

2 Peter 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Analysis

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. Peter concludes with a call to "grow in grace" (auxanete de en chariti, αὐξάνετε δὲ ἐν χάριτι)—progressive increase in experiencing and expressing God's unmerited favor. This isn't static possession but dynamic development. "And in the knowledge" (kai gnōsei, καὶ γνώσει) returns to the epistle's theme (1:2-3, 5-6, 8)—deep, experiential, relational knowledge of Christ, not mere intellectual information.

The object is "our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (tou kyriou hēmōn kai sōtēros Iēsou Christou). Growth occurs specifically through knowing Him more deeply—His character, work, will, and presence. This person-centered focus distinguishes biblical Christianity from abstract philosophy or impersonal religion. Knowing Christ personally, intimately, transformatively is both the means and goal of spiritual growth.

The doxology "To him be glory both now and for ever" (autō hē doxa kai nyn kai eis hēmeran aiōnos) ascribes eternal glory to Christ. "Both now and for ever" emphasizes Christ's worthiness of glory temporally (in this age) and eternally (in the age to come). "Amen" (amēn, ἀμήν) confirms truth and expresses agreement. This Christocentric conclusion anchors all Peter's warnings and exhortations in the ultimate reality: Jesus Christ's eternal lordship and glory.

Historical Context

The closing doxology follows standard first-century letter conventions but with distinctly Christian content—ascribing glory to Christ, not just God the Father, affirming His deity. Such doxologies appear throughout New Testament epistles (Rom 16:25-27; Eph 3:20-21; Phil 4:20; 1 Tim 1:17; 6:16; 2 Tim 4:18; Heb 13:21; 1 Pet 4:11; 5:11; Jude 24-25; Rev 1:5-6), often concluding with "Amen."

The exhortation to "grow in grace and knowledge" summarizes the epistle's pastoral concern: believers must progress in Christlikeness (grace) through deepening relationship with Christ (knowledge). Against false teachers promoting corrupt doctrine and immoral living, Peter calls readers back to foundational Christian growth—increasing in grace (sanctification) by increasing in knowing Christ (relationship). This growth provides assurance (1:10), fruitfulness (1:8), and stability against error (3:17).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What specific areas of growth in grace and knowledge of Christ do you need to pursue more intentionally?
2. How do you measure spiritual growth to assess whether you're actually progressing in Christlikeness?
3. What practices most effectively deepen your relational knowledge of Christ versus mere intellectual information about Him?

Interlinear Text

αύξάνετε δὲ ἐν χάριτι καὶ γνώσει τοῦ κυρίου
grow But in grace and in the knowledge G3588 Lord
G837 G1161 G1722 G5485 G2532 G1108 G3588 G2962

ἡμῶν καὶ σωτῆρος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ αὐτῷ ἡ δόξα καὶ
of our and Saviour Jesus Christ To him G3588 be glory and
G2257 G2532 G4990 G2424 G5547 G846 G1391 G2532

νῦν καὶ εἰς ἡμέραν αἰῶνος ἀμήν
now and for G2250 ever Amen
G3568 G2532 G1519 G165 G281

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 1:10 (References Lord): That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Ephesians 4:15 (References Christ): But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

1 Peter 2:2 (Parallel theme): As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Philippians 3:8 (References Jesus): Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Colossians 3:10 (Parallel theme): And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Ephesians 1:17 (Glory): That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

2 Peter 1:3 (Glory): According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Glory): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

John 17:3 (References Jesus): And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

2 Timothy 4:18 (Glory): And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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