

I. Know the Plan - 2 Peter 3:16-18: Self-Destruction

4. Because they rejected truth, they are ignorant of truth and thus become unstable in their decision making and problem solving.
5. Thus, poor decisions from a position of weakness results in their own self-destruction.
6. The ability to avoid this self-destruction is developed from a knowledge of the Scriptures.

2 Peter 3:17 - You, therefore, beloved, since you know in advance, be alert that you may not be carried away by the deception of unprincipled persons and drift off course from your very own support system.

1. Here we see Peter addressing believers who have made some progress in the Plan by acquiring an inventory of doctrine in their streams of consciousness.
2. He warns them to be alert to those who would deceive them by distorting doctrine.
3. He calls them “unprincipled persons” thus referring to the faculty of the Cosmic Academy or to its graduates.
4. When a believer rejects truth, he will simultaneously believe the lie.
5. When a believer begins to replace his inventory of doctrine with an inventory of lies, his decision making and problem solving become distorted.
6. When this occurs, that person is said by Peter to “drift off course from his very own support system.”
7. This is a nautical metaphor used by Peter. When a captain plots a course, he must obey the systems of navigation. He must recognize longitude, latitude, allow for wind or lack of it, orient to the proper stars, and thus move toward his objective.
8. An arrogant captain declares that he knows the way to his destination and doesn't need the assistance of any system of navigation.
9. Or he may be deceived by unstable men who claim they know a better way to plot a course and convince him to follow their flawed system.
10. Such a captain will stray off course because he fails to rely on the proven support system, in this case the laws of navigation.
11. Unfortunately, there are believers who know doctrine but who for many reasons decide that another system of decision making and problem solving is superior.
12. They enter into a distorted lifestyle, acquire the thinking of unprincipled people, and stray off the course of grace.
13. Such individuals self-destruct.
14. In the spiritual life, to drift off course from grace refers to a failure to utilize the divinely provided support system.
15. God's navigational system for the Christian way of life consists of the Filling of the Holy Spirit, utilization of the Grace Apparatus for Perception, and dependence upon the 10 problem-solving devices.
16. Those who fail or refuse to use this system will be casualties in the Angelic Conflict and are losers in the Christian way of life.
17. The Scripture characterizes the Christian loser on several occasions:

Galatians 5:4 - You who are trying to be justified by the Law have been alienated from Christ, you have drifted off course from grace [**withdrawn from the Grace Academy**].

Hebrews 12:15 - See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble and by your trouble, others are hurt.

James 1:8 - A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

2 Peter 2:7 - Abraham rescued righteous Lot, oppressed [**stress in the soul caused by outside adversity**] by the homosexual conduct of unprincipled men [**Genesis 19:5**].