

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 11

II Peter 1:8-9 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, April 19, 2023 389 More About Jesus

Now for this very reason also, what reason? Book opened by focusing on the GOD of Relationship, THAT God has given the power to live godly lives, (seeing His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge . . .) **I. The Life of Relationship with God is Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5** applying all diligence, In your faith, supply the faith of v. 1 that sees God as described in vv. 3-4 leads to using ALL your diligence, energy, holy sweat focused on these things that accompany saving faith, **II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5-7 1. Moral Excellence 2. Knowledge 3. Self-control 4. Perseverance 5. Godliness 6. Brotherly Kindness 7. Love** effort not apart from, but flowing from work of God Phil. 2:12-13, effort IN God's presence; Hiebert reminds that all these qualities won't be fully developed in each person, but cannot focus on one to neglect of others; What happens to focus on these during day? b/c of this, next verses more guidance and incentive to live focused this way **III. Lived with God's Goals for Growth, Not Yours vv. 8-9** from wherever you are w focus here, gives incentive **A. Positive Incentive for Effort Toward These Goals v. 8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, vv. 5-7 qualities characterized in your life, you own them—THIS is what you seek, imitate, talk about, way of life they render you neither useless nor unfruitful; idle, not necessarily mean do nothing, but whatever doing adds up to nothing/meaningless; THIS verse mentions these words in negative, but point of verse focusing on process/way of living that is useful; fruitful, productive life is focus; But there is specific sphere of identity and usefulness; SOCIETY may deem you useful/fruitful, but GOD may say useless/unfruitful; THIS sphere only one that matters, in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. not talking about empty facts, but life lived as direct result of right belief about Christ; ie. godliness v. 3, v. 6; these acts result of God's power, and the faith that looks to Christ and learns of Him WILL be accompanied by growth in these virtues—they will be on display (1 Pet. 2:12, Tit. 3:14, other verses looked at last week); NOT focus on virtues without focusing on relationship with Christ that produces growth in THESE virtues—ARE you growing in them? Proof that directly result of trusting in Christ and growth in knowledge of Him? or are you just focusing on parts that are natural for your personality and experiences? what makes these qualities seem even more difficult when tied to relationships God has given us? Seems to work against them; redefines them; if truly saved to LIVE, to live on display, then see people issues as not getting in the way, but proving God's work, part of God's work; Articles by Desiring God—The Art of One-Anothering 4/16/23 What hope and courage does verse 8 give to keep going? When can't live with/before THEM (including even yourself), remember, these virtues produced inside relationship, effort here IS result of growing in true knowledge of God/Christ; Blum EBC—knowledge of God is beginning, continuance, and goal of Christian life; Jn. 15:1-11 abide/bear fruit; therefore focus MUST be on relationship with God, not merely these virtues. THAT knowledge tested by presence/absence of growing in these virtues. who values what is offered in verse 8? Let me help—WHO VALUES deodorant/antiperspirant? So much trouble—how do you get through scents, brands, price, then white flakes, stains, spray, gel, glide-on, then aluminum, non—don't want cancer, but DON'T want sweat rings, DON'T want to smell—THESE negatives give incentive to look for something that avoids them) **To whom would verse 8 be incentive to**

keep going in this direction? one who values useful, fruitful, feels growing mess/consequences of NOT; one who values God's opinion, being useful in God's kingdom—those who value pleasing God; Eph. 5:10-11—2 ways to live; Wiersbe, christian character an end, but also a means—more we are like Christ, more Spirit can use us in witness and service Jm. 3:17-18, add this to Gal. 5 fruit of Spirit Wiersbe “Some of the most effective Christians I have known are people without dramatic talents and special abilities, or even exciting personalities; yet God has used them in a marvelous way. Why? Because they are becoming more and more like Jesus Christ. They have the kind of character and conduct that God can trust with blessing. They are fruitful because they are faithful; they are effective because they are growing in their Christian experience.” P. 439 **Peter assumes these HAVE these qualities b/c have genuine faith—calling them to put focus here as antidote to false teachers;** effort toward THESE clarifies b/n false gospels—WHICH Jesus? God of the Bible, the Jesus who brings us to God says THESE are the things you value and THESE result from your effort as you LOOK to Christ; Calvin if these qualities are yours/increasing, “you will at length prove that Christ is really known by you . . . for the knowledge of Christ is an efficacious thing and a living root, which brings forth fruit.” p. 374 “Those who possess Christ without newness of life, have never been rightly taught his doctrine.” P. 374 Phil. 3:19-20; therefore, v. 9 **are you looking with faith toward God as you choose where your effort goes?**

B. Negative Results for Failure to Pursue These Goals v. 9

⁹ For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

1. You can't see

Blind—followed by 2 participles--short-sighted, rare word (related to myopia); Green notes, word short-sighted seems to be more than myopia, but rather more serious condition of eye which could indeed close it—think disease of ophthalmia p. 198—produced discharge from eyes and could even be caused by carrion flies—not a problem modern corrective lenses can cure—the squinting the term describes is experience of person going blind—cause is the disease and result is blindness “Instead of being ‘illuminated’ I Pe. 2:9 (called out of darkness to His marvelous light), those who reject Christian virtue become spiritually blind.” P. 198 look where we've been so far in II Peter 1, **Why/How/in what way is this person blind/short-sighted? Where are they focused and what do they miss even if they try to accept/live these ways?** perhaps willfully not seeing, perhaps short-sighted so not seeing what supposed to see/what matters most;

a. Being short-sighted leaves you unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly.

Matthew 3:8-10 “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; ⁹ and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ “The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 12:36 “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Mark 4:19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

Ephesians 5:10-11 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

Philippians 2:12-13 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 3:19–20 whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Colossians 2:1–3 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, ²that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God's mystery, *that is*, Christ *Himself*, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

1 Timothy 5:13 At the same time they also learn *to be* idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper *to mention*.

Titus 3:14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

James 3:17–18 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.