

THE GREAT GIFT OF CHRIST THE MESSIAH: SALVATION 2 PETER 01:01–04

Introduction

This is a great passage of Scripture. In the mind of the author it is one of the greatest in all of Scripture. It is a passage that takes Jesus Christ and lifts Him up as the great Messiah, the Saviour of the world who can meet the desperate needs of man. Here is Christ and here is the great gift of Christ the Messiah, the great gift of salvation.

- I. He is the Messiah worthy of total devotion (v. 1).
- II. He is the Messiah of faith (v. 1).
- III. He is the Messiah of grace and peace (v. 2).
- IV. He is the Messiah of life and godliness (v. 3).
- V. He is the Messiah of the divine nature (v. 4).

I. 2 Peter 01:01 Servant and Apostle of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Messiah worthy of total devotion. This is seen in the two claims made by Peter.

1. Peter calls himself the servant of Christ. The word servant (doulos) means far more than just a servant. It means a slave totally possessed by the master. It is a *bond-servant* bound by law to a master.

A look at the slave market of Peter's day shows more clearly what Peter meant when he said he was a "slave of Jesus Christ."

- a. The slave was owned by his master; he was totally possessed by his master. This is what Peter meant. Peter was purchased and possessed by Christ. Christ had looked upon him and had seen his degraded and needful condition. And when Christ looked, the most wonderful thing happened: Christ *loved him and bought him*; therefore, he was now the possession of Christ.
 - b. The slave existed for his master and he had no other reason for existence. He had no personal rights whatsoever. The same was true with Peter: he existed only for Christ. His rights were the rights of Christ only.
 - c. The slave served his master and he existed only for the purpose of service. He was at the master's disposal any hour of the day. So it was with Peter: he lived only to serve Christ — hour by hour and day by day.
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- d. The slave's will belonged to his master. He was allowed no will and no ambition other than the will and ambition of the master. He was completely subservient to the Master and owed total obedience to the will of the master. Peter belonged to Christ.
- e. There is a fifth and most precious thing that Peter meant by "a slave of Jesus Christ." He meant that he had the highest and most honoured and kingly profession in all the world. Men of God, the greatest men of history, have always been called *the servants of God*. It was the highest title of honour. The believer's slavery to Jesus Christ is no cringing, cowardly, shameful subjection. It is the position of honour — the honour that bestows upon a man the privileges and responsibilities of serving the King of kings and Lord of lords.

=> Moses was the slave of God (Dut. 34:5; Psa. 105:26; Mal. 4:4).

=> Joshua was the slave of God (Josh. 24:9).

=> David was the slave of God (2 Sam. 3:18; Psa.78:70).

=> Peter was the slave of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1; Ph. 1:1; Tit. 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:1).

=> James was the slave of God (Jas. 1:1).

=> Jude was the slave of God (Jude 1).

=> The prophets were the slaves of God (Amos 3:7; Jer. 7:25).

=> Christian believers are said to be the slaves of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:18; 1 Cor. 7:22; Eph. 6:6; Col. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:24).

John 12:26 *"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me."* (cp. Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 15:58)

Eph 6:6-7 *Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.*

Col 3:23-24 *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Heb 12:28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*

Exo 23:25 *Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you.*

Deu 10:12 *And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Psa 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.

Psa 100:2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

2. Peter calls himself an apostle of Jesus Christ. The word apostle (apostolos) means either a person who is sent out or a person who is sent forth. An apostle is a representative, an ambassador, a person who is sent out into one country to represent another country. Three things are true of the apostle: (1) he belongs to the One who has sent him out; (2) he is commissioned to be sent out; and (3) he possesses all the authority and power of the One who has sent him out.

Note three forceful lessons.

- a. Peter said that he was *called* to be an apostle. He was not in the ministry because he...
- chose to be.
 - had the ability.
 - had been encouraged by others to choose the *ministerial profession*.
 - enjoyed working with people.

He was an apostle, a minister of the gospel for one reason only: God had called him.

Acts 26:16 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I [the Lord] have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.'

1 Tim 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.

Gen 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."

Exo 3:10 "So now, go. I am sending you [Moses] to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

Judg 6:14 The LORD turned to him [Gideon] and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

Isa 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

- b. Peter had heard and answered God's call. God did not override Peter's will — He wanted Peter in the ministry, so He called Peter. But note: it was up to Peter to hear and respond.
- c. Peter was called to be an apostle, that is, to be a minister. He was not called to occupy a position of authority or to be honoured by men.

