

2Peter 12-01-27b

Let's resume our study now in 2nd Peter chapter 3. For those of you that are not here, I did manage to retrieve that missing piece of information before we went to the break, but I'll go over it for those of you that haven't not heard it. The thing's hard to understand. I had the letters in my head, but they were scrambled.

It is the prefix is D-U- S, D-U-S, deuce no etos, and of course a U becomes a Y when it comes over into English, and we have dis, dysfunctional, dis, well dysfunctional is my best example, and I'm not going to try to tax my brain any more than that, but it means something that's very difficult. If you have a functional family, everything is easy. If you have a dysfunctional family, everything is hard.

Yeah, what he said, I don't even know. Right, okay, yes, dyslexia, hard to lexify, very good. So, you know, feel free to fill in your own examples, get a dictionary, look it up on the, because obviously, but here's the thing, if you think about this, Paul in his epistles is speaking in them of these things, and Peter says, Peter is an apostle.

Jesus has coached, and trained, and taught Peter. He was one of the the three top disciples, Peter, James, and John, and Peter says, look, I've been with the Lord, and walked on water, and saw angels in the jail, and saw the sheet let down from heaven, and writing inspired scripture, and all that, but when I read Paul, there's stuff that's hard to understand. He doesn't say hard for them to understand, does he? He says they are flat, deuce noe, oh, they're just difficult to get a mental grip on, and untaught and unstable people.

Untaught is interesting, because you know the Greek word for teaching, don't you? You remember the Greek word for teacher? Didaskalos, didaskaleo, you know didactic, we get the word in English having to do with teaching, and so on. Well, that's not the word here. You would think, well, it's adidaskaloi, they're not teachers, or not taught.

This is the alpha privative, the A in front, followed by mathes. This is, you know, the mathetoi are disciples. They are untrained.

They're not so much untaught as they are unlearned in the sense of not following. Disciples are followers. Mathetes are followers, and they are unfollowers.

They are not followers. So it isn't that there was some sort of a deficit. If they had just been taught, you know, we think this in society.

Oh, it's it's lack of education that leads to crime. No, it's lack of following good principles, and following moral codes, and following in the path of integrity and character. That's what leads to crime.

You can be ignorant as a rock, and still have moral integrity, and still have character, still be honest and hard-working. It isn't a matter of not being taught. This is not having a disciple's heart, not having a follower's attitude.

Those who aren't interested in following Christ are mathetes. They call them unlearned, but they are non-disciples. And unstrengthened.

Sterizo is the word for strong, being strong. In Greek, and this is a steriktoi. They're weak.

Now, you know, it doesn't say that they are deficient in some way that can't be helped. Most of the time, if we're weak, it's because we have not strengthened ourselves. I can't run 10 miles because I haven't practiced.

I haven't worked out. I haven't built myself up to 10 miles. I can't bench press 300 pounds because I don't work free weights on a regular basis.

I would be weak in a run or weak in a lifting contest because I don't cultivate those strengths. I don't make myself strong in those areas. Both of these things, being a bad follower and being weak, imply personal responsibility.

There's no need to be weak and there's no need to be a poor follower. These are attitude based. It's not a deficit that came from kismet or faith or God decreed it.

No, these are things that there is an opportunity. Paul says, when I'm weak, then am I strong if I enter into the strength of God through Christ? God's strength is made manifest in our weakness when we operate in faith. These people are weak and don't operate in faith, so they stay weak and they're not interested in following.

What is the flip side of this? If I don't want to have a hard time understanding the scripture, what should I do? What would help me improve my understanding? What would help me be in a position to grasp the truths that are in Paul's letters? Well, be a good follower and be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Enter into the provision and the grace of God. Paul says, when I am weak, that's when I'm strong, because it is not I but Christ who dwells in me.

That's the best kind of strength, because it doesn't depend on me. It depends on God. All I have to do is avail myself, accept it, pursue it, receive it, ask for it.

Ask and it shall be given. Seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened.

So, people who twist these scriptures to their own destruction are people who have set themselves up for destruction by a poor approach and a bad attitude. We want to avoid this. So, untaught and unstable is really poor followers and weak.

Weak by their own choice. And it says that they twist these scriptures to their own destruction.

And strebloo here is the Greek word for twist and the idea here is that we can be presented with truth.

The political season, the election year, is a perfect time to illustrate this point. You can say, I voted against a particular bill because I felt that it was going to hurt the poor. Someone over here hears me say that I voted against this bill and they say, you didn't care anything about the poor.

