

Great and Precious Promises

The focus of our study this morning will be in 2 Peter 1:2-4 and is of vital importance. Here we look to a most profound truth, the sufficiency of scripture. We seek to understand that the scripture is an all sufficient resource for everything that we face in life and that it has great and precious ramifications upon our lives. Indeed for the Christian it is our very life, the bread from heaven, even the very food that sustains our soul for,

Matthew 4:4 - "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' NIV

Read with me;

2 Peter 1:2-4 - 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. NAS

Here we have a statement of the all sufficient resources that we have available to us who have a true knowledge of God. Look with me at verse 2;

1. 2 Peter 1:2- 2 **Grace** and peace be **multiplied** to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

Grace and peace be multiplied to you – Isn't this just like God? When God speaks to us, His words are full of grace and peace, for He is the God of all grace and the God of all peace. And more than that, they are "ours in abundance" or being "multiplied" to us! The greek word here for multiplied is "*plethuno*" which means *to abound, to increase or to multiply, to heap upon, to overflow*. The Lord heaps upon us in abundance His grace and His peace.

2. Grace - is the **undeserved** or unmerited favor which comes to us

through Jesus Christ and His **sinless** life, and also His sacrifice of

atonement on the cross. In Christ we are found to have God's **favor**, in

spite of the fact that we deserve **death**. He reconciled us unto God

having paid the penalty for our sins, the required ransom to God for

sins to set us free and offers His perfect and sinless life in exchange

for our sinful and shameful life. In Christ we have a favor with God

equal to that of Christ Himself.

3. Peace – The quality or state of being which has no **enmity** or hostility. We now have peace with God through Jesus seeing that He has **satisfied** the **wrath** of God toward our sins. We are no longer the enemies of God, but have been reconciled to God by the blood of Christ. We have peace which comes from God and is described as an inner **tranquility** which calms and causes the soul to **rest**.

Now these God heaps upon us or causes to overflow in our lives. We have them in abundance as God multiplies them unto us!

Friend, are you weighed down with sins? Have you a heavy load?... Turn to Jesus! In Him you will find grace and peace in abundance! Where sin does abound grace does much more abound! Romans 5:20

Then notice, how they come to us....

4. 2 Peter 1:2b - in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord – God’s grace and His peace are **multiplied** to us “in the knowledge of God.” That is to say as we come to know Him. In knowing Jesus our Lord is great peace! In coming to a knowledge of God there is grace and peace in abundance. Where else do we come to know God except by the special revelation of the Scripture? And in the scripture we have a complete and all sufficient revelation of God and of Jesus our Lord. It is in this knowledge of God through the Scripture that we have grace and peace multiplied to us in abundance. As the prophet says in...

5. Psalms 119:165 - 165 Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.
NIV

Observe then the means by which we receive the abounding grace and peace of God....It is by our knowledge of Him through the Word. Are you lacking peace dear friend, love the Word!..... Need you grace from God, seek it in the Word! There you will find God, who fills our lives with His grace and peace.

Look with me then at verse 3;

6. 2 Peter 1:3 - 3 seeing that His divine power has **granted** to us everything pertaining to life and **godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

His divine power has granted to us – Who is God? Is He not the Almighty? Indeed He is and His power is inexhaustible. When God spoke the universe into existence, it was just a small example of His mighty power. The creation then is completely dependent on God, but God is not dependent on anything at all. He is self-existent! Therefore we see that

whatsoever we need, it comes from God. He grants it unto us, as the scripture says,

7. Acts 17:25 - 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he **needed** anything, because **he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.**

Here is cause to be thankful for everything we have. It all comes from God! It does not come by means of our own strength, but from God!

And what does he grant us?

everything pertaining to life and godliness – Here is a profound statement of the resources for the life of a Christian. He has given us everything we need for life and for godliness. Know therefore that the Scripture declares that whatever we need for life comes from God! And also then for “godliness,” everything we need for godliness. **8.** The word godliness means, “**like God.**” God has granted to us **everything we need** to be like Him!

Friend, here is the great purpose of life and salvation, to be like God! Is this not our great desire, to be like Jesus? And here the scripture says we have everything we need to be like Him! We can claim ignorance no longer!

