

Last week we began our study of 2 Peter. I said that Peter introduces himself as a bondservant and Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. In short he felt that it was his job to serve Christ essentially as his slave, doing the will of his master, because as an Apostle, he had been chosen personally by the Lord Jesus Christ.

We also saw the fact that Peter tells us that we have the same faith as those early Apostles – look at what he says at the end of verse 1: *“To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:”*

I said last week that this is an incredible statement. Peter is writing to the Christians of the dispersion – the same as he did in his first letter. This letter is being written shortly before his death and he tells his readers – and us – that we who are Christians have the same faith as him. We are not 2<sup>nd</sup> class Christians just because we never saw Jesus in the flesh. We have the same faith and the same Spirit as the Apostles and those 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians – praise be to God!

He then continues in verse 2 by pronouncing a blessing on them – *“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,”* – telling them that they are saved by grace and that they now have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

As he continues he letter, he tells them about the privileges that they have as Christians and that which follows – their responsibilities as Christians. I cannot emphasize enough that what he said to them, applies to us also. That is why God has preserved His Word for us.

I ask you then to turn with me to 2 Peter 1:3-11 (READ). Verse 3, the only verse that we will be looking at today, is a verse that quote often – I believe that it is a very precious verse to us as those who have the same faith as the Apostles – *“as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...,”* (REPEAT)

Let's think about these words for minute. All that we have comes from God – from *His divine power*. James 1:17 says: *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*

Again, as we compare Scripture with Scripture, we see what has come down from the *Father of Lights* – *all things that pertain to life and godliness*.

As I have said on numerous occasions we live in a world created and sustained by God – He holds the planets in their orbits, he knows the stars in the sky by name and He makes the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

But, as Christians we see what He has given us – *all things that pertain to life and godliness*. He has given us what we need to live our lives here on this earth and in the world to come. We truly do have it all!

Think about this. Again, we live in world created by God and He has given us an instruction manual on how to live in the world that He has created. To me that is a pretty amazing thing to think about. He could have just place us here and said: “go at it.” – But He didn't.

No, He has given us the Scriptures – the Holy Bible – God’s Word – and it is where He speaks to us. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says: “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*”

Notice a few things here – it says that *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God* – all Scripture is inspired by God – it literally means God-breathed – all of it. Later on in this first chapter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, he tells us in 2 Peter 1:19-21: “*And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*”

We have God’s inspired Word – all of it, and we cannot pick and choose what we want to believe and to follow.

The rest of the of the verse tells us what it means for us as we live our lives here on this earth – *and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Think of the comparisons – between those nations and people that at least have some knowledge of the Word of God and those who do not. Think of Muslim nations ... Buddhist & Hindu Nations.

Look at the laws in Muslim nations – they are not pretty. Consider how they treat women, in total contrast with how our Savior did. Look at the Hindu nations, where people are starving because they think that the cows are their relatives who have passed on. I could go on and on.

And then here in the United States, we have laws, or used to have laws in some cases, that were based on the Scriptures. As a result we are a much more civilized society.

But from a personal, individual point of view, we find that the Scriptures address either directly, or indirectly every aspect of our lives. We think about the 10 Commandments which we say almost every week, and also the Great Commandment.

As I have also said before the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 Commandments, along with the first part of the Great Commandment, addresses our relationship to God – which we will look at more of in a moment – and the last 6 commandments along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Great Commandment address our relationship to our fellow man.

Think about how much better society would be if they followed these instructions from God more closely – if children really honored their fathers and mothers, if people did not commit murder, if people did not commit adultery, if people did not steal what did not belong to them, if people did not bear false witness against their neighbor and if people did not covet.

If you don’t do these things – which are all in the negative – then you will be doing something positive – you will be loving your neighbor as yourself. Because if you are loving your neighbor – and that is anyone we come into contact with – we will honor them, we won’t murder, we won’t commit adultery and so forth.

So again, see what God has given us – *all things that pertain to life and godliness.* But, as we know, we can’t

keep the 10 Commandments – we don't love the Lord our God with all of our heart and soul and mind. We sometimes have other gods before us and we don't always honor the Sabbath. The Scriptures tell us that if we have broken one commandment, we have broken them all.

And that is where the godliness part comes in. God knew that we couldn't keep His law, so He provided us a way to have forgiveness of our sins through the person and work of Jesus Christ. We know that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that he was buried and that he rose from the dead for our sins – all we have to do is believe.

Remember, I said that God has given all that we need for this life – and in the world to come. We know that our lives here on earth are temporary. Again, consider what Peter said in his first letter – that we have an inheritance in heaven waiting for us. It is something that the Christian looks forward to.

When our lives on this earth are done, we know that we have a place reserved for us in heaven. It doesn't get any better than that. Again, *all things that pertain to life and godliness*. As we go on we see where it all comes from – *through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...*

It is God who has called us to Himself, by the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As we read in Ephesians 1:3-6: *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”*

As Peter said in his first letter to the pilgrims of the dispersion – 1 Peter 1:1-2: *“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.”*

It is God who has called us out of darkness into the light of His salvation. It is God who has revealed Himself to us through the moving of the Holy Spirit. It is God, through the Holy Spirit, who caused us to come to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior – as the one who died for our sins.

It is God who has given us all the blessings of our salvation – forgiveness of sins, access to Him through prayer, knowing that we have something better waiting for us – in short *all things that pertain to life and godliness*.

But, it doesn't end there – as Peter goes on in verse 4 and which we will look at in detail next week: *“by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

Yes, my friends, we've got it all. It really doesn't get any better than this. Praise be to God! Amen!!