Thought 1. These two points stress one thing: Peter thought that Jesus Christ was worthy of total devotion. Peter made a decision to deliberately and wholly give himself to Jesus Christ. He centred his whole life around Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was the Messiah, the Saviour of the world who had been promised by God from the beginning of time, the Messiah who was worthy of total devotion.

Mark 10:28 Peter said to him, “We have left everything to follow you!”

Luke 14:27-28 “And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?”

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

Luke 14:26-27 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters — yes, even his own life — he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

Luke 14:33 “In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”

Luke 18:29-30 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life.”

Gal 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Phil 3:8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

II. 2 Peter 01:01 The “Precious” Faith of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Messiah of *faith*; that is, He is the Messiah who has made us acceptable to God by faith.

1. The faith of Christ is a most *precious faith*. The word “precious” (isotimos) means of great honour and price; of great value and privilege. The faith of Jesus Christ is precious because it makes us acceptable to God. It ushers us into the very presence of God Himself.

Note this: the faith of Jesus Christ is the *same precious faith* that is given to all believers. The Greek word that Peter uses for “precious” (isotimos) is an unusual word. This is the only time it is used in the New Testament. It is really a double word.

The *isos* means *equal*, and *time* means *honour* (A.T. Robertson. *Word Pictures In The New Testament*, Vol. 6, p. 147). Therefore, by *precious faith* is meant *like faith*, a faith that is like everyone else's faith. This is a most wonderful thing. It means that we are all given the very same faith; we are all equal in value and honour and privilege before God. God does not discriminate; He does not have favourites. God loves us all equally and He values and honours us all as much as He did Peter and James and John and Paul.

Thought 1. This means that the faith of Jesus Christ eliminates prejudice and discrimination. We all stand on an equal footing before God...

- The rich and the poor
- the well fed and the hungry
- the religionists and the heathen
- the upper class and the lower class
- the free person and the prisoner
- the male and the female

If a person has obtained the precious faith of Jesus Christ, then he is acceptable to God no matter who he is. He receives the highest and most valued privilege in the whole universe: to live in the presence of God forever and ever.

2. The faith of Jesus Christ is received not earned. The word "received" (*lachousin*) means to secure by lot; to receive by allotment; to be given a share or a portion. No person deserves the precious faith of Jesus Christ. No person can work and earn it. It is a gift of God, a free gift that is given to every person who believes in Jesus Christ.
3. The faith of Jesus Christ comes through the righteousness of Christ. What is the righteousness of Christ? It is two things.
 - a. The righteousness of Christ means that He is the righteous Man, the Perfect and Ideal Man who can stand for and cover all men. Man is not perfect, but imperfect and unrighteous. Therefore, man by his very nature cannot live in God's presence, for God is perfect and the very embodiment of righteousness. How then can man ever become acceptable to God and be allowed to live in God's presence? Jesus Christ is the answer, for He is the righteousness of God. That is, God sent Jesus Christ to earth to live the *perfect, ideal*, and *sinless* life. Jesus Christ never sinned, not even once. Therefore, He stood before God and before the world as the Ideal Man, the Perfect Man, the Representative Man, the Perfect Righteousness that could stand for the righteousness of every man.

When a man believes in Jesus Christ — really believes — God takes that man's faith and counts it (his faith) as righteousness. The man is not righteous; he and everyone else knows it. But God counts his faith and belief as righteousness. Why would God do such an incredible thing? Because God loves His Son that much and God loves man that much. God loves so much that He will take any man who honours His Son by believing in Him and count that man's faith as though it were the real thing: righteousness. Very simply stated: Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God. He is the only way a man can become righteous and acceptable to God.

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.

Heb 7:25-26 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

1 Pet 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Pet 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

- b. The righteousness of Christ means that He bore the sins of men and died for them. It is not enough for the ideal and perfect righteousness to exist, for we are already sinners. We have already transgressed God's law; we have already rebelled against God and gone our own way in life, living just like we want instead of following God. Therefore, the penalty for rebellion and treason — for sinning against God — has to be paid. We have to die or else someone else has to die for us. That someone has to be the ideal and perfect Man, for only perfection is acceptable to God. This is just what Jesus Christ did; He died for our sins. He bore the penalty and punishment for our sins. And it was acceptable to God because He was the Ideal and Perfect Man. His death stands for and covers our sins and death. Therefore, we are completely and totally free of sin. We stand before God as righteous. Now we are not righteous; we of all people know that. But God counts us righteous by the death of Christ. He credits the death of Christ to our sins. He counts us free of sin — credits us as being righteous by the death of Christ.

