

¹ John Stott (27 April 1921- 27 July 2011) an Anglican theologian

² John Stott; *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today*; Eerdmans; Reprint Edition May, 18, 1982; page 47

You see, two things are true about my Preaching and Teaching. Most of you are here today because of what I preach and teach. And that thrills my heart. God used the Teaching and Preaching of His Word by an unworthy creature of the dust to draw you to Jesus. But it is also true that most of the people, who have left this Church have done so because of what I preach and teach. And that grieves me to my core. Yet, I know that the Scorn and the Ridicule and the Humiliation of having to stand there and be attacked by people, who may or may not have Cause against me- is the Gift of God to me.

Because in my rejoicing at people who come; and in my agony at people who leave- I am singed with the Fires of Purification. And as I burn- I change. So, as I seek to preach rightly and fully what God has infallibly spoken in Scripture- I sometimes fail. And in my failure- I cry out to God to change me; and mold me; and shape me; and make me to be the Pastor and the Teacher and the Preacher and the Elder and the Believer I am *supposed* to be. And then I get off the floor; and I dry my eyes; and I go again- hopefully this time more and more humbled and more and more empowered.

You see, I am a sinful man, who has been wondrously redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb. Yet God has called me to stand in this place. I did Not call myself. And the Proof of my Calling- is the Gold of this Church: the people, whose godly lives have been blessed and encouraged by what God does in and through me.

But woe unto me if I became a hireling. Woe unto me if I consider my Calling to be simply a job or a way to earn a living. Woe unto me if I just go through the motions. Woe unto me if I become weary of well-doing. And woe unto me if I cease my own struggle toward Biblical Holiness.

As I have shared with you many, many times- I do NOT consider myself to be important. I am the donkey that God has raised up to speak to the madness of the Prophets. So, while I am less than nothing- I DO consider what I am doing in this Church- to be eternally important. Why? Because the eternal Destiny of the people hangs on how they understand the Scriptures. So, if I lead astray; if I deceive; if I twist the Scriptures; or distort the Truth- people perish. But I will have their blood on my hands.

Peter said it was the "untaught" and the "unstable" who are prone to twist Scripture and be destroyed. These are the ones in 2:14 whom

the false Teachers were able to sweep off their feet. And **2Peter** was written to help all of us not be like that.

5. Guard Yourself from Error

2Peter 3:17&18a

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The very best Antidote to Deception and Destruction is Truth. And that is why we are *commanded* over and over and over again all throughout the Scriptures to “grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus Christ.”

Now back in 1982, Rhonda and I were blessed to have a little girl come into our Family that was born with a cloud over her mind. Joy had all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21- which is called “Trisomy 21”; or “Down’s Syndrome.” So, Joy was not able to mentally advance past a certain level. So, her mental capacity was hindered. She couldn’t grow. And one day, I took my oldest boy and girl to Jackson to see the Capitol. And we had a blast. My children ran and jumped and screamed and laughed all day long- which is to say they acted just like normal children.

But as soon as we got home; and they were re-united with their sick little sister- both of my children immediately scaled down their activity. It was fascinating to watch. I saw that having one child, who could *not* grow- was hindering the others who could. Both of my normal children were *artificially* slowing themselves down in order to not outpace their sister. Now they were doing it voluntarily and they were doing it out of love- but they were doing it.

And this natural example taught me something about the spiritual realm. Growing in Grace and in the Knowledge of Jesus is *commanded* and *expected* by God- because it is normal. It is *abnormal* NOT to grow. There is something radically wrong with people who don’t grow in both Grace and Knowledge. There is the presence of some worldly chromosome that *hinders* or that completely *stops* people from

growing in Grace and Knowledge. And when people refuse to grow- it hinders others, who would like to grow in both Grace and Knowledge.

