

Beware. . . . But Grow!

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The 2nd letter of Peter has a consistent theme through the writing, “Beware. . . But Grow!” Every part of his letter can be categorized into these two categories (Beware, Grow). Peter takes time to warn other about what to be attentive for and what to be on guard about as well as reminded them they are to grow. He admonishes them with several ways in which to grow, as is the life of a Christian. We grow constantly. This theme is found in verses 17 & 18 when Peter uses the words, “Be on your guard” and “But grow”

Peter has given a lot to beware of in this second writing. In Chapter 2, he discusses false teachers. Notice their deceitful, destructive, divisive ways. They will lead men and women away and their end is not pleasant. Peter writes that judgment is eminent just as God did not spare even His own angels in their sin (2:4). Peter talks about the flood & destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah reminding that God will bring forth judgment to all. Notice where they came from: (v.1) — from among yourselves. These are people who knew the truth and then compromised it or tried to change it or neglected it. (2:21). Their divisive nature will cause many to go away.

In Chapter 3, he reminds them or warns them of the impending day of the Lord. He’s talked earlier about judgment on the false teachers. Peter reminds that all the Lord is coming, this temporary place will vanish away so we must keep ourselves clean and ready for when this life is over. As humans, fear often acts as a paralytic. The fear swallows us to where we do not act, but the purpose of this letter was otherwise. In 3:17 Peter says to be on guard and not be carried about by error, (v.18) but to GROW!

Without growth, it is as if we’ve stood still and become numb. Numb to sin, Numb to the world, eventually numb to everything until we decay and are cut off and swept away. Without growth, we cannot bear fruit (1:8). Without growth, we cannot progress and eventually we lessen. (3:7).

Instead of shrinking away from what we beware (false teachings, day of the Lord, etc.)

we must grow in the grace and knowledge. We ought not be afraid of false teachers, we must instead be ground in the truth to where we can recognize false teaching and speak against it. False teaching only continues to spread rampantly when it is not exposed.

We should not live in fear of the judgment day. Rather, we should grow to better serve God each day knowing that when this life is over, we are free from all the troubles here and can live in heaven with Him for eternity.

We must be watchful & beware what has the opportunity to overtake us. That should only make us hasten on and press towards the call of Christ evermore! — **CW**