When does God do this? When we believe in Jesus Christ. When we really believe, God counts the death of Jesus Christ *for our sins*; therefore, He is able to count us *free from sin*, as righteous before Him. This is the righteousness of Jesus Christ; this is the way we become acceptable to God.

Rom 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Rom 5:8-9 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

1 Cor 5:7 Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast — as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Heb 7:26-27 Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Heb 9:13-14 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Heb 9:25-26 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Heb 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Heb 10:12, 14 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

1 Pet 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Pet 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

Isa 53:4-6 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

III. 2 Peter 01:02 Grace and Peace of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Messiah of *grace and peace*. No greater gifts exist than grace and peace. Note three things.

1. Grace (charis) means the *undeserved favour and blessings* of God. (See notes, Rom. 4:16; *Grace*, 1 Cor. 1:4; *Grace*, Tit. 2:11-15.) The word *undeserved* is the key to understanding grace. Man does not deserve God's favour; he cannot earn God's approval and blessings. God is too high and man is too low for man to deserve anything from God. Man is imperfect and God is perfect; therefore, man cannot expect anything from God. (See *Justification*, Gal. 2:15-16.) Man has reacted against God too much. Man has...

- rejected God
- rebelled against God
- disobeyed God
- ignored God
- denied God
- neglected God
- questioned God
- cursed God

Man deserves nothing from God except judgment, condemnation and punishment. But God is love — perfect and absolute love. Therefore, God makes it possible for man to experience His grace, in particular the favour and blessing of salvation which is in His Son, Jesus Christ. (See *Grace*, 1 Cor. 1:4.)

Rom 3:24 *And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

2 Cor 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

Eph 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

Eph 2:7 *In order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

Phil 4:19 *And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

1 Tim 1:14 *The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*

2. Peace (eirene) means to be bound, joined and woven together. It also means to be bound, joined and woven together with others and with God. It means to be assured, confident and secure in the love and care of God. It means to have a sense, a consciousness, a knowledge that God will...

- provide
- encourage
- guide
- save
- deliver
- give real life both now and forever
- strengthen
- sustain

A person can experience true peace only as he comes to know Jesus Christ. Only Christ can bring peace to the human heart, the kind of peace that brings deliverance and assurance to the human soul.

John 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

John 16:33 *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

Rom 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Rom 8:6 *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Phil 4:8 *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.*

3. Note that Jesus Christ gives an abundance of grace and peace; He multiplies grace and peace; He causes grace and peace to overflow in the life of the genuine believer. There is never to be a lack of grace and peace in the life of any true believer. Every believer is to always be overflowing with joy, with the favour and blessings of God and with peace within his own spirit and with God and others.

How can a person always be overflowing with the grace and peace of God? Through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. We have to know God in order to receive the grace and peace of God. What does it mean to know God? The word “knowledge” (*epignosei*) means “full, personal, precise and correct” knowledge (The Amplified New Testament).

⇒ It means to know Christ personally; to know Him by experience. It means to know Christ just like we know any person: by walking and talking with Him.

⇒ It means to know Christ fully; to know Him in all of His person, exactly who He is. It means to be precise and correct in what we know about Him.

The point is this: if a person knows Christ fully and personally, precisely and correctly, then he knows Christ as Saviour and Lord. He knows Christ as the Son of God who was sent to earth by the Father to save the world. The person does not look upon Christ as a mere man, as a great religious leader who founded the religion of Christianity. The person looks upon Jesus Christ as the Saviour and Lord of men, and he knows Christ personally. He experiences Christ: he comes to Christ and asks Christ to save him and to be the Lord of his life. He gives all that he is and has to Christ, surrendering totally to Christ as his Lord. It is the person who so surrenders to Christ that comes to know Christ, and day by day, the person experiences the overflow of the Lord’s grace and peace.

John 7:16-17 *Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”*

John 17:3 *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Phil 3:8 *What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.*

Phil 3:10 *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.*

IV. 2 Peter 01:03 *Life and Godliness of Jesus Christ*

Jesus Christ is the Messiah of *life and godliness*. What is meant by life and godliness? It means *everything* that is necessary for life.

First, life is the energy, the force and the power of being. The life which Jesus Christ gives is a life of energy, force and power.

