

PETER'S LEGACY- 2 PETER 1

Vs. 1-7

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

- We're all one in Christ due to the righteousness of Jesus - our God.
- **Titus 3:4-5** *But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy,*

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

- The abundant life we enjoy due to the grace and peace found in God cannot be truly realized or appreciated without having a full understanding of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

- We've been given what we need through the knowledge of God, but it's not the word we're worshipping - this knowledge centers on "God and of Jesus our Lord."
- **John 17:3** *"And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*
- God has called us to share in His glory and excellence (virtue).
- **1 Thessalonians 2:12** *we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.*
- **2 Thessalonians 2:14** *To this He called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- When Christ makes a promise, He keeps it. When Christ makes a promise . . . it's big.
- God's goodness, dependability and wonderful promises call us to be like Him.
- **Titus 2:11-14** *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.*

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

- These qualities are ours for the taking, but many don't appreciate their beauty. It's not one or the other.
- It's a process. It's sanctification. Take the time. Read them over. Chew on it all . . . but don't just think about it.

Vs. 8-11

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

- We weren't meant to be merely intellectual Christians.
- Many people are effective in all the ways that don't really matter.
- Yet, they're not seen as being nearsighted. Why is that?
- One reason we don't change, according to Peter, is that we have forgotten where we began.

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- It is what it is. Not legalistic.
- We follow in Jesus' footsteps because we **love** Him. We change our lives to reflect Him because we **trust** His way of doing things.
- **Matthew 5:19-20** *"Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."*
- Taken from ESV Study Bible: *"Peter's wording does not imply that true followers of Christ can ever apostatize; those who do so were never really 'called,' 'elected,' or born again."* Kind of makes the whole section pointless, doesn't it? These individuals have been "cleansed from his former sins." Peter said, "IF you practice these qualities you will never fall."

Vs. 12-15

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

- **John 21:18-19** *Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want*

to go." (This He said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this He said to him, "Follow Me."

- Isn't it frustrating when someone won't pay attention to your simple advice? Isn't it frustrating when someone continues to give you the same old advice?!?! Peter, in his old age, found it necessary to remind them of what had already been told. Let's not try to complicate things - always looking for something new.

Vs. 16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain.

- Peter references what we call "The Transfiguration" found in [Luke 9:28-36](#).
- God confirmed Jesus as His Son and these men were there.

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- The Law and Prophets all, ultimately, pointed to Jesus. Don't believe our eye witness testimony? Go to the Scriptures!
- Jesus pointed to witnesses in His life as well: [John 5:30-47](#). In this passage Jesus points to John the Baptist who acted as a witness (who was present at Jesus' baptism and heard God's voice). The works that Jesus accomplished were bearing witness to who He was. God would bear witness about Jesus through the word. *"Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"* [John 5:45-47](#).
- The word acts as light in a dark world and dark mindset. God's word was a lamp to the Psalmist's feet ([Psalm 119:105](#)) and Jesus is our morning star ([Numbers 24:17](#); [Revelation 22:16](#); [2 Corinthians 4:1-6](#)).
- Whether the prophets of old or apostles (they're all Scripture - see also 3:2, 16 and notice how they're referenced as scripture) what they taught originated from the Holy Spirit. It wasn't their own word, nor did they tamper with the message. It came from God to the people, whereas the teaching of false teachers originated with themselves, yet they attempted to pass it off as inspired.