You voted against it because you're in the pocket of the special interests. You're in the pocket of people in your district or in your state. You did this for some other reason.

Now, there is a fact, if you look at the congressional record, you can find out the way that a congressman or a senator voted, right? There is a hard and fast up or down yes or no voting record there. But when it comes to why someone says, I voted for the bailouts or I voted against the the corporate bailouts, I voted for the war in Iraq or I voted against the war in Iraq. Well, why? They will give you one version, their opponents will give you a completely different version.

So the same fact can be spun, can be twisted, can be interpreted and those who have a jaundiced view, for example, we look at God in heaven. And we recognize his power and his grace in the plan of salvation in sending his own son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die in our place and to take upon himself the penalty of this awful death and separation from his father in heaven. And we are impressed with greater love hath no man than this, than a man lay down his life for his friend.

The very same set of facts looked at by your atheists and your militant secular humanists. And what do they say? This is a hateful God that demands blood just because people don't act the way he wants them to. He is selfish.

He is egotistical. He demands that people worship him. If anybody that won't bow and scrape in front of him, he's going to damn them to an eternal fiery hell.

What kind of a God is this? And he takes his own son He does the same thing. He sent Abraham to the top of the mountain and told him to murder his son with a knife. What kind of a God is that? Same facts, but because of a different approach and a different attitude and a different set of presuppositions, completely different interpretation.

This is streblo-o. This is twisting a thing. This is misinterpreting a thing because you are incapable of rightly interpreting why? You are not a follower and you are weak.

This is why the Democrats and the Republicans can never seem to reconcile. This is why the Palestinians and the Israelis can never seem to reconcile. This is why the North and South Koreans can never seem to reconcile.

This is why patriotic Americans and godless communists can never reconcile. You can look at the same set of facts. You know, there are Americans who say we are pouring money and CIA

influence into this country because we're trying to bring them freedom and opportunity.

The people in the country say you meddling Americans are spending money and sending your infiltrators here to mess up our country. Who's right? Well, you know, sometimes it's hard to tell. Sometimes we meddle where we shouldn't and sometimes we are rightfully resented.

Sometimes there is truth on both sides and because it's an imperfect world and there is no good answer. What's the what's the good answer in Israel? There is no good answer in Israel and there won't be until the Lord Jesus Christ returns. He's the only good answer to that situation.

So twisting. So how can we protect ourselves? How can we avoid being these people? I don't think anybody would raise their hand if I said hands up everybody that wants to twist the scriptures to their own destruction. Let's all mess up our lives and go down in flames in this life and in the next because we completely screwed up our understanding of the Bible.

Nobody wants to do that and yet thousands of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ do it and millions have done it historically. Well, how can we keep from being in that number? Peter says There are hard things to understand and the question I asked right before the break is why are there hard things to understand? Why isn't it all easy? Well, one of the best illustrations of this is the Lord Jesus himself when he came and He came into his own Came to his own people the Old Testament scriptures had described him in great detail He will be humbled they saw him on the on the day that he came riding into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey as foretold in the Old Testament scriptures He was a Nazarene as foretold. He was The suffering servant he taught the scriptures as no one had ever taught them before he performed miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit that confirmed his status and his identity and There are Pharisees who are schooled in the scriptures and they're looking at him and they disbelieve and so what did he do? Did he? Simplify the message.

Did he make it very plain and very obvious? He spoke to them in parables didn't he and He told the disciples I'll explain the parable to you but to those outside. It's going to stay in a parable. Why? So that seeing They will see and not perceive Hearing they will hear and not understand and we think wow that seems so I mean putting the best face on it It seems very counterintuitive.

Why would God want people to see and not actually perceive? Why would he want them to hear but not? Understand and this this happened time and again the voice from heaven when Jesus was baptized the voice from heaven That spoke This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased when Jesus spoke to Paul on the Damascus Road He was still Saul at that point Saul Saul why persecutest thou me? Paul heard the voice of the Lord Jesus his companions heard thunder People at the baptism scene heard thunder people when that when God spoke the second time about the Lord Jesus heard thunder They didn't hear the voice of God enunciating these words. Why or why not? The key is right here in this passage it is the Untaught and unstable as you have it here. It is the my face and the asterik toy We set ourselves on a path It is

a reflection of our attitude.

It is a reflection of our core response. And this is where Human wisdom differs from divine wisdom. We think well, I'm on a wrong path I've I'm not a follower and I'm not a I don't want to be strong in in spiritual things But if God would just explain it to me, maybe I would be a follower and maybe I would be Strengthening myself in the things of the Lord We think that that that would happen We're so conditioned especially in Western culture to believe that if you just give somebody facts that will change their mind God says you've got it backwards receptive minds accept the facts and Unreceptive minds do not how long and now they've been printing the surgeon-general's warning on cigarettes And how many people have picked up a pack of cigarettes and well the sermon surgeon-general has determined that smoking is hazardous Oh, it is.