=> The life given by Christ is the very opposite of perishing. It is deliverance from condemnation and death. It is the stopping or cessation of aging, deterioration, decay and corruption. It is a life that is eternal, that lasts forever and ever. It is the very life of God Himself (Jn. 17:3).

=> The life given by Christ is an abundant life, a life of the very highest quality, a life that overflows with all the good things of life: love, joy, peace, goodness, satisfaction and security.

Whatever is necessary for life is given by Christ. He longs for man to live, to have an abundance of life; therefore He gives all things that will make a person overflow with life. (See *Life in Jesus Christ*, Jn. 1:4, *Life in Jesus Christ*, Jn. 10:10; *Eternal Life*, Jn. 17:2-3.)

Second, godliness is living like God and being a godly person. It is living life like it should be lived. God gave man life; therefore, God knows what life should be, and above all things life should be godly just like God. The word “godliness” (eusebeian) actually means to live in the reverence and awe of God; to be *so conscious* of God’s presence that one lives just as God would live if He were walking upon earth. It means to live seeking to be like God; to seek to possess the very character, nature and behaviour of God. The man of God follows and runs after godliness. He seeks to gain a consciousness of God’s presence – a consciousness so intense that he actually lives as God would live if He were on earth.

Note: godliness means to be *Christlike*. Godliness is *Christlikeness*: it is living upon earth just as Christ lived.

2 Cor 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Titus 2:12-13 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

2 Pet 3:11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.

Now note the verse. Two significant points are made, points that are absolutely essential for us to heed if we wish to have real life.

1. Note where life comes from. It does not come from man himself; life is not in and of man himself. Man dies. He is a dying creature, always in the process of dying, always moving onward toward the grave. Man is as good as dead. And in the process of dying, he experiences all kinds of trials and sufferings such as sickness, disease, accident, emptiness, loneliness, corruption, evil, shortcomings, failures, lies, thefts, killings, wars and death after death of friends and loved ones.

Man has anything but life; at best he only exists for a few years that are ever so short and frail. Where then can man find life? Who has the power to stop the process of death and to deliver us from death? No man has such power. But note this verse: there is "divine power," the very power of Christ Himself that can stop death and give us life — life abundant, life now and life eternally. Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to earth...

- to secure the perfect and ideal life for us.
- to die for our sins in order to free us from sin so that we could stand sinless before God, perfectly righteous in the eyes of God.

This is the power of Christ, the power to save us from death and to give us life and godliness.

2. Note how we receive life and godliness: by the knowledge of Christ. We must know Christ personally. We must know Him as our Saviour and Lord, surrendering all that we are and have to him. We must be willing to walk and share with Him all day every day, serving Him as the Lord of our lives. We must be willing to know Him by living a godly life, by actually experiencing the life of God as we walk day by day.

Note: Christ has called us to glory and virtue. This is the very life to which He has called us: a life of glory and moral excellence both here on this earth and in heaven. We are to live pure and righteous lives, glorious lives; and when we do, He promises to give us a place in the glory and perfection of heaven. Note that this may read in the

Greek: “Christ has called us by His own glory and goodness.” That is, it is His own glory and goodness (moral excellence) that attracts man and pulls man to seek life and godliness in Him.

John 5:24 *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

2 Cor 4:11 *For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.*

Phil 1:21 *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

1 John 3:24 *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

V. 2 Peter 01:04 New Creation / Divine Nature

Jesus Christ is the Messiah of the *divine nature or new person, the new self*. Note: exceeding great and precious promises have been given to us. The promises are those that have to do with the *divine nature* of God, the divine nature that is planted within the heart of a person who believes in Jesus Christ. When a person believes in Jesus Christ, God sends His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, to indwell the heart of the believer. God places within the heart of the believer His own divine nature and makes him a new creature and a new man. The believer is actually *born again* spiritually. He actually participates in the divine nature of God through the presence of God’s Holy Spirit.

And note what happens: the believer escapes the corruption that is in the world. He lives eternally, for the divine nature of God can never die. When it is time for the believer to depart this life, quicker than the blink of an eye, his spirit is transferred into heaven, into the very presence of God Himself. Why? Because of the divine presence of God: the believer is a new creation, a new self, a new man, a new person in whom the very Spirit of God Himself dwells; and the Spirit of God cannot die. The person thereby escapes the corruption of this world. (See *Corruption*, 2 Pet. 1:4.)

