

July 23, 2017

## Practicing Our Readiness Drills for Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and 2nd Peter

Sermon Topic: We Have become Partakers of Christ's Divine Nature 2 Peter 1:1-4

**2 Peter 1:1-4 [1] Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: [2] May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.**

**[3] His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, [4] by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. (ESV)**

Theme of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter: Defend yourselves with biblical knowledge and spiritual maturity against the deceptions of false teachers.

Kinds of false teachers you will encounter today:

1. The Heretic: They deny orthodox truth and lead people astray. Today they are Oneness Pentecostals, JW's, Mormons, or any scholar denying the divinity of Jesus, salvation by faith alone.
2. The Charlatans: Those who use the gospel for getting rich. Robert Tilton, Benny Hinn, Creflo Dollar, Joyce Meyer.
3. The False Prophet: They say they have new revelation that adds to Scripture. Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon, Ellen G White, Seventh Day Adventists, Sarah Young, Jesus Calling.
4. The Predator: Those who use their position of spiritual authority to satisfy their own sexual desires. Jim Bakker, Jimmy Swaggart, Ted Haggard.
5. The Ear-Pleaser: Those who preach a feel-good gospel to fill the stadiums. Norman Vincent Peale, Robert Schuller, Joel Osteen.
6. The Date Setters: Those who claim to have an inside knowledge of when Jesus will return or know secret codes hidden inside the Bible. Harold Camping, Jack Van Impe, Edgar Whisenant "88 Reasons why the Rapture will be in 1988" sequel "89 Reasons it will be in 1989".

The Prologue (verses 1 & 2) includes the Author, The Recipients, and a Greeting.

The Author: **Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,**  
Συμεών Πέτρος δούλος και ἀπόστολος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

Bond-Slaves was not a title just for the apostles – you too are a bond-slave of Christ which means he totally owns you.

But the term Apostles (capital A) was a title just for 12. They are ambassadors speaking on behalf of Christ with all His authority.

## The Recipients

**To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**

τοῖς ἰσότημον ἡμῖν λαχοῦσιν πίστιν ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν καὶ σωτῆρος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ:

- Believers are those who have obtained their faith (aorist active indicative) meaning received by divine allotment. Ephesian 2:8 Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (ESV) Can you say your faith is your own? Can you say that you are smarter, more spiritual, more humble, more discerning of right and wrong than your sibling or neighbor?
- This faith is just as effective as any apostle, meaning the entrance requirements for all are the same. Spirit-induced repentance is the key. The Gentiles need not fear their faith is ineffective or that they are balcony only Christians.
- This faith was purchased by the righteous deeds of our Lord and Savior. His death on the cross allowed the father to send redemptive faith to those who would be pardoned, but that could not happen unless Jesus obeyed the Father.
- This faith was purchased by the one we know as God our Savior, indicating Jesus is fully God, as much as the Father is fully God and the Spirit is fully God.

## The Blessing

**May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.**

χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη πληθυνθείη ἐν ἐπιγνώσει τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ Ἰησοῦ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν.

Grace: That which affords joy, delight, pleasure, sweetness, charm and loveliness

Peace: The tranquil state of the soul assured of its standing with God through Christ.

How do we get these multiplied to us? In the knowledge of God and of Jesus. Epignosko is relationship knowledge.

Critical Truth #1 (To withstand the deceptions of false teachers). We do not need anything more than what we already have in Christ.

**[3] His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,**

Ὡς πάντα ἡμῖν τῆς θείας δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ τὰ πρὸς ζωὴν καὶ εὐσέβειαν δεδωρημένης (perfect tense emphasizing ongoing action) διὰ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ καλέσαντος ἡμᾶς ἰδίᾳ δόξῃ καὶ ἀρετῇ,

**[4] by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.**

δι' ὧν τὰ τίμια καὶ μέγιστα ἡμῖν ἐπαγγέλματα δεδωρηται, ἵνα διὰ τούτων γένησθε θείας κοινωνοὶ φύσεως, ἀποφυγόντες τῆς ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἐν ἐπιθυμίᾳφθορᾶς.

- God has given us power in the form of the Holy Spirit to change and equip us to live godly lives. This is God at work not us doing self-improvement. The more we surrender to the leading and filling of the Holy Spirit, the more power is available to us to counter sinful

temptations and addictions that we face daily. **Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)**

- The throttle on that power is the degree to which we live in close fellowship with Christ – Peter says this power comes from a relationship knowledge of Jesus. The closer you are to Him the greater the power and vice-versa. Living in Him moment by moment allows one the greatest source of spiritual strength.
- But we have to know the Bible because that is inherent in knowing Him and His promises. That is where we will find the promises given to us (promises that come from a God who is glorious and excellent) to fight corruption. It does no good to fight a sin without a counter pleasure that offsets it. Here are some promises:

In fighting lust: Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (ESV)

In fighting greed: Hebrews 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (ESV)

In fighting the fear of man: Hebrews 13:6 So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (ESV)

In fighting anger: James 1:20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (ESV)

In fighting pride: Proverbs 29:23 One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor. (ESV)

- The more we believe the promises, the more we partake of the divine nature of Christ. **so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.** This means that the more we believe and trust God's word (promises) the more we experience his divine nature, the nature that is pure and holy and hates evil and loves good. The more faith we exercise the more power flows.

Why is all this important to me and to you?

1. It is important to me because I want to help you overcome your temptations to believe lies. Someday Jesus will evaluate my ministry and he will say "here are some lost sheep you failed to warn about the lies of Satan and they followed after . . . I remember one disciple vividly. He left despite my warning to become a Seventh Day Adventist. I cannot help but think, maybe there was one more truth I could have shared.
2. I hope it is important to you because you have children or grandchildren that you care deeply about their eternal welfare. Believing a false teacher is a sure path to hell. Do you know word well enough to keep them from following the lies of Satan?