

“AN ADMONITION FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH”

2 PETER 3:17,18

INTRO: Down through the course of the church age there have been those who have either falsely predicted the date of Christ's return or have scoffed at it denying that He will fulfill the promise of His return. The third chapter of 2 Peter addresses both of those issues clearly as is brought out in verses 8-12. But as we read down to the last two verses of the chapter, we see **AN ADMONITION FOR EACH CHRISTIAN TO CONSIDER that is essential for being prepared for victorious living in light of the return of Jesus Christ. THE ADMONITION IS THAT TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE TO *GROW IN THE GRACE AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST*. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AND HOW ARE WE TO DO IT? THIS WILL BE OUR STUDY TODAY.**

NOTE: The word “GROW” is the Greek word “AUXANO” which means “**TO GROW UP, TO ENLARGE AND TO INCREASE.**” Thus, every Child of God is to consistently focus on **GROWING UP, ENLARGING, AND INCREASING IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S GRACE AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. *THIS IS GOD'S EXPECTATION FOR EVERY TRUE CHILD OF GOD – YOU AND ME!***

I. THE ADMONITION TO GROW IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST – 18a.

THE ADMONISHMENT: **Each true believer in Christ is to consistently grow in understanding the grace of God and then apply God's grace to their lives daily.**

THE MEANING OF GOD'S GRACE – *GOD'S UNMERRITED FAVOR TOWARD ALL MANKIND IN PROVIDING FOR US SUCH A GREAT SALVATION WHICH WE DO NOT DESERVE.*

A. Grow in Understanding God's Saving Grace – Ephesians 2:4-9

ONLY BY GOD'S GRACE ARE WE SAVED

1. God Through His Grace has provided a Savior for all Mankind.
2. God Through His Grace has provided a Salvation for all Mankind.

B. Grow in Understanding God's Sustaining Grace – 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

ONLY BY GOD'S GRACE ARE WE SUSTAINED

1. God's Sustaining Grace is Sufficient
2. God's Sustaining Grace is Strengthening

C. Grow in Understanding God's Serving Grace – Romans 12:6

ONLY BY GOD'S GRACE CAN WE SERVE

1. All Christians have Spiritual Gifts for which to Serve the Lord
2. All Christians have Differing Spiritual Gifts for which to Serve the Lord

THE LESSON

OBEDIENT CHRISTIANS WILL SEEK TO GROW IN THE UNDERSTANDING AND THE APPLICATION OF GOD'S GRACE DAILY.

II. THE ADMONITION TO GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST- 18b

THE ADMONISHMENT: **Each true believer in Christ is to consistently grow in understanding more about Christ and then submit to all He expects.**

THE MEANING OF KNOWLEDGE – *TO COME TO KNOW, RECOGNIZE, UNDERSTAND AND SUBMIT TO ALL THAT JESUS CHRIST IS AND TEACHES.*

A. Jesus Christ is Lord

NOTE: As “**LORD**” Jesus Christ is God's Supreme Authority over the Individual Christian and the Local Church.

1. The Supreme Authority over the Individual Christian

EFFECTIVE CHRISTIANS LEARN THE PRINCIPLES OF CHRIST AND APPLY THEM TO THEIR DAILY LIVING.

a. The Great Commandment – John 14:15

b. The Great Commission – Mark 16:15

2. The Supreme Authority over the Local Church

a. The Place of Prominence – Colossians 1:18a

-CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

b. The Place of Preeminence – Colossians 1:18b

-CHRIST IS TO BE NUMBER ONE IN THE CHURCH

B. Jesus Christ as Savior

NOTE: As “SAVIOR” Jesus Christ is the Only Means of Salvation

1. The Only Way to the Father – John 14:6
2. The Only Name by which one can be Saved – Acts 4:12

THE LESSON

**OBEDIENT CHRISTIANS WILL SEEK TO GROW IN UNDERSTANDING THE PERSON OF CHRIST AND THEN
SUBMIT TO HIS AUTHORITY IN ALL THINGS DAILY.**

APPLICATION

This passage is to be studied, applied, and obeyed by each true child of God on a consistent basis. HOW IS IT ACCOMPLISHED?

- By Feeding on the Word of God daily
- By Walking in Obedience to the Word of God daily
- By Spending time in Prayer with God daily
- By Attending a Biblically Based Local Church Regularly