

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PETER  
THE COMBAT FAITH SERIES

TO THE CHURCH OF THE DIASPORA OR DISPERSION THROUGHOUT  
THE FIRST CENTURY ROMAN WORLD

**2-PETER CHAPTER 3:14-18**

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-1021 Sunday, November 8, 2020

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“Before I Let You Go – Part 2”**

The Priority and Ministry of The Word of God to All Those Engaged in an Active and Militant Faith

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Last Days, End Times, Second Coming of Christ, The Church at The Finish-line.**

Parting Words Are Always Meaningful.

How we say goodbye – is telling

“See Ya” is the Christian’s Favorite Farewell. “Aloha” is Another One

2 Peter 3:14-18

:14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; :15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation – *{as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, :16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.}* :17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; :18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

We all have experienced, or shall experience, the remembering of  
the last time we spoke to someone before they  
(1) drove away or (2) moved away or (3) passed away.

**There will come a day when you will have your last word**  
with your mom or dad, your son or daughter, your friend.

I hear it at funerals every single time without exception;  
“The last time I spoke with him, he said to me...”

Because I'm a bit fatalistic (in a good way), I almost always anticipate the end – the end of day, the end of month, the end of a year or project or mission, of life!

<https://www.pbs.org/video/frontline-facing-death/>

03:57 – 04:44

*“We can now keep the heart, the lungs, the body going Indefinitely. Permanently. Forever – Mechanically!”*

<https://www.pbs.org/video/frontline-facing-death/>

06:46-07:37

Wait! Did you hear the Doctor say *“most patients have not discussed the end of life issues with someone else.”*

Faith can let Go – Faith is the power to do what we cannot ourselves.

#### **John 14:1-6**

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.” :5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” :6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

#### **The “Drink” Offering-Reality of the Believer**

##### **2 Timothy 4:6-7**

For I am already being poured {libation}, out as a drink offering and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

#### **The first mention of a drink offering was in**

##### **Genesis 35:13-15**

Then God went up from Jacob in the place where He talked with him. 14 So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where God talked with him, **a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it.** 15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, **Bethel.**

## Significant

**Jacob's** (Supplanter) name was transformed into **Israel** ('he wrestles with God', or 'to triumphant with God')

And Luz (the place of the almond trees) was renamed **Bethel** (The house or gateway to God)

### Philippians 2:17

Yes, and if I am being **poured out as a drink offering** on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

### Luke 22:20 ESV

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, Jesus said, ***"This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."***

### John 19:34

But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately **blood and water came out.** (drink offering)

# "Before I Let You Go"

1.) Keep your faith alive

vs. 14-15a

Before I Let You Go  
**Keep Your Faith Alive**

1a.) With Anticipation

vs. 14a

Verse 14a

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things,

Before I Let You Go  
**Keep Your Faith Alive**

1b.) With Devotion

vs. 14b

Because we have an actual, fact-based anticipation,  
Because we live out an experiential / devotional life.

Verse 14b

be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

(1) Anticipation mixed with (2) Devotion acts as a Catalyst causing a reaction, that reaction produces (3) Endurance

Before I Let You Go  
**Keep Your Faith Alive**

1c.) With Endurance

vs. 15a

Verse 15a

and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation...

**Waiting. Waiting. Waiting.**

Whenever we turn to the Bible we see the LORD waiting –  
Waiting for **Noah**, Waiting for **Abraham**, Waiting for **Moses**,  
Waiting for **Us**, - - - Is He Waiting for **You?**

**Before I Let You Go**

2.) Know His love

vs. 15b-16

Before I Let You Go  
**Know His Love For You**

2a.) Practice Intimacy

vs. 15b-16a

Verse 15b-16a

*(:15b) {as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, :16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand*

The Gospel is so simple that a little kid can believe it  
and understand it simply.

That very same Gospel can be totally impossible for an Einstein to understand.

The Revelation of the Gospel  
sits in Judgment of the Human Heart.