9. We Christians have all that is needed to **manifest**, sustain and to perfect **godly** living. To be like Jesus!

Happy – Gracious – Kind – Just – Loving – Patient – Joyful – Gentle

But notice then how these come...

through the true knowledge of Him – We have what we need for life and godliness “through the knowledge of God!” It is through the **knowing of God**. It speaks of an intimate knowledge of God. Of course the more intimately you know someone, you have a greater understanding of them. So it is with God. The greater intimacy we have with Him, the greater knowledge of Him. And therefore, the greater grace, the greater peace, the greater resources for life, and the greater resources for godliness! The greater intimacy with God, the greater knowledge and therefore the greater resources we have for a godly life!

It is no wonder we struggle and have so many problems in our homes, in our marriages, and in our families... we are lacking intimacy and knowledge of God!

This is the issues friends, and it is the reason for so many needless struggles! Why are they needless? Because we have everything we need to be like Him through our knowledge of Him!

Is our marriage or family struggling because we have strife and anger, and impatience toward one another? It is because we are not applying the resources we need to be like

God, with grace and peace and patience toward one another! These things are the fruit of God's Spirit. But if we live in the flesh, then strife and anger, and hostility is what we will have.

Husband...Father, is your wife or children disrespectful? Well how does this scripture read to you?

How much time do you spend in the Word teaching them to love and respect God and His holiness and purity, and teaching them to become like God?

Your family only has what they need for life and godliness as they come to know God!

It is through the knowledge of God and through intimacy with Him that we become like Him! We must therefore *make every effort* to have this intimacy with God and to be like Him!

The TV tube will not teach you family to be like God..... Only God can do that through His Holy Word and your example.

May God help us and come to our aid in this great battle for godliness! We have all the resources that we need family!..... We simply need to apply them to our lives! AMEN?

The scripture continues.....

who called us by His own glory and excellence – First here, it is He who called us! He who called.....us! Why did you come Christian? Because He called you, that's why? Think you not so highly of your own intellect in choosing Christ. The reason you came is because He called you, He drew you, and He, as it says in Ex 19:4, bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Himself!

And this He did by **10. His own glory and excellence!** What is meant by this? It is that our salvation, God's **calling** and **choosing** us was not something wrought by the work of men's hands, but rather it was by His own **purpose** and grace! Salvation is the **work** of God! The creation, the cross, all that is in the world was created by God and for His purposes, and this was all done for the praise of His own glory and excellence!

His own glory and excellence!

Here.... is cause to take off our shoes! Here is cause to hold our hands over our mouths in holy fear! To bow our heads in reverence for His majestic name! ***His own glory and excellence...!*** How can we speak of such a thing with mere human words!.... Make no mistake about it friends, God is glorious and He is excellent!.... He is ***most worthy*** of praise!

Look with me then at verse 4;

11. 2 Peter 1:4 - 4 For by these He has granted to us His **precious** and **magnificent** promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine **nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. NAS

He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises – Here the apostle speaks of the wonderful promises of God contained in the scriptures! Promises here is another word for the scriptures! Here is an apt description of the promises of God, they are precious and magnificent!

The word **“precious”** here is the greek **“timios”** and means *valuable, costly, honored, esteemed and most precious!* And the word for **“magnificent”** is the greek **“megistos”** and means *very great or exceedingly great or magnificent!*

In what other manner could we describe the promises of God! They are the very food for our souls that give us the life of God within. They are to us like they were to Job who said;

12. Job 23:12 - 12 "I have not departed from the **command** of His lips;

I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. NAS

They are to be treasured and considered precious, valuable, costly and highly esteemed!... and indeed they are by all who have been born again!

Just how many promises has God made unto man! Is not the Word full to the brim with such promises! Indeed it is! And they are *precious and magnificent!*

Think of what more precious a promise could be made to a mortal, dying man than that of eternal life!!... Or what more great a promise to a poor, filthy sinner to be forgiven and washed clean from his sins!!.... Indeed these are magnificent!

Or what of the promises of peace and lasting joy!.... Or that of help and deliverance in time of need, or the provision of daily food.... Indeed we could speak all day and not recount the half of the promises that God has made to us! Hear you then what the scripture says my friend....