Well, no more of these for me Toss them down and don't buy anymore. Does the fact change their mind? No drunk driving Kills people. Well, I'm not gonna drink and drive.

I'm not gonna drink Maybe I'll drive without drinking or I'll drink without driving, but I'm not gonna drink and drive Then we we still have the highest rates of traffic deaths or there's alcohol involved some guy just Plowed across the median and actually was from Houston I think it went the wrong way on one of our highways and killed two people under the influence They said well, he didn't know the streets. He wasn't familiar with the well He certainly couldn't get familiar driving inebriated and he killed two women Driving the wrong way on Some of our divided highway here in town just in the last few days You make a choice To drive inebriated and you say well, I would never choose to kill people. Well, you've made the choice to drive drunk and That choice has determined what follows It's the earlier choice if you make a choice to not be a follower if you make a choice to not be strong in the Things of the Lord you are predetermining certain things people say I don't understand why all these bad things are happening to me I don't understand why I can't get a job.

I don't understand why I can't get ahead. I don't understand Well, it isn't those immediate choices. It's previous choices you know, you're trying to get ahead as an executive, but you've Made a bunch of choices that make it impossible to be accepted as an executive You you've chosen to to try to be a student But you make decisions that make impossible for you to succeed in school You stay out late and party and you don't study and you try to cheat and you're you're behind and you you don't sign up properly and you don't get a track going and you miss too much class and your your Energies and attention is elsewhere and you say but I really want to be a student and I really want to have a degree Well, there are other choices the the pattern we see in Scripture and it is reflected here and this is the main point of this section the Undisciplined the un and this is a choice they make it isn't nobody wanted them for a disciple it's that they didn't want to be a disciple and the Unstrong and it isn't that God didn't want to strengthen them or make everything available for them to be strong They have chosen not to be strong So when it comes time to look at the scriptures They get a wrong impression.

They get a wrong interpretation. They have a wrong understanding Not because and they may want to understand it but they have made other more important wrong choices and now all they can do is twist it and All they can do is destroy themselves with it They leave themselves off the path Peter in chapter 2 said you've got to watch out for these false teachers because they're putting out this bad information and that's going to obviate and Replace your faith. Don't let that happen.

Well, these people don't even need a false teacher. They lead themselves astray so look at verse 17 and By the way, it says as they do the rest of the scriptures capital s in Greek, this is the rest of the writings and and the graph ace The the graph oz, you know graphic to make a graph of this just means to write things down and It's not necessarily a technical Word for scriptures. It literally means the other writings and and and really loipos this means the rest the rest of the writings and These are whatever writings are circulating and it could be inspired scripture.

It could also be helpful, you know things like we would consider to be a Sunday school quarterly or a commentary or Letters from pastors back and forth. We have letters from Clement of Rome and Papias and other early church fathers from from after this time, but any of the writings that are helpful and beneficial and are Exhorting and encouraging people in the faith. They're going to distort that as well Anything any of the writings having to do with the Christian faith? They're going to mess it up So This passage is used as an argument that Peter considered the writings of Paul to be inspired scripture He probably did but I'm not sure you can really make an airtight case from this It just means the writings that the rest of the writings and it's not a technical Designation it isn't scriptures in capital s in Greek like it is in English So it's a bit of a reach But the principle is here that you're not going to understand anything If you if you make yourself weak you therefore beloved and this is the conclusion of the matter.

This is Peter's final word to us in The light of all of these things that he has said in the light of what we have reviewed in this letter tonight you therefore beloved my Brethren you Beloved ones since you know this beforehand and By the way This is prognosco the same word that Paul uses and That has been twisted When you get to Romans chapter 8 whom he foreknew He knew Beforehand it is just knowledge in advance of a certain point in time God knew before we believed that we were going to believe and that's all the word means There are people that argue this means that God loved people from the standpoint of eternity past and and did special things This is the identical work prognosco. He says look, you know ahead of time that these are the dangers Has nothing to do with eternity has nothing to do with love Simply has to do with knowledge in advance of the need prognosco So beloved since you prognosco these things Ful assess they pH you L a s s o Fulasso This means to guard to Maintain security and this is a Present middle imperative. We've talked about that middle voice.

