

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: June 21, 2020

Summer Quarter: Zealous for the Truth

Today's Lesson: "Growing Expectations" (Part 2)

## LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK (vss. 1, 2)

### 1. At the author (1a)

The following represents the thinking of contemporary scholarship:

"Scarcely anyone nowadays doubts that 2 Peter is pseudonymous... We must conclude that 2 Peter belongs to the luxuriant crop of pseudo-Petrine literature which sprang up around the memory of the Prince of the Apostles."

### 2. At the recipients (1b)

"to those who . . . **have received** a faith as precious as ours"

"through **the righteousness** of our God and Savior Jesus Christ"

### 3. At the greeting (2)

The crucial word in this verse (also a key word thru 2 Peter) is the word "knowledge". Here are some of the blessings of God that rest upon those who know God personally and intimately thru Jesus Christ his Son.

A. *Grace*

B. *Peace*

C. POWER to escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires and to live a godly life (vss. 3, 4)

## BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE (vss. 3-15)

To stimulate Christian growth is the theme of Peter's second letter (cp. 3:18). We are to change & grow; that is, move toward maturity. The standard of maturity is Christlikeness (Rom. 8:29; Eph. 4:11-16). The "how" and "why" of change and growth is explained in verses 3-11.

### 1. RESOURCES for growth are provided (vss. 3, 4).

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness."  
Where are these resources to be found?

A. They're found in Jesus Christ, the Living Word (vs. 3)

"thru our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory & goodness"

B. They're found in the Bible, the written Word (vs. 4)

"he has given us his very great and precious promises"

2. RESOLVE to grow is required (vss. 5-7).

- A. "Add to your faith" - the Christian life begins by faith!
- B. "Make every effort to add" - "goodness" or "moral excellence"
- C. To goodness, "knowledge" - practical knowledge or discernment (applying biblical principles in our daily circumstances).
- D. To knowledge, "self-control" - or, "self-mastery."
- E. To self-control, "perseverance" - lit. "to remain under" = the ability to endure the difficult circumstances of life.
- F. To perseverance, "godliness" - a reverent devotion to God out of which grows a sense of respect and duty to man as well.
- G. To godliness, "brotherly kindness" - a kindness & affection that should characterize the relationship between brothers & sisters in the believing community. Cp. "One another" commands.
- H. To brotherly kindness, "love" - the sacrificial love that our Lord displayed when He went to the cross; it goes beyond the family of God and includes all men everywhere.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ for growth are explained (vss. 8-11).

- A. You'll be fruitful & effective; not nearsighted & blind (8-9)
- B. You'll make your calling and election sure (10a)  
By committing ourselves to change and growth, we put God's call and selection of us beyond doubt.
- C. You'll never fall (10b)
- D. You'll receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (11)

4. \_\_\_\_\_ to grow are necessary (vss. 12-15).

- A. "Tent" reminds us of the nomadic life of patriarchs (Heb. 11).
- B. Jesus told Peter how and when he would die (John 21:18, 19).
- C. Peter speaks of his "departure" (lit. **ἔξοδος** *éxodos*)  
All of us will be putting our earthly tents aside & making our exodus before long (in a short time).