

“Christ is ALL I need”

2 Peter 3: 15-18

Last week we considered verses 11-14

Which we titled:

“Live like the World will End”

This morning, in our last message on this letter, we will consider the title:

“Christ is ALL I need”

Note 1,

We have in verse 15, “**A Definition of Salvation**”

2Pe 3:15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

Note,

The word *is* in the text is not in the original.

So it would read “the longsuffering of our Lord salvation”

You see;

Salvation is not in any way the work of man.

“Longsuffering”

μακροθυμία {Mak-ro-thu-mia}

Thayer Definition:

- 1) patience, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance
- 2) patience, forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs

When David was surrounded by his enemies who wished to take his life, where did he turn?

Psa 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Going back to one of Thayer’s definitions:

“slowness in avenging wrongs”

In Isaiah:

Isa 1:9 *Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.*

Back in our text.

We are told to:

“account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation”

This means we are to Consider this to be the case.

This verse is not so much a statement of God’s longsuffering as it is an exhortation to God’s people to understand what the longsuffering and salvation of God is.

Note:

When we begin to understand this principle we have a solid foundation for Christian living.

App:

If we do not understand verse 15 we will not be able to live out verse 18.

This is the common teaching of the Rest of the NT.

That is why Peter says in verse 15 and the first part of 16

“even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things”

Peter is saying that this is a foundational principle not just a nice closing thought to his letter.

Rom 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

A key example of what Peter is referring to in the writings of Paul is found in:

Ephesians 3:14-4:1

Note:

All the things that Paul prays might be true for the Ephesians

1. Verse 16 “To be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man”
2. Verse 17 “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith”
3. Verses 17-19

that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

Eph 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Then, in verses 20

He gives one of the greatest encouragements to prayer we have in Scripture:

Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Eph 3:21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

It is only after all this that he says in chapter 4 verse 1

Eph 4:1 *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,*

Turning back to our text.

Peter recognizes the reality of difficult portions of scripture.

2Pe 3:16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; **in which are some things hard to be understood**, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

NOTE:

THE ROMAN CHURCH USES THIS PHRASE TO
SUPPORT ITS FALSEHOOD THAT ORDINARY
PEOPLE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.

FOR CENTURIES THIS SYSTEM FORBAD ITS PEOPLE
FROM EVEN READING THE WORD OF GOD FOR
THEMSELVES.

ALBERT BARNES

NOTES THE FOLLOWING ON THIS CLAUSE FROM OUR
TEXT:

- (1) That Peter does not say that all the doctrines of the Bible, or even all the doctrines of Paul, are hard to be understood, or that nothing is plain.
- (2) He says nothing about withholding the Bible, or even the writings of Paul, from the mass of Christians, on the ground of the difficulty of understanding the Scriptures; nor does he intimate that that was the design of the Author of the Bible.
- (3) It is perfectly manifest, from this very passage, that the writings of Paul were in fact in the hands of the people, else how could they wrest and pervert them?
- (4) Peter says nothing about an infallible interpreter of any kind, nor does he intimate that either he or his “successors” were authorized to interpret them for the church.

- (5) With what propriety can the pretended successor of Peter - the pope - undertake to expound those difficult doctrines in the writings of Paul, when even Peter himself did not undertake it, and when he did not profess to be able to comprehend them? Is the Pope more skilled in the knowledge of divine things than the apostle Peter? Is he better qualified to interpret the sacred writings than an inspired apostle was?
- (6) Those portions of the writings of Paul, for anything that appears to the contrary, are just as “hard to be understood” now, as they were before the “infallible” church undertook to explain them. The world is little indebted to any claims of infallibility in explaining the meaning of the oracles of God. It remains yet to be seen that any portion of the Bible has been made clearer by “any” mere authoritative explanation. And,
- (7) It should be added, that without any such exposition, the humble inquirer after truth may find enough in the Bible to guide his feet in the paths of salvation. No one ever approached the sacred Scriptures with a teachable heart, who did not find them “able to make him wise unto salvation.” Compare the notes at [2Ti 3:15](#).

Back to verse 16 of our text.

Peter reveals how the ungodly deal with such.

“which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”

“Unlearned”

ἀμαθής *amathēs am-ath-ace'*

From G1 (as a negative particle) and G3129; *ignorant*: -unlearned.

“Unstable”

ἀστήρικτος *astērikτος as-tay'-rik-tos*

From G1 (as a negative particle) and a presumed derivation of G4741; *unfixed*, that is, (figuratively) *vacillating*: -unstable.

Illus:

Our wall socket at home.

Note:

These “ignorant” and “unfixed” ones come to the scripture and instead of learning and getting grounded they make others as themselves.

Q. What does Peter say is the outcome of this?

“unto their own destruction”

ἀπώλεια *apōleia ap-o'-li-a*

RUIN or LOSS

So instead of benefiting from the word, it becomes their damnation.

Illus:

Back to the wall socket.

Electricity used correctly is of great use.

Used incorrectly it will end in death.

Q. How does this apply to us/to me today?

Peter tells us in verse 17.

2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

Note:

We have advanced information from the great Apostle Peter.

We know the pitfall.

Do not fall in!!!

Q. How do I protect myself from this error?

1. Always allow the clear statements of scripture to interpret the unclear.

This is a safe guide to biblical interpretation.

2. Never build a doctrine on just one verse of the Bible.

This is another safe rule of interpretation.

3. Do not deviate from the overwhelming testimony of church history. {The True Church}

We should be not like modern Evangelicals who think the Bible began with them.

2Pe 1:20

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

Note:

The safety and benefit of a good confession of faith.

4. Always take the single text in its context.

A very important rule!!!

Finally;

Peter identifies the chief goal of studying the word of God.

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Note:

If my study of scripture does not make me grow in Christ,
there is something wrong.

Our Lord speaking to the unbelieving Jews in John 5 says:

Joh 5:39 *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*
Joh 5:40 *And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*

Or the exhortation of Paul to the Colossians:

Col 2:6 *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*

Col 2:7 *Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

Col 2:8 *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

Col 2:9 *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

Col 2:10 *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

Peter closes his letter with a reminder of the great purpose of all creation:

“To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.”