13. 2 Cor 1:20 - 20 For **no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.** And so through him the **"Amen"** is spoken by us to the glory of God.

But look here verse 4 to the result of such promises....

so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature – That through these promises of God’s Word you may become like Him! A *partaker of His very nature!* Now

how powerful is that?....

God gives us His Word and it changes us into His image!.....

We read of His glory and excellence and we are changed!..... How can we not be! How can we be enlightened to the beauty of His holiness and not desire earnestly to be like Him?

So here the scripture says that it is by the Word of God that we become like Him! Now can there be a greater priority for our lives than the great and precious promises of God! May it never be!!!!.....It is here that we learn of God, that we learn of His wonder and virtue and are CHANGED... It is here that His grace and peace are multiplied to us.... When we meditate on the Word we are...

14. Colossians 3:10 - 10 and have put on the new self, which **is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.** NIV

It continues verse 4....

having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. – Here I prefer the NIV rendering of this statement... “*and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires*”... The word “**lust**” here is the greek “**epithumia**” and means *to long for what is forbidden, to lust*. It describes that part of every person, which we call the flesh or the sinful nature.

But here it is through the Word that we escape the corruption in the world by lust. That as we behold the face of Christ in the Holy Word, we become like Him. As it says in...

15. Romans 12:2 - 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and **approve** what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will. NIV

As we are renewed by the Word in our minds and our thinking, we take on God's very nature by the Holy Spirit who is in us!

Ephesians 4:23-24 - to be **made new in the attitude of your minds;** 24 and to put on the new self, **created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

The Word is powerful to change us. Even to change the evil desires of our hearts into the pure and lovely desires of God! As we meditate on God's Word, we are cleansed, we are washed, we are sanctified through and through. Let us be like that blessed man in Psalm 1;

Psalms 1:1-3 - Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 2 **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.** 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and

whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. NIV

So here to sum these up we have seen;

16. That grace and peace are ours in **abundance** by our knowing God through his Word.

17. That by His great power He has given **everything** that we need for life and **godliness** or to be like Him.

18. And through His great and **precious** promises in the Word we can take on His very **nature** and escape the corruption of evil desires.

Dear Friends, if there is anything lacking in our lives it is a knowledge of God and His all sufficient Word!

And of all the things to be in lack of, this should not be it!

What is needful for us is to have a very high view of God and the sufficiency of his Word to address every issue in our lives! It is a complete resource, having everything that we need!

Let us therefore be found faithful in this most profound and important aspect of our life!

Heritage Christian Fellowship

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1. 2 Peter 1:2- _____ and peace be _____ to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

2. Grace - is the _____ or unmerited favor which comes to us

through Jesus Christ and His _____ life, and also His sacrifice of

_____ on the cross. In Christ we are found to have God's _____, in spite of the fact that we deserve _____.

3. Peace – The quality or state of being which has no _____ or hostility. We now have peace with God through Jesus seeing that He has _____ the _____ of God toward our sins. We are no longer the enemies of God, but have been reconciled to God by the blood of Christ. We have peace which comes from God and is described as an inner _____ which calms and causes the soul to _____.

4. 2 Peter 1:2b - in the _____ of God and of Jesus our Lord – God’s grace and His peace are _____ to us “in the knowledge of God.”

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8. The word godliness means, “ _____ .” God has granted to us _____ we need to be like Him!

9. We Christians have all that is needed to _____, sustain and to perfect _____ living. To be like Jesus!

10. His own glory and excellence! What is meant by this? It is that our salvation, God’s _____ and _____ us was not something wrought by the work of men’s hands, but rather it was by His own _____ and grace! (2 Tim 1:9) Salvation is the _____ of God!

11. 2 Peter 1:4 - 4 For by these He has granted to us His _____ and _____ promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine _____, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

12. Job 23:12 - 12 "I have not departed from the _____ of His lips;

I have _____ the words of His mouth more than my _____ food.

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16. That grace and peace are ours in _____ by our knowing God through his Word.

17. That by His great power He has given _____ that we need for life and _____ or to be like Him.

18. And through His great and _____ promises in the Word we can take on His very _____ and escape the corruption of evil desires.

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