Isaiah 6 = Matthew 13 = the parable of the soils

**1 John 2:20,27**

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. **:27** But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-11**

But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”  
10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

**Song of Solomon 8:6-7**

**always understood to be the words of the bride to Solomon. (1) It is as a prayer to her beloved and (2) a confession of desire to be wrapped in Him.**

**:6** Set me as a seal upon Your heart, As a seal upon Your arm;  
For love (my love for you & your love for me) is as strong as death, Jealousy as demanding as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, A most intense flame. **:7**  
Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all of the wealth of his house, It would be utterly despised.

**Jeremiah 31:3**

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, **I have loved you** with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

**Ephesians 3:14-19**

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 **to know the love of Christ** which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Before I Let You Go  
**Know His Love For You**

2b.) Be faithful

vs. 16b

## Verse 16b

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

“The rest of the Scriptures” being the entire Old Testament revelation.  
Any church claiming to be a New Testament church that avoids the Old Testament –  
cannot be a New Testament church.

( endorsement from Peter that Paul’s writings were of God & equal to the O.T. )

### **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because (1) when you **received** the word of God which you heard from us, you (2) **welcomed** it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which (3) also **effectively works** in you who believe.

## Verse 16b

*which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction,*

Twist grk: stre’bloo; to change, to manipulate, to distort, to bend the image, to misrepresent, to fashion or create an alternate meaning. (this is the main characteristic of a cult)

There are many false doctrines but all of them, without exception, are designed to lead to one chief end – Distort Who Jesus Christ is.

### **Hebrews 6:1-6**

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits. // :4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

## **What Cancer is to the Human body - Emotionalism is to Faith**

### **Proverbs 14:12**

There is a way that **seems right** to a man, but its end is the way of death.

**Seems** heb. yashar, *to be smooth, comfortable, agreeable, easier, popular...*

**Matthew 7:13-15a**

“Enter by the narrow gate; because wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction (hell), and there are many who go in by it. (that way) 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. :15a “Beware of false prophets,

**The Birthing of the Way of Error**

Passionately changed emotions that become the foundation for belief.

**The guarantee we have against ERROR**

Is that we must read the word of God carefully, thoughtfully, and with meditation.

**2 Timothy 2:15**

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

**Psalms 1:1-3**

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **2** But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. **3** He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

**This deliberate approach will prevent you from jumping to theological conclusions and premature doctrines.**

**Read The Bible and You will Discover That while reading it – It has been reading you!**

**Before I Let You Go**

3.) Don't forget – we'll meet again

vs. 17-18

Before I Let You Go  
**Don't Forget – We'll Meet Again**

3a.) Defend that fact

vs. 17a

Verse 17a

:17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand,  
beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness,

Before I Let You Go  
**Don't Forget – We'll Meet Again**

3b.) Prepare yourself

vs. 17b

Peter here warns us as to “how this happens”

Verse 17b

being led away with the error of the wicked

this “led away with the error of the wicked” is a “time-stamp” like the words  
“when” or “then”

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-3**

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed,

Jesus is coming back for His church.

Before that happens, you will (#1) see an increase in deceivers & deception.

And (#2) during those times – the church will be gathered to meet Christ in the air, (#3) and after that happens, then the Antichrist will be revealed on earth.

Before I Let You Go  
**Don't Forget – We'll Meet Again**

3c.) Position yourself

vs. 18

Peter here exhorts us as to “how we prevent this from happening”



## Verse 18

:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

“If the believers are to be looking forward to living eternally in a “Home of righteousness” on the new earth, then now on this earth ought they to be practicing righteousness.”

- Simon J. Kistemaker

Professor of New Testament Theology,  
John Calvin College, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Netherlands.

- 1 -

is the view that the Christian is to have “active grace” in his or her life and an equally “active knowledge” of Christ in his or her life.

- 2 -

another view teaches that the Christian is to have the “received grace” in his or her life and an equally “received knowledge” about Christ in his or her life.

**Scholars admit that both views can be correct.**

Since that is true – I accept both views because both views are realities in the Christian life.

### Pre-Flight Check List

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Are You a Christ Follower?

Who Are You When You're Alone?

What Are You In The Dark?

Is Jesus Your Greatest Desire?

What Does Your Thought Life Say About You?

Where Are You Going When You Die?

How Are You Going to Get There?

How Do You Know The Way There?

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*End of Study*

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