

“GROW IN CHRIST – GO FOR CHRIST”
2 PETER 3:18; MARK 16:15
“THE COMMAND TO GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST”
2 PETER 3:18b
“GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST”

INTRO: In the last several weeks we have been focusing our study on the admonition of the Word of God through the Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3:18 for every Christian to **GROW IN THE GRACE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**. Today we shall proceed to the second phrase of 2 Peter 3:18 that tells us to **GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**. It is the intent of the Holy Spirit, as He led Peter to pen these words, that **EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD CONSTANTLY GROW IN KNOWING JESUS CHRIST FROM THE POINT OF SALVATION TO DEATH OR THE RAPTURE, WHICHEVER IS FIRST. WHAT DOES GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST INVOLVE, WHY IS GROWING IN CHRIST SO SIGNIFICANT FOR BELIEVERS, AND HOW DO WE GROW IN CHRIST?** This will be the main focus of our study today.

QUESTION: AS A CHRISTIAN ARE YOU GROWING IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST?

OBSERVATION: THE PHRASE “OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST” IS LOADED WITH CHRISTOLOGICAL TRUTH ABOUT WHO CHRIST IS.

- 1) He is LORD – From the Gk. Word “**KURIOS**” meaning “**AUTHORITY.**” Jesus Christ IS **THE DIVINE AUTHORITY** and should **BE THE SUBMITTED AUTHORITY** in every Christian’s life.
- 2) He is SAVIOR – From the Gk. Word “**SOTER**” meaning “**DELIVERER.**” Jesus Christ is the **ONLY DELIVERER** from sin – John 14:6
- 3) He is JESUS – From the Gk Word “**IESOUS**” meaning “**JEHOVAH IS SALVATION.**” True Salvation is only in Jehovah.
- 4) He is CHRIST - From the Gk Word “**CHRISTOS**” meaning “**MESSIAH.**” Jesus is the **TRUE ANOINTED MESSIAH** of God to deliver from Sin.

I. THE EXHORTATION TO GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST

NOTE: True Believers are exhorted to be CONSTANTLY GROWING in the knowledge (GNOSIS – “ABSOLUTE UNDERSTANDING”) of Jesus Christ.

- A. This involves Knowing Jesus Christ as Savior
-Acts 4:12; 1 John 4:14; John 17:3
- B. This involves Knowing Jesus Christ as God
-Matthew 1:23; John 1:1-3,14,18
- C. This involves Knowing Jesus Christ as Lord
-Philippians 2:9-11
- D. This involves Knowing Jesus Christ as Shepherd
-John 10:27-30
- E. This involves Knowing Jesus Christ as Judge
-2 Corinthians 5:10,11

II. THE EXAMPLE OF GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST

NOTE: The desire of the Apostle Paul is a GREAT EXAMPLE of GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST as seen in Philippians 3:8-11.

- A. The Expressed Attitude of Paul’s desire to grow in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ – Vss. 8,9
 1. The word “EXCELLENCY” – Means “**THE SURPASSING VALUE**” or that which is of **INCOMPARABLE VALUE OR WORTH**.
 2. The word “KNOWLEDGE” – Means “**THAT WHICH IS EXPERIENCED THROUGH PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT**.”
- NOTE: Paul’s expressed attitude was to have an EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST THROUGH A PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT AND RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM THAT WAS OF THE GREATEST VALUE. **HOW IS THIS DONE?****
- a. Through learning from Christ
 - b. Through obeying Christ
 - c. Through walking with Christ

B. The Expressed Action of Paul's desire to grow in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ – Vss. 10,11.

NOTE: Paul wanted to grow in his EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE of Christ in four ways:

1. The Power of Christ's Resurrection – As Christ rose again from the dead to conquer Satan, Paul wanted to have that same power to overcome Satan in his daily life.

2. The Fellowship of Christ's Sufferings – As Christ suffered for Paul on the cross, Paul wanted to suffer for Christ in his life.

3. The Conformity unto Christ's Death – As Christ died on the cross, Paul was ready and willing to die for Christ.

4. The Attainment of the Resurrection – As Christ rose again from the grave never to die again, Paul was looking forward to the rapture when he would have eternal life in the presence of Christ

III. THE EFFECT OF GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST

NOTE: Paul had the desire to continue to grow in the KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST so that he could complete the course laid before him and receive the ultimate blessing and reward from the Lord. Vss. 12-14

A. Paul's Realization – Vss. 12,13

-Paul knew that he had not yet attained all that Christ would have him to be, but his desire was to continue to grow in the knowledge of Christ and go forward.

B. Paul's Reward – Vs. 14

-Paul knew that growing in the knowledge of Christ would bring reward

-Cp. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

LESSON/APPLICATION

GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST IS A COMMAND. BUT IT WILL RESULT IN BLESSING NOW AND REWARD LATER. ARE YOU GROWING?