

Parameters for Relationship Pt. 3

II Peter 1:1-2 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, December 7, 2022 With Simple Faith

Started II Peter w a couple pieces of shaky background/canon considerations; w much going on in life, hard to focus on what over head/don't think need, but pay attention to more than you want to b/c **1. Because it effects your foundation for learning and growth** tried to show you glimpses, so when doubts come and start studying unbelief more than belief, recognize there is much you haven't considered, dealt with—MUST have firm foundation—Bible is trustworthy because God behind it IS trustworthy; So must **II Tim. 2:15, Be diligent to study God's Word together with the rest of the body of Christ. Eph. 4:14-16 2. Because it affects your worship & obedience leading to God's work of transformation in your life** if you can't trust anybody but yourself and you have to experience it all yourself—nothing transcendent, then you take the place of God and can't trust God and worship Him by submitting to Him/secure in His love/His work; **Think eternally as look for answers**; something larger than you, your mind, your understanding—someONE over all revealing pieces at a time, **not bothered by giving us pieces that even those He has given to lead us don't fully understand. Daniel 8:27, 12:8-9, I Peter 1:12**; then can take your place among the redeemed and deal with what blows your head UNDER God, under His Word, WITH His people—center of salvation is relationship b/n you and God; work on this relationship, studying what IS clear by work of Spirit inside Word/Works of God and obey; this obedience of faith will bring about the fruit of the Spirit Gal. 5 and the godly character laid out in II Pet. 1; (change in priorities, desires, habits); then can worship while wonder; **3. Because it effects your worship & obedience concerning your mission before the world**; called to bring glory to God by proclaiming His words/works with confidence—primarily, His character as Savior/Deliverer/Redeemer; can't just give people God/Jesus; all affected by these fads, paths of thought—trickle down, we become hybrid—**NOT withdraw from everyone different**. MUST **Think missionally** when confronted by authority and theological problems; YOU can't fulfill your role of Great Commission apart from wrestling w pieces that to you seem clear, but **need authoritative Word and process to discern** (can do this even where don't know—don't pretend DO, don't ignore issues, but show reverence/humility as recognize that this includes more than you, us, them. MUST show **dependence on Spirit of God if we would display Him accurately**—as seminary professor challenged us, GUARD the mystery instead of giving way or demanding to solve all when pieces don't make sense; **unity Spirit produces includes learning along w those you give gospel to, under God, among His people; learn from those immersed in this more than us** (we accept those trained in every other discipline to some extent), **but see beyond and over and through them ultimately to the God over all of it**; with this as background, came to letter itself, started on the greeting—much we assume—start w relationships involved—**someone wrote to someone about something**; relationships have come on hard times—do you go into relationships with thoughts that they will last, grow, be good? **What are some of the necessary foundations for a good relationship? What makes relationships last?** you can learn much about parameters for this relationship right from the greeting; **What can you learn about posture, identity, focus, source of the tie of relationship right from the greeting?** Simon Peter, Simeon (Jewish), Peter is translation of the Aramaic Cephas—both mean either rock or stone; according to Green, this noun rarely used as name, but Lord gave him this name (real fisherman, brother Andrew—came to Jesus when John Baptist pointed him out, told brother Messiah has come, married, called by Christ foundational for the church; but THIS is known/background, what given as identity is nature of his relationship w Jesus Christ, **a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ**, doulos—slave—rough w our connotations of slavery (must figure out differences b/n our racially motivated system and how treated then, **but definitely KNOWN by their master—totally for their use—identity lost in masters**; once accept this, then honor to be tied to certain masters (ie. Of Caesar's household; hence, Moses, Joshua, David, etc. called servants of the Lord; certain security as how people treat these servants reflects on how they honor the Master; part of household of God—interesting because THAT idea comes up in next identifier of relationship with Christ—**apostle** messenger—focuses on mission, but in NT, usually technically refers to those specifically chosen by Jesus to be His representatives; mission to proclaim gospel, but then also to clarify/defend it so reproduced; authority, but once again, focus NOT on him, or even mission, but on authority of One who sent him; **Eph. 2:19-20** start to see bigger picture continued w next phrase **To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours**, no other identity but possessing same—body of truth & subsequent life of believing/living in line with truth/doctrine); it is a **received** faith, focusing on One giving (NOT on your ability to accept/choose—ie. Word associated w casting of lots/chosen by lot, OR like here—**speaking of receiving what was one's allotted portion or share** ie. Acts 1:17 – therefore, faith apportioned by God Green; favor by divine patron/benefactor—learn more, **a faith of the same kind as ours**, either apostles versus readers; comparing apostles who are dying w those who will follow; OR Jewish Christians versus Gentile; THEY on same level w regards to faith, THEIR faith honorable; equal honor w those eyewitnesses of His majesty 1:16-18, 3:2; wider Christian community, setting up for theme of comparing w false teachers in **2:1-3** that is NOT honorable, NOR in line w saints/apostles/prophets); **how can you say this and mean it when such gap between groups?** **by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ**: significant theme—Noah knew it/walked in it II Pet. 2:5, but false don't II Pet. 2:21, will not inherit the coming world where righteousness dwells II Pet. 3:13—Focus is ethical—God's action in granting faith marked by righteous actions quite different from what other false teachers proclaim (means “God only cares about the heart” NOT gospel of God—godly heart WILL act godly! however, redemptive work of Christ is only way that we can please God **Rom. 8:8-10**; faith that behaves certain way; seems like so much! **Concludes greeting** **2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**; traditional Hebrew greeting of shalom, (total well-being) plus typical Greek greeting of charis **morphed into Judeo-Christian “grace” – favor – in OT finding favor b/r God (or noble or ruler) often critical to survival, Davids** once again, focus here NOT on you, but God giving faith, giving grace, peace as we see what added to standard Christian greeting--**be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**; KNOWLEDGE key word—2 related words, here epignosis, later 1:5-6, 3:18 gnosis—words overlap, but this word can focus on “coming to know someone as they really are” (Picirelli in Davids, other ones read) speaking of personal knowledge of God—**Moo—in Bible, knowledge very personal activity—intimate relations b/n one person and another including sexual relations, II Cor. 5:21 Jesus KNEW no sin—therefore here, knowing grace/peace only in sphere of relationship w God**—know specifics of who He is and implications for us; how we respond—**YES, watch head knowledge not touching heart—big deal as again and again, Jews tried to insulate themselves from Gentiles by focus on circumcision, sabbath keeping, and dietary laws, focused on Messianic kingdom where they would be rulers and Gentiles either excluded or minor positions, but Moo, also says, watch heart knowledge not touching head Moo, pp. 38-39 false teachers got away from this relationship—II Pet. 2:20-22**; remember Peter's lesson w this in Acts 10 w Cornelius; God worked on him inside relationship; Foster relationship with God inside parameters of Greeting—**RIGHT** kind of knowledge; very salvation dependent on it—**II Pet. 3:17-18** NOW, once again, ask, **What do we have if we live inside this greeting? What parameters are set for relationship w God and others?** THIS is a gospel tie, a gospel identity to protect, and a gospel mission to live **What should we value and where should we focus?** **1. Clear hierarchy**—servants/master (under, but also status/honor) but focus lying with God—his servants known for the God they serve; **Does your service reflect the God you serve?** **2. Clear mission**—sent/called/task, but