=> The believer is born again.

John 3:3-6 *In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”*

1 John 5:1 *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.*

=> The believer is made into a new creation.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

=> The believer is made into a new self, a new person.

Eph 4:24 And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

=> The believer is given the divine nature of God.

2 Pet 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. ■

2 PETER 01:04 SIN; DEATH; CORRUPTION

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2 Peter 01: 04

The body of man has within it the principle or the seed of corruption, and the world in which man lives has within it the principle or the seed of corruption. Therefore, man deteriorates and decays — he dies and returns to dust.

This seed of corruption is caused by sin. Sin is selfishness or lust. Sin is acting against God, against others and even against oneself.

When a man offends — when he acts selfishly, does what he wants instead of what he should do — when he acts *against* instead of *for* — he energizes and sets in motion the process of corruption. Man's selfishness corrupts himself and the world in which he lives — including the ground and the air and the water of the earth (Rom. 8:21). His selfishness corrupts the relationship between himself and God and between himself and other persons and even the relationship between other persons. His selfishness and sin corrupt his own body (1 Cor. 15:42). It may be nothing more than eating too much or failing to stay physically fit, but his selfishness and sin set in motion the process of corruption. And the process of corruption just continues and continues to eat and eat away at life. Sin, that is, selfishness, has caused and is causing death, both physically and spiritually. (See Mt. 6:19-20; *Disease, Sickness, Corruption*, Mt. 8:17; *Sin and Death*, Rom. 5:12; notes, 1 Cor. 15:50; 2 Cor. 5:1-4; *Death*, Heb. 9:27.) □

THE GREAT THINGS OF THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

2 PETER 01:05–15

Introduction

This is one of the most important passages in all of Scripture for the believer, a passage that must be studied and heeded time and again. It covers the great things (qualities and virtues) which are to be in the life of the believer. The great importance of these things is seen in three facts that are forcefully stressed by Peter.

First, a person is to give *make every effort*, to add “these things” to his faith and life. As Scripture says, the believer “is to work out his salvation” (Ph. 2:12).

Second, the *great power* of “these things” stresses their importance. *These things* work within the life of the believer to meet five desperate needs of man, five things for which the soul of the believer aches and longs. Glancing at the five points of verses 8-11 in the outline of the Scripture will again show the great importance of these things in the believer's life.

Third, Peter's heavy stress upon the importance of “these things” is phenomenal.

=> Note v. 12: Peter says that he is going to always preach *these things* despite the fact that the believer already knows them. But this is not all.

=> Note v. 13: Peter says that as long as he is living, he is going to stir up the believers by reminding them of *these things*. But this is not all.

=> Note v. 14-15: Peter says that *these things* are so important that he is going to see to it that the believers are reminded of them *even after his death*.

What more could Peter say?

Another way to look at this passage is this: verses 1-4 are God's part in salvation.

God's part includes...

- faith and righteousness (v. 1).
- grace and peace (v. 2).
- all things that pertain to life and godliness (v. 3).
- the divine nature or new self (v. 4).

Note that *God's part* in salvation involves *seven things*. Now note that *man's part* in salvation involves *seven things* (v. 5-7). The *things* of the believer's life are of critical importance.

I. The charge to add *these things* (vv. 5-7).

II. The great power of *these things* (vv. 8-11).

III. The great importance of *these things* (vv. 12-15).

I. 2 Peter 01:05–07 Duty of the Believer

There is the charge to add these things to one's life. The word “add” (epichoregein) means in addition to God's great salvation — right along side of what God has done — add these things. And make every effort to add them. Hasten, jump, act now to add them; don't wait. Be energetic and earnest, strenuously work to add these things to your faith and salvation.

1. Add “goodness” (aretēn): moral excellence and goodness of character; moral strength and moral courage. It means manliness: being an excellent person in life, a real man or a real woman in life; living life just like one should, in the most excellent way. It means always choosing the excellent way.

1 Th 4:1-7 Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1 Th 4:11-12 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

2. Add “knowledge” (gnōsin): practical intelligence, practical wisdom, practical insight. It means knowing what to do in every situation and doing it; it is practical, day to day knowledge that sees situations and knows how to handle them. It is seeing the trials and temptations of life and knowing what to do with them and doing it.

Remember the charge: we must add knowledge to our faith. We must give, diligent attention to the situations of life and figure out how to conquer them.

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.”

