

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****2 Peter 3****2 Peter 3**

The Apostle Peter concludes his letter by reminding the pilgrims scattered throughout the first-century Roman world of what is important. Paul and Peter both do this. They are constantly reminding the followers of Jesus, what is important, and what they must never forget. They do this not because they think the people, the ones they are writing to are dense, or suffering from amnesia. But rather writing with the understanding that all of us need to be reminded of what we already know. Training and discipleship is not just the parroting of knowledge, but rather repeating truth over and over again and helping people put that into practice. Many of you have now made this saying an integral part of your learning process, "*repetition is the mother of learning.*"

Peter has encouraged the pilgrims to make their calling and election sure. He has told them of the certainty of persecution and suffering. Now he warns them of the scoffers and mockers that will be more prevalent and more caustic as the coming of the Lord draws closer. Vv. 3-13 will be the primary subject of today's podcast, as there is not space to deal with the chapter in its entirety in this brief commentary, rather I will focus here on 3:14-17.

*Therefore, beloved, as you anticipate these things, make every effort to be found at peace —spotless and blameless in His sight. Consider also that our Lord's patience brings salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom God gave him. He writes this way in all his letters, speaking in them about such matters. Some parts of his letters are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.* (2 Peter 3:14-16)

When the New Testament speaks of the "Scriptures" or the "Writings" it is speaking of what we call the Old Testament. The New Testament was being written or what had already been written was like wet cement, it had not taken final form as the compiled books that make up the New Testament.

In the passage above Peter speaks of Paul's writings in the same way he speaks of the Old Testament books. He says, "*Some parts of his letters are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.* (v.15 *emphasis mine*) Peter speaks of the writings of Paul as "*Scripture*" just as he has spoken and others speak of the *Torah*, the *Nevi'im*, and the *Ketuvim*.

**Prayer and Action Steps**

*Lord, thank you that you have given us both the Old and New Testaments as Divinely inspired Scripture to instruct us and guide us to you.*

*Amen*