Now look, it is perfectly normal that new-born believers are weak and clumsy and inconsistent in the things of God. They have just recently been saved; and so, they are *unfamiliar* with God's Word; and they are *unaccustomed* to Kingdom Life. But it is NOT normal for people, who have been saved for any length of time- to *remain* weak and inconsistent and unfamiliar. So, unless there is some horrible tragedy; or some intense Persecution; or some physical or mental hardship- the absence of Growth in a genuine believer's life- is Sin. Now I'm not suggesting that everybody should be able to write a forty- page dissertation on the Trinity. But I *am* saying that, normally speaking, the absence of Growth in a genuine believer's life- is Sin. And that's not true because I say so. It is true because, in Scripture- the Lord Christ has clearly and repeatedly *commanded* all genuine believers to grow in both Grace and in Knowledge.

And I suggest to you that Growth is measurable. You can define it; and see it; and experience it; and talk about it. And that means that growth in Grace and Knowledge is NOT some mystical secret. It isn't some deep dark Mystery. Growing in Grace and in Knowledge is as normal and natural and common as anything else in the Bible.

And since it is God's Will that every single genuine believer grow in both Grace and Knowledge- God, in His great Mercy, has *gifted* His Church with particular "*Means*" or "*Ways*" or "*Tools*" by which all believers can grow. And some of those Means or Tools were illustrated by Dr. Luke in **The Acts 2:42** that says,

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

... so, four things:

1. The Apostles' Teaching (Bible Study)
2. Fellowship
3. Breaking of Bread (Communion)
4. Prayer

... and Dr. Luke (not Brother Blair) infallibly said "**they**" the people of

the Church- were “**continually devoting**” themselves to those four things. So, however you want to slice this or dice it- let us agree that being “continually devoted” to something is NOT being “haphazard”; “infrequent”; “inconsistent”; “lackadaisical”; “laid-back”; or “nonchalant”. Being “continually devoted” would look more like being: “consistent”; “planned”; “purposeful”; “constant”; and “dedicated”. And to that list I would also add:

- Fasting
- Service to Others

Now one other characteristic is that in **The Book of the Acts**- “**they**”- the people of the Church- engaged in all these “Means” or spiritual “Tools” TOGETHER- as a Body. So, they studied the Bible- TOGETHER; they had Fellowship- TOGETHER; they partook of the Lord’s Table- TOGETHER; and they prayed- TOGETHER! They wept together; rejoiced together; suffered together; and sometimes they even died together. And this is *why* the writer of **Hebrews** was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to say,

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Now I don’t know who this writer was- but he had to have *some* legal training- because in this Passage- he set it all up as a legal document:

SINCE (BECAUSE IT IS TRUE) we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh

SINCE (BECAUSE IT IS TRUE) *we have* a great priest over the house of God, **(THEREFORE) LET US** draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

(THEREFORE) LET US hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful

(THEREFORE) LET US consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Now let me show you why growing in Grace and in Knowledge is so important. Here, the writer *commands* us to do three things that begin with the words, “**LET US**”. But those three Commands didn’t just fall down out of the sky. No, the COMMANDS are based on two Statements that begin with “**SINCE**” being true. And so, as we read and understand what God has already done for us in those two Statements that begin with “**SINCE**”- we believe. And we put our Trust; and our Faith; and our Hope in the Truth of those two Statements. And as we do that- our Faith in what God has already done for us- creates within us three godly Responses.

And this is the difference between people simply attending a Church Service; and in them seeking to glorify God by responding in Faith in what God has already done for us. The first magnifies the ability of people to exercise Self-discipline and use humanly initiated Will-power; while the second one makes Jesus look magnificent.

So, our Obedience to the three Commands is nothing more than a humble and joyful *Response* to us hoping and trusting in the sovereign Work that Jesus has already done on our behalf. But none of that would have happened if we had not grown in Grace and Knowledge so we could first, *understand* what all Jesus has already done for us; and secondly, grown in Grace and Knowledge so we could put all these pieces together.

So, growing in both Grace and Knowledge is a *community* effort. We *will not* and we *cannot* grow alone. We also cannot grow in our own way- using our own humanly engineered tools. People who “go their own way” or who “do their own thing” are NOT growing. They are rebels. So, if we are going to grow at all- we will grow by humbling ourselves to go God’s Way.

