

Foundation to Fullness: Part 10

Conclusions

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2 Peter 1

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. {5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.} 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Conclusion of the Matter: What We Have, How We got it, What We do with it

The quick context of 2 Peter: False teachers are sure to come and pollute the true Gospel; study the authentic and recognize the counterfeit to remember who God is and who you are! Peter is speaking to believers; them loving God first is a 'gimme'.

I used to build model rockets as a kid...you have to put them together piece by piece, carefully and patiently to make them fly correctly...we have put together a lot of pieces over the past weeks...lets see if we can make them fly.

1. Verse 3: The Worm Baby

Spurgeon kicks us off..

"If you had in your house a number of checks which you believed to be good, I do not suppose that you would long be unaware of their nature and value. No merchant here would say "I have a number of bills, and drafts, and checks at home somewhere: I have no doubt that they are all good, and that they are my lawful property; but I do not know much about them. Their value is quite unknown to me." Such ignorance would argue insanity. Will you know your earthly wealth, and never consider your heavenly riches? (Ed: the promise of life in Christ Jesus). In the Bible there are "exceeding great and precious promises"; shall it be said that some of God's children do not know what those

promises contain? They have read them, perhaps, but they have never really searched into their meaning to see what God has promised."

Should we approach our life in Christ with a limping, whining ignorance which blames our circumstances and clings to our weak and useless pleasures?

- When we were born again in Jesus Christ, we were born whole. Are babies born like worms, that grow arms on their first birthdays and legs on their second? No! we are born into the family of God completely supplied with all that is needed to grow and develop properly...what we may need is an older brother or sister to teach us our own wealth.
- The 'knowledge of Him' in this passage and one soon to follow it is 'epiginosko'...not just a good knowledge, but a precise, definite knowledge. Grow in your knowledge of Christ, and don't limp along purposelessly.

2. Verse 4: Mega Promises

How often are we handed something strong enough to make us fly? There are promises in the scripture that change the way we live our lives...no wonder we don't read it more. In 1 Peter 1:1-2 alone we find we are elect, chosen strangers to the world, who are chosen by God and sprinkled with the Son of God's blood.

- The phrase precious promises in Greek is megista epaggelmata...megista is from the root 'mega', meaning "great in power, authoritative"...we have MEGA PROMISES that are so huge that we can actually 'get air' and soar with Jesus by participating in the divine nature [that is our heart is SET on Christ, He is the new center of our NEW NATURE] and escaping corruption caused by evil desires...if we focus on them and the PROMISE GIVER.
- This passage is speaking directly to the transformation that a person [i.e you hopefully] undergoes when they believe the Gospel and follow Jesus. We as the brothers [the folks this letter is written to] will look and walk differently once we encounter Christ, and that comes from God alone.

{{{SO BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE THESE THINGS [your full equipping and the power of God and His promises] AND FOLLOW GOD...2 Peter 1:5-7, which we have journeyed through for weeks!}}}

3. Verse 8: What Jesus does all this promising and adding for...

When we are on the path to maturity in Christ, we are not to be ineffective or unproductive in our knowing Christ. The words the scripture uses for 'ineffective' and 'unproductive' are Argos and Akarpos; they are associated with fallow fields, trees without fruit, and those who cannot or will not work...aka, wastes of space as far as the kingdom of God is concerned. If our growth is characterized by the traits we've been studying, you're not a Christian waste of space.

Be productive in your precise, definite knowledge of Christ! Allow goodness, truth, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love to flow from you into

someone else...into a Christian peer, into a new believer, into someone who doesn't know Jesus yet.

4. Verse 9: Squints and amnesia

Bad news: If we don't have these qualities, the scriptures say we are nearsighted and blind, and that we've forgotten about being cleaned up by Christ. In other words, if our Christ-changed inside doesn't bleed through continually to our outside, we should question where we are with the Lord, and where we are taking those around us...pastor and flock...father and husband...mother with children...

-MacArthur Throws in his 2 cents...

'Where you have the increase of moral virtue, you have the evidence of salvation. Where you have the absence of the increase of moral virtue, you have the lack of assurance of salvation. One's assurance of salvation is directly related to what's going on in his life. Those people who do not see the virtues on the increase in their life will not remember that they have been purged....the failure to diligently pursue spiritual virtues produces spiritual amnesia.'

Guess what? This leads us to a principle we've been discussing for weeks; get close to the Lord every day! If He is Lord of your life, treat Him that way...

5. Verse 10: Be urgent, be consistent

Peter tells us to be eager to make our calling and election sure; the Greek uses an aorist active imperative in this statement...which simply means HURRY UP AND DO THIS! Spurgeon writes...

'I beseech you, give no sleep to your eyes till you have read your title clear to mansions in the skies. Shall your eternal destiny be a matter of uncertainty to you? What! Is heaven or hell involved in this matter, and will you rest until you know which of these shall be your everlasting portion? Are you content while it is a question whether God loves you or is angry with you?'

How can we cruise through our days doing less than our Lord commands and expect him to be delighted with us? Would you be thrilled with your children if they did no chores and no homework but expected dessert and pats on the back? There's a super-fancy name for presumed maturity...immaturity. Be eager to present yourself daily before your Lord who loved you so extremely...and as you reflect him, your assurance will grow and you will never fall...

'Never fall' is 'ou me ptaisete' which uses a double negative...it would translate roughly to "No not never would you stumble." Peter does not mean that we will never sin...he does mean that if we possess these qualities in increasing measure, we will never be permanently ruined in our faith. We will be pressed but not crushed, persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed: our enduring faith in Jesus Christ and His precious promises will sustain us through each day and in eternity.

6. Verse 11: A royal welcome

It's pretty simple: Spend your life following Jesus with sincerity, and you will be received into your eternal home wonderfully. You won't escape 'as through flames' or be turned away because you never knew him...because you did know him, and you sought to know him and love him and love others every day as your top priority.