

The God of Relationship Pt. 4

II Peter 1:3-4 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, January 4, 2023 O Master Let Me Walk 451

Book calling for life of godliness in face of false teaching, Right from greeting, saw assumptions we need to remember if we are truly born again; **1. Clear hierarchy**—Simon Peter, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, **2. Clear mission**—an apostle of Jesus Christ **3. Clear position**—To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: **4. Clear blessed provision** ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; THIS relationship between God and man tying them together what on Paul's mind as he continues, expounds on it **1. Gracious Glories of God's Calling v. 3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and everything pertaining to godliness, everything needed to live NOW and into eternity with life lived pleasing to God; **to see His power, must see HIS hand in all to give/sustain/bring about life lived pleasing to Him**; that's why very specific means through which this power given to us; **through the true knowledge of Him**; this not distant, cold, but a knowledge living inside relationship, product of conversion--see this relational aspect of His power as study how He brought about new birth/regeneration; He **called us** Called—not just invitation, effective calling—verses we looked up focused not merely on calling, **but purpose for calling** 1 Pet. 1:15, 2:9, 2:21, 3:9, 5:10 **How did He call us bringing about this relationship?** **By His own glory** (weight, worth, honor, majesty) how do you see it—through His **excellence**—His virtuous acts which are glorious—character, miracles, teaching—work of redemption; His disciples saw and worshipped, true followers, Father Himself—this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased—**all these witnesses show He takes great interest in us beholding His glorious work; relational part of power?** we couldn't see, understand, but those He called, He granted what is **needed to apprehend true knowledge of Lord Jesus**, to **perceive Him as glorious—that His beauty captures us**, “In other words, when Christ calls people to himself, they perceive the beauty and loveliness of his moral character. His character becomes exceedingly attractive to them, and they trust God for their salvation.” Schreiner, p. 293 **grace and peace multiplied as we believe and live in light of seeing beauty of what done; II. Glories of God's Faithful Enablement v. 4** How secure is calling? Calling Backed by His **Precious and magnificent promises**; how get these? **For by these**—seems to refer to glory and excellence—THIS glory of God seen through His excellent works is means by which we are given/perceive as for us His **precious and magnificent promises**; not just words, but words which lead to life change; 2 identifiers **1. become partakers of the divine nature**, if glory and excellence are means of us seeing His promises, means we must readjust what we look at when looking to His promises--**where do we tend to focus when we look for God's precious/magnificent promises? Where should we focus if these promises result in evidences of effectual calling showing we share in the divine nature?** Toward God who makes us secure, toward how He makes us secure, toward difference between the two kingdoms—which is other life identifier resulting from these promises? **2. having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Gal. 6:7-8** **Speaking of way of life resulting from new nature** (life/godliness) **something more powerful than deepest desires changing values of soul; divine nature**; NOT talking about becoming God, but characteristics of God that start being seen in our lives enabling us **to escape corruption in world by lust**; shift in thinking about Spirit-controlled life; talked about what means to be a new creation—ontological vs. relational, **“Too many popular portrayals of the Christian life assume that the Bible views human beings in what we might call “ontological” terms. That is, they assume that terms like body, soul, spirit, flesh, etc., refer to actual “parts” of the human being. When, therefore, the Bible speaks of Christians as “a new creation” in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) or as participating in the “divine nature,” they immediately suppose that Christians have actually become, in a total sense, a new creation or that they have a divine nature in place of the old sinful nature, with the assumption being that Christians cannot really sin anymore or that all Christians need to do in the battle against sin is do “what comes naturally.” In reality, the Bible uses most of these terms not in an ontological sense but in a relational sense. To be a new creation means to have a new, vital, and determinative relationship to Christ, not to have a new being that has replaced the old. The biblical authors, including Peter, know that Christians still sin; that is why they issue a lot of commands to fight the battle against sin. We must not err in taking away the significance of the language of transformation that the New Testament uses.”** Pp. 55-56 **How would seeing participation in the divine nature more in relational terms than in ontological terms change our focus and how we live life if we are truly saved?** NOT focused merely on transaction, **focused on God who gives life and then life we live enabled by God Himself**—MUST have background for this—**what came along with God's interaction w mankind in OT?** Care, way forward, but also job—represent Him—you were NOT to be like others, but to display glories of God—**such a mess as seen by passages like Deut. 29:4, 17-21**, therefore song of Moses filled w warnings; hope for all this is IN identifying w sinful man—corporate solidarity (I Cor. 15:22 as in Adam all die, so in Christ—Rom. 8 flesh/Spirit); **how perceive? Promises—WHO cares about covenants?**—ends with **Jer. 31:31-34** reiterated in Heb. 8:8-12; **God changes heart** to know, to respond to God's law **(life and godliness)**—Jn. 3:5-8 born of Spirit, THAT is supernatural, from God ALONE, NOT YOU, **Originated by God, but accepted individually**—(YOU must choose/ act, but heart comes from God) Something that see that opens eyes to gospel, **final beautiful picture of identity/corporate solidarity in Christ II Cor. 5:21**—**result?** see power and goodness of God, and then LIVE in light of that—focus in these verses is NOT on us BEING God, but something changing in disposition and perspective which is divine—THIS is work of God so that LIVE w holy sweat; **Ezek. 36:25-27**, deeds comes from new heart Obedience now a matter of heart change, not nature change—LOOK to Christ daily to live (Gal. 2:20 crucified w Christ, life I live in flesh, live by faith, etc.); which promises? Yes, those that make us His, but this book focuses on rejection of Christ's return by false **(3:4, 9, 13, 1:11)**; if you give up on His return, not focused on Him by Spirit, fellowship, His will, His power not focus of your life, then living according to own lusts (false known for this **II Pet. 2:10, 18, 3:3**) NO! **I Jn. 3:2-3**; **believing this, eyes on God of promises, looking to Christ as One who brought this, follow Him is a WAY OF LIFE** “The receiving of these promises by faith makes a wonderful change upon sinners: for so soon as a sinner gets grace to believe and apply the free promises of the Covenant, as soon does the Lord begin to make out upon his heart the things promised, so stamping it with His own image, that the sinner receiving these promises begins presently to look like God his Father, and in some weak measure to resemble Him in heavenly wisdom, holiness, uprightness, and other of His communicable properties, especially in humility, self-denial, love and pity toward other miserable sinners, zeal for the Lord's honour, and such other perfections as were eminent in the Man Christ; and this is to partake of the divine nature.” Nisbet Pp. 225-226 **THAT** is what means that write laws on their heart, they will obey **Rom. 8:4, Col. 3:10, Tit. 3:5-8** opposite side is fleeing and abhorring filthy fashions flowing from unmortified corruption of those yet living in nature Nisbet p. 226 **focus is on life of godliness—HOW IS THIS FOCUS ON GODLINESS different than how we often focus on godliness?** Cold, acts themselves, good/bad, reflect on us, leave us defending, protecting, existing; not focused on much deeper than what seen; this escape is process—beginning w conversion, but not ending there “**In**deed, in the contemporary world we see that those who claim to have escaped from sin/desire once for all usually are self-deceived and often are cultic, controlling others who are not as ‘perfect’ as they are. Recognition that escape is a process brings a healthy humility to the follower of Jesus. It is this process of escape that leads directly to the call to grow in virtue in the next verse.” Peter Davids, p. 176 **next verses study what characterizes those who have become partakers of the divine nature**

Jeremiah 31:31–34 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. ³³ “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Ezekiel 36:25–27 “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Romans 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

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.

1 Timothy 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

Titus 3:5–8 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

1 John 3:2–3 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.