

## Near-Sighted

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by Wayne Goff

***“For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins” (2 Peter 1:9).***

The apostle Peter is writing his final letter before his death (1:14). Jesus had forewarned Peter years ago of the kind of death he would experience (Jn. 21:18-19). John tells us that by his death he would glorify God. Now the time is at hand and Peter is writing his final words. What would **you** say in **your** final letter?

I don't think anyone could improve on this letter as a final letter. He reminds brethren to *continue to develop spiritually* while we are upon this earth, 2 Pet. 1:5-8. (The end of such development will come soon enough, Eccl. 9:10). Many *start out well and enthusiastically*, but how many keep on keeping on?! How many New Testament letters are written to both saints and churches admonishing them to keep up the good fight of faith?

*“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure...” (2 Pet. 1:10).* Why do we need such admonition and reminding? Because we are *“shortsighted, even to blindness”!* We do not see the **end** of all things very well. If we did, then we would be *far-sighted*. When death and/or the Judgment Day arrives, many people will be in a panic to be sure their lives are in good order -- but that will be too late! We must be *far-sighted* and prepare *now*, Rom. 13:11.

The very last words of Peter resonate well with these first words: *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”* 2 Peter 3:18. It must be important. Peter warns about being *near-sighted* and getting all caught up in the cares of this world. He should know because he did this when he denied Jesus. But Peter grew, matured and died the death of a righteous saint, having served even as an elder in the Lord's church (1 Pet. 5:1). He would have each and every one of us grow, mature, and become that kind of saint! **Beloved brethren, are you continuing to grow?**

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