Rom 15:14 I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

1 Cor 1:5 For in him you have been enriched in every way — in all your speaking and in all your knowledge.

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

Col 2:3 *In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

Prov 2:3-5 *And if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.*

Prov 15:14 *The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.*

Prov 23:23 *Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.*

Hosea 6:3 *“Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”*

3. Add “self-control” (egkrateian): to master and control the body or the flesh with all of its evil desires. It means self-control, the master of desire, appetite and passion, especially sensual urges and cravings. It means to be strong and controlled and restrained. It means to stand against the lust of the flesh, (sinful nature) and the lust of the eye and the pride of life, the boasting of what a person has and does (1 Jn. 2:15-16).

=> The believer is to know that self-control is of God, a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

=> The believer is to proclaim self-control to the lost.

Acts 24:25 *As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.”*

=> The believer is to control his sexual desires.

1 Cor 7:9 *But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

=> The believer is to strenuously exercise self-control, just as an athlete controls himself.

1 Cor 9:25 *Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

=> The believer is to grow in self-control.

2 Pet 1:6 *And to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness.*

=> The avenged believer is especially to be on guard to control himself.

Titus 2:2 *Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

4. Add “perseverance” (hupomonein): endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, constancy. The word is not passive: it is active. It is not the spirit that just sits back and puts up with the trials of life, taking whatever may come. Rather it is the spirit that stands up and faces life's trials, that actively goes about conquering and overcoming them. When trials confront a man who is truly justified, he is stirred to arise and face the trials head on. He immediately sets out to conquer and overcome them. He knows that God is allowing the trials in order to teach him more and more to persevere.

Luke 21:19 “By standing firm you will gain life.”

Rom 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Heb 10:36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 5:7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.

5. Add “godliness” (eusebeian): see *Godliness*, 2 Pet. 1:3.
6. Add “brotherly kindness” (philadelphian): the very special love that exists between brothers and sisters within a loving family, brothers and sisters who truly cherish one another. It is the kind of love...
- that binds each other together as a family, as a brotherly clan.
 - that binds each other in an unbreakable union.
 - that holds each other ever so dearly within the heart.
 - that knows deep affection for each other.
 - that nourishes and nurtures each other.
 - that shows concern and looks after the welfare of each other.
 - that joins hands with each other in a common purpose *under one father* (Leon Morris. *The Epistles of Paul to the Thessalonians*. “Tyndale New Testament Commentary,” ed. by RVG Tasker. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1956, p. 80).

How can people possibly love one another like this when they are not true blood brothers and sisters? Here is how. The Greek word “brother” (adelphos) means *from the same womb*. The word used for love is *phileo* which means deep-seated affection and care, deep and warm feelings within the heart. It is the kind of love that holds a

person near and dear to one's heart. Now note: the two Greek words are combined together by the writer to convey what he means by *brotherly love*.

⇒ People who have *brotherly love* have come from the same womb, that is, from the same source. They have been *born again* by the Spirit of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. When they receive this new birth, God gives them a new spirit — a spirit that melts and binds their hearts and lives in love for all the family of God.

Believers may not even know each other. They may even be from different parts of the world, but there is a *brotherly love* between them because they have been given a new birth and a new spirit of love by God. They are brothers and sisters in the family of God — the family of those who truly believe in God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ — the family who has received a new spirit that binds them together in brotherly love. This new spirit, of course, comes from the Holy Spirit of God Himself. (See *Fellowship*, Acts 2:42.)

John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 15:12 “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

John 15:17 “This is my command: Love each other.”

Rom 5:5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Rom 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

Heb 13:1 Keep on loving each other as brothers.

1 Pet 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

1 Pet 3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

1 John 3:18-19 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence.

1 John 5:1 *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves the child as well.*

7. Add “love” (agapen): the love of the mind, of the reason, of the will. It is the *agape* love of God, the love that goes so far...
- that it loves regardless of feelings — whether a person feels like loving or not.
 - that it loves a person even if the person does not deserve to be loved.
 - that it actually loves the person who is utterly unworthy of being loved.

Note four significant points about *agape* love.

- a. Selfless or *agape* love is the love of God, the very love possessed by God Himself. It is the love demonstrated in the cross of Christ.

=> It is the love of God for the *ungodly*.

Rom 5:6 *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*

=> It is the love of God for *unworthy sinners*.

Rom 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

=> It is the love of God for *undeserving enemies*.

