

“Christian Maturity”
2 Peter 1:1-11
6/26/22
Message 1

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Christian Maturity”
- **The Need For Christian Maturity!**
 - **1st Question - What best Describes your Christian life RIGHT NOW –**
 - Relevant or Irrelevant?
 - Fruitful or Unfruitful?
 - Overflowing or Half Filled?
 - Conqueror or Defeated?
 - Victorious or Victim?
 - **2nd We ALL go through DRY times!**
 - Everyone Struggles / Has UPS and DOWNS
 - **3rd BUT – We DON'T have to STRUGGLE!!!**
 - God has MADE Intended For US to be
 - Relevant or NOT Irrelevant?
 - Fruitful or NOT Unfruitful?
 - Overflowing - NOT Half Filled?
 - Conqueror - NOT Defeated?

- Victorious - NOT a Victim?
- The question is will you live in that victory?
- **4th NOW The Next QUESTION – Will you LIVE IN the Victory Christ purchased for us?**
 - Alexander MacLaren; *“We may have as much of God as we will. Christ puts the key of the treasure-chamber into our hand, and bids us take all that we want. If a man is admitted into the bullion vault of a bank, and told to help himself, and comes out with one cent, whose fault is it that he is poor? Whose fault is it that Christian people generally have such scanty portions of the free riches of God?”*
 - **Number 32 – Israel As our Example / Half Hearted Tribes**
 - 1st Egypt = World
 - Bondage of sin!
 - Set free from thru the blood of the lamb
 - 2nd The Wilderness = A time after Salvation where
 - Jesus is Savior = Not Lord
 - Wrestling with allowing Him to lead
 - Represents and up and down life with the Lord
 - 3rd Canaan – Promise Land = Abundant life / The Spirit Filled Life
 - Sadly – A great Misconception is that Canaan represents HEAVEN!!!
 - Obstacles, Enemy, Battles conflicts –
 - Heaven will be void of all of those things

- Canaan Represents a life of being completely
 - COMMITTED to the Lord!
 - Solid OUT for Jesus – Holding Nothing back
 - Spirit filled life
 - Victorious Life
 - Abundant Life
 - Walking in the Spirit / leaning on the Spirit –
 - Being Led by & Submitted to the Spirit of God
 - Living according to the Promises of God
 - YES there will be conflicts; battles; warfare – but we are victorious

- **YET – SADLY 2.5 TRIBES had Half Hearted**

- They did not want to enter the promise land
 - Went to Moses ask if they could stay on the wrong Side
- The Problem
 - Their Wealth
 - Their Comfort
 - Their Ease
 - Their Principles / Values
- Moses Gave them permission
 - So long as they went and fought!!!

- BUT Settling came with Consequences
 - Years later when the Assyrians attacked
 - They were the first tribes to be defeated & taken captive
 - Mark 5 - Demon Possessed Man Healed – IN Gadarenes
 - Cast into Swine (Pigs)
 - They sent Jesus Away
 - A Christian who settles will affect the Next Generation
- **Sadly - TOO many Christians are like that today**
 - Satisfied with their current spiritual development
 - I got Salvation – Now let me do what I want
 - They are all too content to settle for a Mediocre – Christian existence
 - Content to just be saved who want to just linger on in the flesh
 - They are the ones that went into the vault and came away with pennies when they could have wealth overflowing
 - But in Reality...
 - To not go forward in your Christian walk, is to go backward

• **Purpose For this Book**

- **This Brings US to the Purpose of this GREAT BOOK**

- **1 Peter delt with Persecution from the Outside**

- Following Christ In A Hostile World
- 1 Peter 1:1-12 - We Have Living Hope
- 1 Peter 1:13-25 - An Appeal To Holiness
- 1 Peter 2:1-12 – Christian Conduct
- 1 Peter 2:13-17 - Submitting to Government - BEST CITIZENS
- 1 Peter 2:18-25 – Best Employees
- 1 Peter 3:1-7 - Silent Sermons – Selfless Husbands
- 1 Peter 3:8-22 – Be Of One Mind
- 1 Peter 4:1-11 – The Mind Of Christ
- 1 Peter 4:12-19 - Ye Are Partakers Of Christ's Sufferings
- 1 Peter 5:1-4 - Shepherd The Flock
- 1 Peter 5:5-14 - Standing Strong In A Hostile World