focus not merely on the mission and authority/privileges of that mission, but the God who gives it; **Does your mission reflect the authority/purposes of the God you follow?** **3. Clear position**—belonging equally w others belonging, but focus not on me, but on One who gave both faith and mission-- **Can you articulate “the faith”/good news? What is GOD’S place in that?** **4. Clear blessed provision**—grace, peace, but focus not on well-favored, well-adjusted status that multiplies, but on the knowledge of this God **What does it show when we don’t continue inside parameters of these words?** Gospel we following NOT greater, stronger, etc.; **Peter arguing for normal Christian life**—**where will this focus inside this book?** ethical distinctions—how live compare w false teachers; THESE can be mimicked if not born again, but **must ask, where do we stand if missing/not focused on character qualities of next verses?** **must be careful** about making statements about “not boxing God in” YES, but certain characteristics start forming in His saints—if not, something wrong w source); THIS FAITH NOT MYTH/fable 1:16 (universal/catholic nature); THIS greeting loaded w themes that will be unpacked, giving us hope, direction, boundaries AND reason to persevere **because focuses on true knowledge of Great God**; must have this clearly set—if shaky on these—study Scriptures for parameters so end w gaze on God as tie—NOT personality, cultural agreement, feelings of usefulness—NO! majesty of God and total dependence on Him for what called to do; **b/c He favored us w faith that is honorable, worth paying price in terms of discipline and conflict to maintain Davids, p. 162**

Daniel 8:27 Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king’s business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it.
Daniel 12:8-9 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?” He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.
Romans 8:8-10 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.
Ephesians 2:19-20 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.
Ephesians 4:11-16 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.
2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
1 Peter 1:10-12 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

The God of Relationship

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Knowledge key theme; why? Seems dry, competition to see who can know more (ie. Ever feel lost on Jeopardy—look at people’s hair, clothes—then realize THEY steeped in what you can’t keep up with? Remember when I run—hear horse, makes me go little faster—but horse ALWAYS wins even if I keep up for little); but something different about THIS knowledge, bringing foundation for blessing of grace/peace coming from it—behold Glorious God

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seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, Instead of normal greeting thanking or praising them, goes right into discussing elements brought up and elaborating; I’m going to talk to you about life, godliness **What comes to mind when think of life/godliness?** NOW, THAT is YOUR knowledge/their knowledge—you need TRUE knowledge of Jesus—but I thought He was going to give us life/godliness; YES, He DID call, HE DID offer these things—YES, but focus of this verse somewhere else—HIS OWN GLORY AND EXCELLENCE; WHY? because what He offered is beyond us—to understand, to desire, to live in, to appropriate (ie. Remember gap b/n rich man and Lazarus? b/n hell/Sheol and earth?) ALL this having any chance of taking place puts focus on Him--THIS is life, THIS is godliness;

Romans 4:17 (as it is written, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

Romans 8:30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 9:21-26 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? ²² What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? ²³ And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ *even* us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles. ²⁵ As He says also in Hosea, “I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, ‘MY PEOPLE,’ AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, ‘BELOVED.’ ” ²⁶ “AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, ‘YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,’ THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD.”

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Galatians 1:15-16 But when God, who had set me apart *even* from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

1 Thessalonians 2:12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,