“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).