Rom 5:10 *For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

- b. Selfless or *agape* love is a gift of God. It can be experienced only if a person knows God *personally* — *only* if a person has received the love of God, that is, Christ Jesus, into his heart and life. *Agape* love has to be shed abroad poured out, (flooded, spread about) by the Spirit of God within the heart of a person.

Rom 5:5 *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

- c. Selfless or *agape* love is the greatest thing in all of life according to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 12:29-31 *“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*

- d. Selfless or *agape* love is the greatest possession and gift in human life according to the Scripture (1 Cor. 13:1-13).

1 Cor 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

II. 2 Peter 01:08–11 Power of the Believer

There is the great power of *these things*. Note how the great needs of man's heart and life are covered in these verses:

- => Man is *ineffective* and unproductive in life (v. 8).
- => Man is blind, cannot see the purpose, meaning and significance of life and cannot see how to be absolutely sure of tomorrow, much less the distant future (v. 9).
- => Man forgets, does not know how to deal with sin. Or if he knows how — knows the gospel — he is unwilling to give up his sin (v. 9).
- => Man does not know how to keep from falling in life, from failing and coming short. He does not know how to meet his full potential; how to control the problems of life; to bring love, peace, and joy to himself and his loved ones and the world (v. 10).
- => Man does not know how to gain and be perfectly assured of eternal life; he does not know how to receive an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of Christ (v. 11).

But note: all these needs can be met perfectly. They are met if *these things* of verses 7-8 are added to our lives in abundance. The term "increasing measure" (pleonazonta) means to increase and grow; to overflow and be filled with more and more, ever learning how to increase these things in our lives. In other words, do not be satisfied...

- with your life as it is.
- with present growth.
- with staying where you are spiritually.
- with just knowing Jesus.
- with doing no more than what you are.

To have the needs of our hearts and lives met, we have to continue on in *these things*. We have to grow and grow in them: give them utmost attention; go after them ever so diligently, never slackening. If we abound in them, then the needs of our hearts and lives will be met to the fullest.

1. We will not be *ineffective and unproductive*.

- => The word "ineffective" (argous) means idle and slothful; being empty and useless. It is the very opposite of being fruitful and productive in life. Therefore if we do *these things*, if we really work at our salvation, we will not live a barren, dry life. We will not be unfruitful nor live a life that is empty and useless, idle and slothful. On the

contrary, we will live a life that flows with nourishment and that bears the ripest of fruit: love, joy and peace (cp. Gal. 5:22-23).

But note the source of such a life: the source is our Lord Jesus Christ. We must know Him and grow in the knowledge of Him. The knowledge of Him must be our aim and purpose in life. Only as we know Him can we overcome being ineffective and unproductive. He and He alone can give us real life. Therefore, we must do *these things* – really work at our salvation – really seek fellowship and communion with Christ moment by moment and day by day – in order not to be ineffective and unproductive in the knowledge of Him. We must learn to pray all day long and to take *set times* for prayer every day, set times for concentrated prayer. We must learn to *keep our minds* on Christ.

Mat 13:23 *“But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”*

John 15:5-6 *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”*

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Psa 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. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 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.*

2. We will not be near-sighted and blind. Without Christ men are blind. They do not see...
 - the purpose, meaning or significance to life.
 - the importance of morality and goodness, love, joy, peace and the goodness of God and Christ.
 - the way to conquer sin and evil, trials and suffering, life and death.

Men are pictured as being unable to see afar off, as being near-sighted. They are pictured as keeping their eyes only on the earth and its pleasures and possessions, only upon enjoying life now, only upon living as they want and doing their own thing. They give little if any thought to the *eternal consequences* of their behaviour and actions. The result is devastating: they are blind and short-sighted. They lack real and permanent purpose, meaning and significance in life. They experience ever so much emptiness and loneliness, often wondering...

- what is life all about?
- what is its purpose and end?
- what is there after death?
- is there meaning to this life at all?

But note: if we do *these things*, if we work at our salvation, we will not be blind or unable to see ahead. We will not lack purpose, meaning or significance in life. *These things*, the things of salvation, will not only give us purpose in this life, they will give us eternal purpose. We will understand life, what life is all about. We will know the purpose, meaning and significance of life. We will never be empty or lonely or without purpose in life.

