



Final Directions to the Last Stop (Part 3)

07122Pe3.15-16(39)

2 Peter 3:15-16



14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him spotless and blameless, [and] in peace. **15** And consider the patience of our Lord to be salvation, just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him wrote to you— **16** As also in all his letters, speaking in them concerning these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the unlearned and unstable twist, as also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

17 You, therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men [and] fall from your own steadfastness, **18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. [Amen.]

— 2 Peter 3:14-18 (TB's translation from the Greek NT)

The Passage is Also Found on Page 184 of the New Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

I. A Day to Remember (14)

II. A Delay to Consider (15)

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- II. A Delay to Consider (15)
- III. A Danger to Avoid (16)
- IV. A Discipline to Pursue (17-18)
- V. A Doxology to Cherish (18b)

A. "Patience" (*makrothumia*) - Used of God's Patience in the Time of Noah (1 Peter 3:20)

B. God's Judgment Is Being Delayed

C. The Apostle Paul: The Human Instrument in Writing God's Word (15b, 16b)

1. Peter's readers were recipients of Paul's letters (perhaps Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians)

2. Peter refers to . . . *the wisdom given to him* . . . - use of the 'divine passive' in Greek (NIV - "God gave to him") - we can look at this as the NT side of 1:20-21

a. Verse 16: Paul's letters recognized by Peter as Scripture

(1) "Scriptures" (*graph*) - a word used 51 times (cf. Matt. 22:29; Luke 4:21, 24:27; John 10:35; Acts 17:2,11; Romans 1:2; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 1 Peter 2:6; 2 Peter 1:20)

(2) Adjective *loipos* ("rest") = "others of the same kind" (Matt. 25:11; Acts 2:37; 2 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 2:13)

This suggests that the scriptural status of at least some of Paul's letters was reasonably widespread by this time. Moreover, if Paul's letters are regarded as Scripture, it is difficult to avoid the implication that other apostolic letters would be regarded as Scripture as well. Given that 2 Peter begins with a very clear claim to apostolic authority (1:1), there is little reason to think that its readers would have seen it as any less authoritative than Paul's letters (particularly given Peter's status in early Christianity). Indeed, this is confirmed by Peter's description of Paul as "our" [ἡμῶν] beloved brother" in 3:15, which is likely a reference to the college of apostles in which he would certainly include himself. [Michael J. Kruger, *Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the NT Books*, 204]

(3) Note also 1 Timothy 5:18 - *For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages"* which is a quote of Deut. 25:4 and Luke 10:7

III. A Danger to Avoid (16)

A. Peter Affirms that Some Things are Difficult to Comprehend

1. "hard to understand" comes from a single word in Greek (*dusno tos*)

2. Peter has in Mind some Specific Issues & Persons

B. The Perspicuity of Scripture and the Danger of "Scripture Torture"

1. "Twist" = *streblo* (from *streblos* 'twisted' and *stref* 'to turn')

O that we might be a people of the book!