- **NOW - 2 Peter Deals with False Teaching on the Inside**

- Chapter 1 – Deals with CHRISTIAN MATURITY
 - Before Peter Address the False Teaching and Teachers in the church he lets his readers and us know the most important thing to understand
 - We MUST BE MATURE Christian
 - We MUST be GROWING in the Faith

- If NOT we are vulnerable to false teaching and deception
- Chapter 2 - Deals With False Teachings & Teachers
- Chapter 3 - Anticipation of Christ's Return.

- **Backdrop to 2 Peter**

- **Date**

- Nero died in A.D. 68
- Tradition says Peter died in Nero's persecution
 - Crucified upside down
- The epistle may have been written just before his death (1:14) A.D. 67–68

- **Author – Peter**

- DON'T waste your time Listening to Critics that say Peter did not write this book
- Peter Tells us he did
 - 2 Peter 1:1
 - 2 Peter 1:14
 - His conversation with Jesus about his death
 - 2 Peter 1:16-18
 - He claims to have been at the Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1–4)
- Yes, there is a different in Writing Styles

- This can be explained by
 - First
 - Silvanus dictating assisting in the writing of 1 Peter
 - 2 Peter – more direct like a speech written by Peter himself
 - Second
 - The purpose of the two letters is quite different.
 - 1 Peter was written to encourage Christians under the threat of violent persecution;
 - 2 Peter was written to warn those same believers of the danger of false teachers and harmful influences
 - **Theme**

2 Peter 3:17–18 (NKJV)

17 *You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;*

18 *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

- **1st Grow in our Knowledge of who Jesus is**
 - The word (Know or Knowledge) is used at least 13 times in this short epistle.
 - The word Knowledge does not mean a mere intellectual understanding of some truth
 - It means to Know Intimately & personally by experience it is a living participation in the Truth

- To KNOW Who you are in HIM
- To KNOW how Stand on His Promises
- From Your head to your heart
- **2nd Stand against False Teachers**
 - Many believe Gnosticism
 - Was a strange mish-mash of
 - Greek philosophy
 - Eastern mysticism
 - Jewish cosmology
 - Christian terminology.
 - The Gnostics taught that salvation lay in knowledge
 - That ignorance was the root of all evil.
 - They considered all physical matter to be inherently and unalterably evil
 - While the realm of the spirit was only good.
 - Salvation was found in being taught
 - Deeper, secret truths
 - That were only imparted to those who had proven themselves worthy of such knowledge by acts of extreme devotion and paying a fee.
 - For the Gnostics
 - Salvation wasn't about being cleared of the guilt of sin,

- But by transcending the limitations of the body and the material world and entering a mental state where the distinctions between good and evil were erased.
- NOTE Gnosticism Didn't really become a full-fledged religion until the late 2nd and early 3rd Century.
 - But the basic ideas were already floating around.
 - This is why several of the NT letters speak strongly to the issue of knowledge
 - The NT writers knew that they couldn't let the early Gnostic teachers get away with their claim to superior knowledge.
 - Colossians, 2 Peter, Jude, and 1 John are all directed at the seeds of Gnosticism which were already at work in their day.

• **This Morning 2 Powerful TRUTHS in Understanding Christian Maturity**

- His Part vs. 1-4
- Our Part vs. 5-11

His Part vs. 1-4

• **First: The Person Who Wrote the Letter v. 1a**

2 Peter 1:1 (NKJV)

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, *To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

• **1st Simon Peter**

- **1st Who is Peter**

- Peter lived in the northern region of Israel – called Galilee
 - An area that was kind of the backwoods, if you will, of the nation.
 - The people of the sophisticated south around Jerusalem, considered the Galileans to be hillbillies –
- Fisherman – Business
 - Peter, along with his brother Andrew, and their partners, John and James, the sons of a man named Zebedee conducted a fairly profitable fishing business there.
- Met Jesus and his life changed
 - His name was Changed from Simon to Peter
- **2nd The Apostle here called himself “Simon” Peter.**
 - Simon Means
 - Meaning "listen" or "hearing".
 - It is also a classical Greek name, deriving from an adjective meaning "flat-nosed"
 - In Some Versions (Passim) – It means
 - Scattered About – Shifting Sand
 - Jesus Changed his name to Peter
 - Meaning – (Petros) ROCK
- **3rd Why Would Peter use this name – Simon**
 - **When Peter was called Simon**

