



# GROW in GRACE *II Peter 3*

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." —II Peter 3:18*

## **I. "TO STIMULATE YOU TO HOLY THINKING" (II Peter 3:1, 2)**

- A. The reminding letter of edification (v. 1)
- B. The recall to the words of truth (v. 2)

*"God loves us the way we are, but he loves us too much to leave us that way." — Leighton Ford*

## **II. "WHERE IS THIS 'COMING'?" (3:3-7)**

- A. The status-quo scoffers (vs. 3, 4)
- B. Forgotten history (vs. 5-7)

*"Clouds of doubt are created when the warm, moist air of our expectations meets the cold air of God's silence. The problem is not as much in God's silence as it is in your ability to hear." —Max L. Lucado*

## **III. "WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE OUGHT YOU TO BE?" (3:8-12)**

- A. The eternal essence of God (vs. 8, 9)
- B. The cosmic termination (v. 10)
- C. The eternal world view (vs. 11, 12)

*"Measure your growth in grace by your sensitiveness to sin." —Oswald Chambers*

## **IV. "IN KEEPING WITH HIS PROMISE" (3:13-16)**

- A. The Christian's forward perspective (v. 13)
- B. The challenge to integrity in time (v.14)
- C. The call to sound doctrine (vs. 15, 16)

*"So many times, you can't see anything happening week to week. Spiritual growth takes place beneath the surface." — Stuart Briscoe*



## **V. "BUT GROW IN THE GRACE" (3:17, 18)**

- A. Stability of the secure position (v. 17)
- B. Stimulus to continued spiritual growth (v. 18)

*"The meaning of earthly existence lies, not as we have grown used to thinking, in prospering, but in the development of the soul." — Alexander Solzhenitsyn,*

## **FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION, and APPLICATION...**

1. In his first letter, the Apostle Peter urges, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good" (1:2, 3). Is this "Got Milk?" line only for new, or "baby" Christians?
2. It appears that the doubters of the first century and those of the 21st century may have things in common. How would you explain some of the present-day teachings that suggest easing off on prophecy teaching?
3. What are some of the complications that may occur when Christians fail to grow spiritually? What personal measures and check-points should we apply to see if we're growing? What should be our attitude toward young, hopefully developing believers?
4. In contrast to Peter's comment on "milk", Hebrews 5:13, 14 reads, "Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature...". In Christian training, what constitutes "milk", and "solid food"?
5. In the original language, the line "grow in the grace" is a command to *keep on growing*. What are some suggestions for applying this to our lives? Do we ever reach "grown up" status in time?