There's an active voice. I do the action to the direct object There's the passive voice something does the action to me and the middle voice. I do the action on behalf of myself So be on guard in

your own interest is a good way of Translating this it's a present middle Imperative Present means ongoing Idea in the present time.

It's not just you know set a guard once and don't worry about it fire and forget You know lock it and walk away. This is be on guard in your own interest all the time be on guard for yourselves Hina in order that irreverent deceit Does not cause you To fall the the Greek Word order here is quite different than what you have in English knowing beforehand guard yourselves in order that irreverent deceit having been Perpetrated you see it says led away with the error of the wicked this is having been brought off together by the deceit of the Irreverent who are the irreverent the non followers the non strengtheners that he spoke of above And he says you got to be on your guard because those people create a vacuum they create a suction in the direction They're going Whether it's the false teachers or people who follow the false teachers or just these apathetic ones who don't really follow and don't really strengthen themselves they're going to go off into error and deceit and You can be in Company with them. You can be drawn together with them and brought off together this soon Ha pox then days is a participle and this this is the idea that something can go on And and become a part of your identity, you know Participle is a verb that turns into a noun and you become this thing You are one who is being led astray by the deceits of these Irreverent people.

So what should you do? instead of that Be cautious and don't be entrapped in that instead Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ there are two Aspects of Jesus Christ that we should be primarily knowledgeable about He is the Savior That transformed us and gave us a new birth and a new status and a new life and he is the Lord that gives us a new lifestyle a new set of resources a new destiny a new future and of course, they they overlap to a great extent, but there is his Savior hood and there is his Lordship. There is his transforming regenerative power Taking us out of darkness and bringing us into light and then once we get in the light we have things to do That's the Lord Jesus Christ the leader Jesus Christ the one in charge Jesus Christ kurios means the guy in charge He is the deliverer and he's the guy in charge. He has delivered us for a purpose.

We are with him and we're going somewhere Salvation is not static. It isn't an end in itself. It is a beginning.

He is the Savior. That's the beginning He is the Lord that's everything that happens after so grow in the grace and knowledge. Why knowledge? Because that knowledge is the object of our faith Knowing what's happening now knowing what's going to happen in the future Faith faith lays hold of righteousness righteousness is what makes us at home in the eternal future We want to get conditioned.

We want to be acclimatized. We want to be comfortable We want to be at home in God's future kingdom So we lay hold of righteousness now and we're a part of it. We are at home in it.

We are functional We are fruitful. We are useful. We can serve we can be Reflecting the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the eternal future because we figured out righteousness here by faith Faith comes by hearing.

What is it that we hear? It's this knowledge and it's all by grace. We have the knowledge by grace We're able to exercise faith by grace God sustains us and provides for us and blesses us protects us sustains us by grace grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and When we do that to him is the glory he gets the credit he gets the praise He has the appreciation It vindicates and substantiates and reflects the greatness of his work on our behalf in Emptying himself taking on the form of a servant coming in the likeness of men partaking of our existence So that we could in the future partake of his existence he has bridged the gap between heaven and earth between the divine and the mundane and there is one and only one Name under heaven whereby we can enter into all things pertaining to heaven and it's the Lord Jesus Christ to him be the glory both now and forever Amen That's the way Peter concludes his letter It's the last word we have from this great apostle who went through so much in his life Who serves as such a great example for us of? both failure perseverance in The face of failure and in success in claiming that grace. Nobody knew the grace of God better than the Apostle Peter No one experienced Restoration to fellowship and to function like the Apostle Peter In in falling so far and and seeing the love of the Lord Jesus Christ expressed He wants us to enter into that same great grace That same knowledge in that same potential and That is the reason that he wrote his two letters and the reason that we have studied them and may God bless them to our hearts and our spiritual growth and motivation and We'll begin a new study in the New Testament to be finally announced I'll just surprise you with it next Friday night when we begin and And So we'll we'll see you then but let's close in a word of prayer father.

Thank you for the truth of your word thank you for the faithful ministry of the prophets and the Apostles who were diligent to record the truth that you imparted to them and Through their faithfulness and and that of men down through the ages who have carefully guarded and preserved the scriptures we have Access to it in this day and age as never before it has never been so Accessible we have never had as many resources for its understanding and its explanation as we have in this age And we know that this creates for us great opportunity as well as great responsibility we pray that God the Holy Spirit will impress these things on our hearts and Not let us forget them or be indifferent or apathetic about them that he will prod us that he will speak to us as sons and That the full power of your word will be active in our hearts and our lives To transform us and to bring us ever more Closely into conformity with the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray these things in his name. Amen