- His life was a series of being Flat Nosed
- A life of UPS and DOWNS
- Seemed to Always be – Opening Mouth and Inserting Foot
- **Perhaps - To keep HUMBLE and to Remind Him and us What God can do**
 - Jesus looked beyond “Simon Flat Nose” Or “Sifting Sand”
 - And saw what the Spirit of God would mold him in to Peter the Rock!
 - In the same way...
 - God looks at each and every one of us and sees, not what we are now
 - But what Faith in His Son and the Work of the Holy Spirit will accomplish in us.
- **2nd A Bondservant and Apostle of Jesus Christ:**
 - **1st Bondservant –**
 - SLAVE for LIFE –
 - No Longer have any rights to yourself
 - Explain Exodus 21:1–7
 - **2nd Apostle**
 - Title Given to him by Jesus
 - **3rd Servant Before Title**
 - The order of these titles is important.

- Peter considered himself first a bondservant
- Then an apostle.
- His standing as a bondservant was more important to him than his status as an apostle.

• **Second: The People Peter Wrote To & Greeting v. 1b -2**

- **1st To those who have obtained like precious faith v. 1b**

2 Peter 1:1 (NKJV)

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

▪ **Like Precious Faith**

- SAME salvation he had experienced
- Lesson
 - Same for EVERYONE
 - There are not different salvations
 - One for the poor another for the rich
 - NO we ALL need the SAME Salvation
 - We're all on equal footing before the CROSS of CHRIST
- **Which he called "A like precious faith."**
 - A Fisherman using the Word – PRECIOUS
 - Peter Used it a lot
 - Precious Means

- Greek - Isotimos
 - (“equal” + “honor”) – equally precious; equally honoured, to be esteemed equal to
- Greek – Poluteles
 - Meaning very expensive or costly is used figuratively to mean “precious”
- **2nd Our God and Savior Jesus Christ**
 - The grammar of the ancient Greek demonstrates that Peter said that Jesus Christ is our God and Savior.
 - Peter clearly thought that Jesus was and is our God and Savior.
- **3rd Grace and peace be multiplied to you v. 2**

2 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

- Grace and Peace
 - Cant have Peace until you have GRACE
- Peter adds The Knowledge of God
 - Indicating that grace and peace – those two most precious of gifts
 - Are ours in the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.
 - As we know God we gain these essentials foundations for salvation and living.
- Lesson

- I CANT stress this enough – NOT just head Knowledge
BUT Heart

- **Third: The Power We Have in Christ v. 3**

- **1st His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness v. 3a**

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

3 as His divine power has given to us ALL things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

- All things that pertain to life and godliness are ours through the knowledge of Him.
- Knowing God is the key to all things that pertain to life and godliness.
- ALL – in the GREEK is ALL
- At the moment of conversion, we have ALL we need
- Everything we need to live this LIFE

- **2nd Through the knowledge of Him v. 3b**

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

- Knowledge of Him
 - We learn of Him through His Word
 - Through prayer
 - Through the community of God's people.

- **3rd Who called us v. 3c**

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

- This knowledge of God comes to those WHO are CALLED
- Our calling is one of Peter's favorite themes.
 - 1st We have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9)
 - 2nd We have been called to follow Christ in a pathway of suffering (1 Pet. 2:21).
 - 3rd We have been called to return blessing for reviling (1 Pet. 3:9)
 - 4th We have been called to his eternal glory (1 Pet. 5:10)
 - 5th We have been called by glory and virtue (2 Pet. 1:3).
 - This last reference means that He called us by revealing to us the wonders of His
- 4th Who called us by glory and virtue

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

- Virtue – Greek: Arete
- Means:
 - A virtuous course of thought, feeling and action; virtue, moral goodness; any particular moral excellence, as modesty, purity
- It is Jesus'

- Glory and virtue that motivated Him to call us
- His glory and virtue that draw us to Him.