After "Jesus" there is no sweeter word in all the Bible than "Grace." And Grace is the greatest unused resource in all the world. It is the wealth of God's Kindness; the riches of His Mercy; the soothing ointment of His Forgiveness; and the free and undeserved, but lavishly offered Hope of Eternal Life. Grace is what we crave when we are guilt-laden. And Grace is what we must have when we come to die. Grace is our only ray of Hope when the future darkens over us with storm clouds of fear.

But how shall we receive this Grace? Where shall we send our roots down? To what sunshine shall we turn up our leaves? To the Promises given to us when the Master bought us by His Death (2Peter 2:1). The best Fertilizer for our Hope and Godliness is the rock-solid Knowledge of our Future in God's Grace. So, after Peter has taught for three Chapters about what all this Grace has wrought for us- he closes this magnificent Epistle with the Command:

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

If we but *knew* a fraction of the Future that God is making for us; if we could begin to believe that all our deepest Longings will be satisfied; that every Beauty of this world will be preserved and heightened; that every good Affection will soar; that every proper Relationship will be restored forever; that all Pain and Frustration and Ugliness will vanish- forever; that Jesus will fill the world with golden Light and glorious Peace; and wondrous Love- if we could just believe what no eye has seen; nor ear heard; nor the heart of man conceived; what God has prepared for those who love him (1 Corinthians 2:9), our hearts would be freed from the Greed and Fears and Lusts that cause us to sin. We would escape from the Corruption that is in the world, and we would become partakers of the Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:4).

6. 2Peter is for Christ's Glory

2Peter 3:18b

... To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

The Message of **2Peter** is that the Joy we obtain through us Hoping in God- is the undefeatable Power of Godliness. The Knowledge of and

Belief in God's Promises- is the Pathway of His Power (1:3, 4). And the Promises; the Power; and the Hope, and the Godliness are all because of His Grace.

And so, this Letter ends- and in just a few weeks; a few months; most probably less than a year from when Peter wrote this 18th verse- war-hardened soldiers took the old fisherman; and they bound his hands; and they led him where he did not want to go. This fulfilled the Prophecy that Jesus Himself gave Peter back in **John 21:18**:

Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go."

According to History, when Peter saw the means of his martyrdom- a wooden Cross- he begged the Roman soldiers to allow him to be crucified upside down, as Peter didn't feel worthy to die like his precious Lord. And, interestingly enough- they complied with his request. And it took him four days to die- all the while he was telling those who had gathered to *"Be faithfull!" "Don't stray!" "Keep your eyes on Jesus!" "Grow in Grace and Knowledge!"*

And the only man, besides Jesus to ever walk on water; the man Jesus rebuked and called, "satan"; the man who had been forgiven for betraying the Lord three times; the man who had seen Jesus in His transfigured Glory; the man who preached the first Christian Sermon; and the man God used to prove that Jesus was better than his fishing nets; or his wealth; or his life- died.

The Roman Emperor thought that by killing both Peter and Paul- that he could destroy this young Religion. He never understood that, unlike his own paganism, and unlike what many others believe today- Christianity was *never* based on Peter. Christianity was and is and always will be- based on Jesus- in Who Jesus is- and in what Jesus alone has done. And Christianity is based on the Divine Revelation that God the Father sovereignly gave to Peter when He said,

Matthew 16:16
You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

... *that* is the Revelation that is the solid Rock on which the Church of Jesus is built; and on which it will forever stand. And *that* is the Revelation that every individual must ascribe to- if he will be saved.

And what Peter left us- his two Epistles- help us, 2,000 year later, to grasp this amazing Truth. And believe it. But they also help us to *be* grasped by this amazing Grace- even as Peter was. Because in mere milliseconds after Peter closed his eyes in physical death- he lifted up his eyes in the Beauty and Glory of Everlasting Life! And Peter was blessed to finally be able to see his Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ- in the fullness of His Glory!

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.