

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Peter 1:5-11**.
- B. This is a lesson of encouragement. We want to enter the eternal, heavenly realm, and the Father gladly desires to give it to us (Lk. 12:32).
"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom."
- C. I will break the text down into four easy to understand parts.

I. **FIRST, BE SPIRITUAL (2Peter 1:5-7).**

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

- A. Peter lists what is commonly called the "Xian graces." Seven things to be part of our life:
 - 1. Moral excellence (virtue) -- to be fulfilling one's purpose.
 - 2. Knowledge -- practical knowledge and discernment.
 - 3. Self-control -- temperance or self-discipline.
 - 4. Perseverance -- endurance through difficult times.
 - 5. Godliness -- "god-likeness" which means to worship well.
 - 6. Kindness -- brotherly love, *phileo*.
 - 7. Love -- self-sacrificing love, agape, doing the right thing.
- B. Notice the difference in this list and what the world thinks is important (riches, fame, intelligence, beauty, power, authority).

II. **SECOND, BE FRUITFUL (2Peter 1:8).**

For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. It is one thing to have these qualities in your life, but it is another to have them increasing in your life! Possession or stagnation is not growth! Fruit trees are planted and cultivated to produce and the same is true with Xian, we are to produce fruit.
- B. The Xian life is one of bearing fruit for God:
 - 1. It is done by remaining in the vine (Jn. 15:5).
"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing."
 - 2. It is done by the help of the HS (Gal. 5:22-23).
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
 - 3. It is done by our good works (Col. 1:10; Ti. 3:14).
(Col 1:10) so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
(Ti 3:14) And let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, that they may not be unfruitful.
- D. We shall be know by our fruits (Mt. 7:16).
"You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles,"
Will we pass God's fruit inspection?
- E. Having the above things in your life gives "true knowledge." A true knowledge of what it is like to be like X, and to truly live the Xian life. Growing in grace and knowledge (3:18) is growing up to be like X (Eph. 4:15).

III. **THIRD, REMEMBER YOUR PAST (2Peter 1:9).**

For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

- A. Xians must never lose sight of the following:
 - 1. We are cleansed from sin by the blood of X (Rev. 1:5).
To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood,
 - 2. We have redemption and forgiveness (Col. 1:13-14).
For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
 - 3. We sit on thrones in the heavenly places with X (Eph. 2:6).
and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,
 - 4. We have the HS as our seal of redemption (Eph. 1:13).
In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- B. Do not suffer from spiritual myopia (short-sightedness). Remember from where you came and what you know have in X.

IV. **FOURTH, CONTINUE TO PRACTICE (2Peter 1:10-11).**

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

- B. Peter says to practice these things. Practice does not make perfect; correction makes perfect. One must practice in the right way to receive the blessings of it.
- C. Doctors practice medicine and through the years they get better and better at it. We are to practice our Xianity is such a way that we get better and better at it.
- D. But there is another blessing from practicing these things--you never stumble. When a person is busy doing the right thing(s) it is very difficult to do the wrong thing(s).
- E. Jesus said that we must do His will to be acceptable to Him (Mt. 7:21).
“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.”

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Four powerful things to do:
 - 1. Be spiritual.
 - 2. Be fruitful.
 - 3. Remember your past.
 - 4. Continue to practice.
- B. Make your calling and election sure.
- C. Become a Xian, or coming back to X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.