- **Fourth: The Promises We Have in Christ v. 4**

- **1st By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises v. 4a**

2 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, *that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

- This explains the value of the glory and virtue of God that calls us.
 - He gave us exceedingly great and precious promises.
 - This means that the promises of God are based upon His glory and virtue!!!
 - Therefore perfectly reliable because God can never compromise His glory and virtue.
 - You can take it the bank as the old saying goes

- **2nd That through these you may be partakers of the divine nature v. 4b**

2 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, *having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

- Through these promises, we are partakers of the divine nature.
- Peter's idea is similar to Paul's idea of our glorious status as adopted sons and daughters of God (Galatians 4:5-7)

Galatians 4:5–7 (NKJV)

5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

- God NOT ONLY rescued us from HELL
- BUT Imparted His Glory to be partakers of the divine nature.
- It shows how deeply God loves us and wants to share His life
- **3rd Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust v. 4c**

2 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)

*4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having **escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.***

- Escaped HELL – And the POWER over the evil in this world
- **4th Lesson**
 - What Does ALL this MEAN? - Divine Power & Promises?
 - **1st Salvation**
 - The Bible says the gospel itself is the power of God for salvation: (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18).
 - **2nd New Creation**

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- **3rd For Christian Work**

- To do anything of worth—is received from the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- **4th Strengthens the Inner Being**

Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV)

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

2 Corinthians 4:16 (NKJV)

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- **5th To become a servant / Ministry of the gospel**

Ephesians 3:7 (NKJV)

7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

- **6th To endure suffering in the face of persecution**

1 Peter 5:10 (NKJV)

10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

- **7th Perfected in Weakness:**

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)

9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

- **8th Power in prayer:**

James 5:16 (NKJV)

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, **fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**

- **9th Power over SIN**

Romans 6:6 (NKJV)

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Romans 6:14 (NKJV)

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

- We have power from on high to conquer every temptation that comes against us (1 Corinthians 10:13)

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

- **10th Power to be part of the family of God**

John 1:12 (NKJV)

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Romans 8:29 (NKJV)

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- **11th Power of Holy Spirit indwelling them.**

John 14:16 (NKJV)

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

- **12th Conquerors through Him who loved us**

Romans 8:37 (NKJV)

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Our Part vs. 5-11

- **First: Participate In Christian Maturity v. 5-7**

- **1st Giving all Diligence, add to your Faith v. 5a**

2 Peter 1:5 (NKJV)

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

- **1st Diligence –**

- Greek: Spoude
- Means: Earnestness, diligence; earnestness in accomplishing. KEEP GOING
- Lesson - diligent
 - You play a part in your own growth.
 - Peter tells us we should be diligent.

- He tells us that we ought to supply this list of ingredients to our life.
- *MacArthur; That is, making maximum effort. The Christian life is not lived to the honor of God without effort. Even though God has poured His divine power into the believer, the Christian himself is required to make every disciplined effort alongside of what God has done*

▪ 2nd Faith

• SAVING Faith in JESUS

- Your relationship with God starts the moment you choose to believe that Jesus died on the cross for you.

• THE FAITH

- There is ONLY ONE FAITH
- All others are false and evil

○ 2nd Add to your faith virtue v. 5b

2 Peter 1:5 (NKJV)

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

▪ 3rd Virtue = Courage

- Virtue – Greek: Arete –
- Means: A virtuous course of thought, feeling and action; moral goodness –
- Courage –
 - One who stands in the face of opposition.

