

¹⁷ Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Review the context.

- How has Peter “warned” his readers throughout of his letter(s)?
- What topics have warranted such a sober response from the Apostle?

Understand it.

- The phrase “be on your guard” employs a sense of watchfulness. In the Old Testament, *watchfulness* and *obedience* were intertwined. It’s where we get phrases like “keep the commandments.” Therefore, keeping God’s truth is sacred observance.
 - How was the Church *keeping* God’s truth well? (...Or *not* so well?)
 - How might a wrong view of God damage our ability to grow in our faith?
- What is the “secure position” of Peter’s audience?
- How are God’s people enticed away from such a position?
- What are some of the ways we use the word “fall” or “fall away”? What is the role of the community of faith in addressing those who *fall*?
- Peter’s final command is that the Church should “grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”
 - What does it mean to grow in grace?
 - What does it mean to grow in knowledge?
 - How does Jesus guide us and help us grow?
- Finally, the Apostle concludes with his praise (and prayer) for more of God’s glory. How can we experience more of God’s glory *now*? How can we grow in anticipation for God’s forever-glory?



Study hint: the biblical word “know” has a more intimate connotation as well as intellectual.

Apply it.

- What teachings (i.e., “false gospels”) are you more aware of now that you’ve studied 2 Peter? How might God be calling you to act in response?
- Who has the Spirit laid on your heart to caution and care for as they experience an allure away from truth?
- Are you growing in grace and knowledge of the Savior? If so, reflect on how you’ve grown, then spend time thanking God for this growth. If you’re not experiencing growth, ask God to reveal what is inhibiting you. Share with a friend or leader your honest desire (or lack thereof) to grow...and offer to listen to their experience.
- Write your own “prayer of confession” that explores your need for growth and awareness of God’s presence and power.

Thank you for participating in this season-long study! Remain on guard and ask God to use what you’ve learned to experience his glory...now and forever!

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