

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: **January 18, 2023**

Fall Study: Standing Fast in the Last Days: A Study of 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, and Jude

INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)

1. Author (vs. 1a)

A. Simon, the _____ (cp. John 1:35-42; Matthew 16:13-20).

B. Simon, the _____ (**δοῦλος *doúlos***). What does it mean to be a ***doúlos*** of Jesus Christ? To call the Christian a ***doúlos*** of Jesus Christ means that he/she is . . .

1) Inalienably _____ (_____) by God.

2) Unqualifiedly at the _____ of God.

3) He (or She) _____ an unquestioning _____ to God.

4) He (or She) must be _____ in the _____ of God.

C. Simon, the _____ (see Mark 3:13-19 – “send them out” **ἀποστέλλω *apostéllō***)

“He gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastor-teachers” (Eph. 4:11). See also Ephesians 2:20.

1) One called (personally hand-selected) by the Lord (Mark 3:13)

2) Had to be an _____ of the resurrection & ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:21-22).

3) One _____ by Jesus: “appointed” (Mark 3:14).

4) One who carried Jesus’ _____ (Mark 3:15; Matt. 10:8; 2 Cor. 12:12).

2. Recipients (vs. 1b)

“received a faith as precious as ours.”

Saving faith is the God-given capacity to trust Christ alone for salvation. It’s a gift (Eph. 2:8-9).

“through the righteousness (fairness; justice) of God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

God refuses to make distinctions between the various recipients of his mercy and love!

3. Greeting (vs. 2). The crucial word in this verse is the word “_____”. It’s also the key word throughout 2 Peter (1:3, 8; 3:18). Used sixteen times in 2 Peter (**ἐπίγνωσις | γνῶσις**). “*Knowledge*” in Second Peter refers to an *informed* and *intimate* relationship because of our new birth that moves us toward Christlikeness and committed living for Christ.

A. _____ (an understanding of the whole will/counsel of God).

B. _____ (personal, intimate relationship with Him).

C. The blessings of God that rest upon those who know God personally and intimately:

1) _____ (unmerited favor; enablement; power).

2) _____ (with God and of God).

3) “Everything we need for life and godliness” (i.e., to live a godly life). See verses 3-11.

TO STIMULATE CHRISTIAN GROWTH (chapter 1)

Peter wrote his 2nd epistle for three reasons. To stimulate Christian growth is the first reason. The second reason is to combat false teaching (chapter 2). The third reason is to encourage watchfulness in view of the coming “Day of the LORD” (chapter 3). To Summarize: The purpose of Second Peter is to call Christians to *spiritual growth* so that they can *combat apostasy* as they look forward to *the Lord’s return*!

1. _____ for Growth are _____ (1:3-4)

A. Several phrases to note:

- 1) They come to us from “his divine power”.
- 2) The word translated “has given” emphasizes _____ & _____.
- 3) God’s provisions are _____ in nature.

B. Where are these resources to be found?

- 1) They’re found in Jesus Christ, the _____ Word (vs. 3)
“His divine power has given us . . . through our knowledge of him who called us.”
- 2) They’re found in Jesus Christ, the _____ Word (vs. 4)
“He has given us his very great and precious promises.”

2. _____ to Grow is _____ (1:5-7)

Peter is fully convinced that spiritual growth in the Christian life requires strenuous involvement by the believer. Peter’s not the only one. See Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; and 1 Tim. 4:7-8 - “train yourself to be godly.” Change & Growth is a “joint venture” (J. Bridges), a “divine cooperative” (D. Jeremiah).

Peter lays out a program of moral and ethical development consisting of eight virtues – beginning with faith & concluding with love. They’re various facets of mature Christian character, virtues which should be found in a healthy and mature Christian life.

- Faith
- Goodness (or “moral excellence” NASB)
- Knowledge
- Self-control (meaning “self-mastery”). Handling the _____ of life.
- Perseverance. Greek word: “to remain under”. Handling the _____ of life.
- Godliness
- Brotherly kindness (Gk: **φιλαδελφία philadelphia**)
- Love (Gk: **ἀγάπη agape**)

3. _____ for Growth are _____ (1:8-11)

A. You’ll be _____ and effective; not nearsighted and _____ (8-9)

B. You’ll make your _____ and _____ sure (10a)

C. You’ll never _____ (10b)

D. You’ll receive a rich _____ into our Lord & Savior’s eternal kingdom (11)

4. _____ to Grow are _____ (1:12-15)

A. The image of the _____ as a _____ is interesting. Compare Heb. 11:8-10, 13-16.

B. Jesus told _____ how he would _____ (see John 21:18-19).

C. Peter speaks of his departure (lit. **ἔξοδος éxodos**). It means “the road or way out”. It speaks of the OT exodus—the way out of physical bondage/oppression into freedom (the promised land).

D. Verse 15: “And I will make every effort to see that (after my departure) you will always remember these things.” NIV Study Bible Note: “An aim that was realized, whether intentionally or unintentionally, through the Gospel of Mark, which early tradition connected with Peter.” See 1 Pet. 5:13.