- One who doesn't run from the battle.
- God has called us to have "virtue", "courage".
- God doesn't want us to have a faith in Him that runs or cowers at every challenge.
- Illustration
 - David face DOWN Goliath had faith in God
 - His faith gave him courage
 - Daniel Challenged leaders
 - Hananiah, Michele Azariah
 - Apostles Kept Preaching Jesus
 - US – we must have the VIRTUE to do the same in our world
 - God wants your faith to be nourished with courage.
- **3rd And to virtue knowledge v. 5c**

2 Peter 1:5 (NKJV)

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

▪ **4th Knowledge**

- Knowledge – Greek: Gnosis
- Means: Knowledge signifies in general intelligence, understanding; the general knowledge of Christian religion; the deeper more perfect and enlarged knowledge of this religion, such as belongs to the more advanced

- It's one thing to be "courageous", but we need to be courageous about the right things.
- That's how our "virtue" is to be affected by "knowledge".
- We grow in our knowledge of God as we are staying in God's Word.

○ **4th And to knowledge Self Control v. 6a**

2 Peter 1:6 (NKJV)

6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

▪ **5th Self-Control**

- Temperance – Greek: Egkrateia
- Means: ("in" + "strength") – self-control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, esp. his sensual appetites). Holding your passions and desires in your hand. To get a "grip" on yourself.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- Paul uses this word in relation to athletics:

1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (NKJV)

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

○ **5th And to Self Control Perseverance v. 6b**

2 Peter 1:6 (NKJV)

6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

▪ **6th Endurance**

- Patience – Greek: Hupomone
- Means: Steadfastness, constancy, endurance; the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings
- We've talked a lot about this word over the last few months. Endurance comes when we keep our eyes on Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1–3 (NKJV)

1 *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

2 *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

3 *For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

○ **6th And to patience godliness v. 6c**

2 Peter 1:6 (NKJV)

6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

▪ **7th Godliness**

- Godliness – Greek: Eusebeia

- Means: (“well” + “worship”) – reverence, respect; piety towards God. The word means literally “worship well”, it means to worship God correctly.
- But a person who has “godliness” not only acts correctly towards God, but also treats people correctly as well.
- *Wiersbe; “We must never get the idea that godliness is an impractical thing, because it is intensely practical. The godly person makes the kinds of decisions that are right and noble. He does not take an easy path simply to avoid either pain or trial. He does what is right because it is right and because it is the will of God.”*

○ **7th to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love v. 7**

2 Peter 1:7 (NKJV)

7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

▪ **8th Brotherly Kindness**

- Brotherly kindness – Greek: Philadelphia –
- Means: Love of brothers or sisters, brotherly love; in the NT the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren

1 John 4:20 (NKJV)

20 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

▪ **9th LOVE**

- Charity – Greek: Agape –
- God doesn’t want us to stop at loving just other Christians, but the world around us.

- This is God's kind of unconditional love, a love characterized by giving (John 3:16), a love characterized by sacrifice.

• **Second: The Purpose vs. 8-9**

- **1st If these things are yours and abound v. 8**

2 Peter 1:8 (NKJV)

8 *For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- If we have these things, and abound in these things
- It is evident to everyone that we are not barren nor unfruitful in our knowledge of Jesus.
- PROOF in the Pudding

- **2nd He who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness v. 9**

2 Peter 1:9 (NKJV)

9 *For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*

- If we lack these things, it shows we have "eye trouble."
- We are shortsighted, unable to see God, only ourselves.
- This makes us virtually blind, showing we have forgotten that we were cleansed from his old sins.

• **Third: The Protection Christian Maturity Will Provide vs. 10-11**

- **1st Be even more diligent to make your call and election sure v. 10a**

2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV)

10 **Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure,** *for if you do these things you will never stumble;*

- Make SURE you're in the FAITH
- **2nd For if you do these things you will never stumble v. 10b**

2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV)

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, **for if you do these things you will never stumble;**

- In pursuing these things we keep from stumbling.
- Continual growth and progress in the Christian life is the sure way to keep from stumbling.
- **3rd Entrance will be supplied to you abundantly v. 11**

2 Peter 1:11 (NKJV)

11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- They would enter heaven gloriously, not as through fire (1 Corinthians 3:15)
- MacArthur; "An abundant entrance into eternal heaven is the hope and reality for a Christian who lives a faithful, fruitful life here on earth. Peter's point is that a Christian who pursues the listed virtues (vv. 5–7) will not only enjoy assurance in the present, but a full, rich reward in the future life (cf. 1 Cor. 4:5; Rev. 22:12)"

Closing

- May We Grow in Christian Maturity