Mat 6:23 *“But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”*

John 1:4 *In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

John 8:12 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

John 12:35 *Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going.”*

2 Cor 4:4 *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

2 Cor 4:6 *For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

Eph 4:18 *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.*

Eph 5:8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*

Eph 5:14 *For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

Phil 2:15 *So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.*

Isa 9:2 *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

3. We will not forget that we have been cleansed from our sins. Very frankly, the person who fails to do *these things*, who fails to work out his own salvation, soon forgets the death of Christ. He forgets the great price that Christ paid to forgive his sins. The person becomes a backslider. How can we say this? Because a person is either moving

ahead in Christ or else sliding back from Christ. And the person sliding back thinks little about sin and the consequences of sin. His thoughts and actions are in the world, and he is focusing upon the world and its pleasures and possessions. He has just forgotten that Christ purged him from his sins. He has slipped away from Christ and slipped back into the world.

The point is this: we must do *these things*, work out our salvation, or else we will backslide. We will forget Christ and His death and the glorious fact that He has forgiven our sins. *These things*, the wonderful things of salvation, have the power to keep us near Christ and to keep us from ever backsliding.

Gal 4:9 *But now that you know God — or rather are known by God — how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?*

1 Tim 4:15 *Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.*

2 Tim 2:15 *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

Heb 6:1 *Therefore let us leave the elementary' teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God.*

Heb 10:38 *“But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.”*

1 Pet 2:2-3 *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

2 Pet 3:18 *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

4. We will never fall. How often we come short, stumble and fall. We just do not do what we should. If there is any single trait that runs through human life, it is stumbling, coming short, and falling. People stumble and come short and fall...

- in marriage
- in behaviour
- in work
- in devotions
- in worship
- in planning
- in relationships
- in the Christian life
- in responsibilities
- in serving Christ
- in family duties
- in resolutions
- in school
- in witnessing
- in promises

How can we keep from stumbling and falling? God has called and elected us to live a rich and fruitful life and to be rich and fruitful for all of eternity. How can we live such a rich, fruitful life? Note the verse:

Be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall. (v. 10)

We must be diligent in doing *these things*. We must give ourselves totally to the things of salvation. We must work and work at them. If we do, then we shall never stumble and fall, not in a tragic, devastating or destructive sense. On the contrary, we will live the most abundant and fruitful life imaginable.

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

Heb 6:11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.

2 Pet 1:10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall.

2 Pet 3:13-14 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

5. We will be given eternal life and more. We will receive a rich welcome into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We will be richly and gloriously welcomed into heaven. The idea is that there will be different degrees of reward, of richness and wealth in heaven. Some of us will not inherit the kingdom, wealth and service that others will inherit. How can we be sure of receiving the richest entrance into heaven? By being diligent in doing *these things*, in working out our salvation. (See *Reward*, 1 Pet. 1:4.)

Mat 25:34-36 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'"

2 Cor 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

1 Pet 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.

2 Pet 1:11 And you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

III. 2 Peter 01:12–15 Importance of the Things of Salvation

The great importance of *these things*. What Peter now does is most interesting. He tells us how important he considers these things.

1. They are so important that he is always going to preach and teach these things. He is going to remind and remind believers of them. Genuine believers know them and are even established in *these things*. But Peter says he is going to repeat and repeat them. He will not neglect them.

One thing is sure: Peter thought that *these things*, the things of salvation, were essential. How much more should we stress them! But note the next point. Peter has even more to say about *these things*.

2. They are so important that he is going to stir believers to do them as long as he is alive. He is going to remind and remind them of these things as long as he is in “this tabernacle,” the tent of his body. Peter has to repeat and repeat these things. Why? Because it is right (dikaion), the only right thing to do. Believers must do *these things* in order to experience the rich and fruitful life Christ gives. Therefore, he must stress them and drive them home to the hearts of his dear people. But note: this is not all that Peter has to say about *these things*.
3. They are so important that Peter is going to see that believers are stirred to do *these things* even after his death. Peter apparently knew that he was soon to be taken on home to heaven. But *these things* were so important that he was going to make arrangements with those left behind to teach *these things*.

Thought 1. How important are *these things*? How important is it that we preach *these things*? Few Scriptures have stressed and emphasized as much as these. Peter says he is going to see to it these things are taught to believers; he says this three times. This alone should stir us to preach and teach them — always — ever so diligently and faithfully.

Mat 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

John 21:16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 4:20 "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

2 Cor 4:13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.

1 Th 4:2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

1 Tim 4:6 If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.

1 Pet 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve.

Isa 43:10 "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me." ■