

Week 21
143/222

Transforming Daily
“... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord ...”
2 Peter 3:18

What does it mean to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? One of the things that it doesn't mean is that the believer has any control over the grace of God. Based on the context of the previous verse, Peter is encouraging the believer to standfast in their witness for Jesus Christ. Peter is encouraging the believer to live according to what they already know and have experienced in Christ in order to avoid the undermining of their faith by false teachers and their doctrine.

The 21st century believer benefits by this same admonition from Peter to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It seems the first century believers were under a more aggressive threat from false teachers and false doctrine, but it only appears that way. Today there are more false teachers and false teachings than ever before, worldwide. The threat is even more dangerous today because of the subtle nature by which so many are being deceived in the name of religious tolerance.

For instance, it is more than likely that active, vocal Christians will soon face accusations, persecution and prosecution for “hate crimes” due to their strong belief in God's Word, The Holy Bible. Don't misunderstand, hate is wicked. The New Testament believer is never instructed to hate anyone, or to allow their actions to be associated with genuine hatefulness. The “hate crime” scenarios of which I speak will be based on the redefinition of “freedom of speech,” politically correct Christian intolerant people, special interest groups (religious and otherwise) with hidden agendas, and various government institutions (again, worldwide). The strategy behind this form of intolerance, as it was in the Garden of Eden, is to directly attack the Word of God in hopes to discredit its authority and undermine the believer's faith.

False doctrine, as it pertains to Christianity, is any teaching contrary to the Word of God, The Holy Bible. More specifically, the Koran, the Book of Mormon, the Apocrapha and Pseudepigrapha of the Roman Catholic Bible, the writings of Hinduism, Buhdism, the church of Scientology, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc., are not the Word of God. These organizations, and others like them, might use the Word of God in their teachings, but with varying degrees of mixture of error in them, they change the true nature of God's Word and thereby the truth therein.

The axiom, “the best defense is a good offense,” is the best way to apply 2 Peter 3:18. Know the true Word of God, The Holy Bible (translation notwithstanding), and when error is introduced by way of instruction or any other means, the believer will be able to discern the Truth from error.