

“Being Led Away with the Error of the Wicked”

2 Pet. 3:17-18

Introduction:

- A. Peter wrote this chapter to warn Christians.
 - 1. Against scoffers to come in the last days (v. 3)
 - 2. Against “the error of the wicked” (v. 17).
- B. This chapter effectively refutes four popular religious and philosophical doctrines.

Discussion:

I. Uniformitarianism.

- A. “The theory that all geologic phenomena may be explained as the result of existing forces having operated uniformly from the origin of the earth to the present time.”
 - 1. This theory is at the foundation of evolution.
 - 2. This theory is the basis for the “day/age” theory of creation.
- B. This is the theory assumed by the scoffers (v. 4)
- C. This theory ignores the power of God’s word.
 - 1. In creation. (v. 5).
 - 2. In the flood (v. 6).
 - 3. In controlling the world (v. 7)
- D. This theory assumes that things will always continue as they are – but they will not (vv. 8, 10).

II. Fatalism.

- A. “The doctrine that all events are predetermined by fate and are therefore unalterable”
 - 1. Does not take into account God’s control of the universe.
 - 2. Does not take into account God’s providence and care for man.
- B. Peter makes it clear that God’s word, not fate controls events. (vv. 5-7).
- C. Some events determined by interaction between God and man (Jas. 5:16; Jer. 18:7-8).
- D. The world will end, not by fate, but when God’s longsuffering ends (v. 9).

III. Universalism.

- A. “The doctrine of universal salvation.”
 - 1. This is becoming more and more acceptable.
 - 2. It assumes that every one who dies goes to heaven.
- B. This chapter is useless if this theory is so.
- C. The text clearly shows that salvation not universal (v. 9, 14-17).

IV. Dispensationalism

- A. This doctrine envisions the last dispensation being Christ the King over a restored Israel on a renovated earth after his second coming.
- B. At Jesus coming the earth will not be renovated by fire, but destroyed (vv. 10-12).
 - 1. Kingdom to be delivered up, not set up. (1 Cor. 15:24).
 - 2. Saved will be meet him in the air, not remain on a renovated earth. (1 Thess 4:15-17).
- C. “New heaven and new earth” is figurative for heaven (1 Pet. 1:4; cf. Rev. 21:1).

Conclusion:

- A. “Account that the longsuffering of God is salvation” (v. 15).
- B. “Beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked” (v. 17).
- C. “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 18).