

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 13

II Peter 1:8-9 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, May 10, 2023 Beneath the Cross (Getty) v. 1, 3

Now for this very reason also, what reason? 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 who relates with us as described in vv. 2-4 leads to using ALL diligence, energy, holy sweat focused on things that accompany saving faith, **II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5-7** easy to forget these things/lost in everyday life, so must remember **III. Lived with God's Goals for Growth, Not Yours vv. 8-9 A. Positive Incentive for Effort Toward These Goals v. 8** For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful; words in negative, but verse focusing on productive life; **where?** in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. THIS sphere only one that matters; society may deem you useful/fruitful, but GOD may say useless/unfruitful; not talking about empty facts, but life lived as direct result of right belief about Christ; **NOT focus on virtues without focusing on relationship with Christ that produces growth in THESE virtues**—THIS is the hope of verse 8—look to Christ and LEARN of Him—respond to that knowledge; life of abiding Jn. 15:1-11 abide/bear fruit—if looking to Christ, it WILL include growth in these virtues—WILL be on display (I Pet. 2:12, Tit. 3:14, etc.); while seems harder when lived inside of relationships God has given, living among people is central to working/proving God's work in you; **To whom would verse 8 be incentive to keep going in this direction?** Those who feel growing mess/consequences of NOT useful/productive; those who value God's opinion, pleasing Him, and being useful in God's kingdom: **Eph. 5:10-11** 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? 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; **does YOUR life show you are living with faith in TRUE God b/c THESE are your focus?** **B. Negative Results for Failure to Pursue These Goals v. 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*, Green—the squinting the term describes is experience of person going blind—cause is the disease (not a problem modern corrective lenses can cure) 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 **a. Being short-sighted leaves you unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly, Mk. 4:19, Matt. 3:8-10:** Short-sighted see only earthly things nearby but unable to see heavenly things far away Kistemaker **things DON'T focus on b/c of perceived strong identity or b/c of pressing cares/other desires WILL change the works themselves.** Nisbet—Christians prone to be content with graces already have; vv. 8-16 seeks to "rouse them up to diligence and the study of growth." P. 228 "The most unquestionable duties had need to be pressed upon Christians by many arguments: for what we do most easily assent to in judgment we are oftentimes most careless of in practice." p. 229 **What do you notice about yourself others, life? What does God care about in these things that you NOT noticing?** **b. Being short-sighted leaves you doing the wrong things I Tim. 5:13** (Tim. 5:9-15) **how does this happen?** Nothing else other than information rather than work of handling that information; **life NOT filled w actions described—what would they require?** **NOT actions w/o heart or fooling self; but no actions like this, no heart;** look to God (true knowledge—love for God, obedience IN/from relationship); **no abiding with God, feeding on Him, submitting desires/priorities to Him, therefore no profitable use of information about someone--God determines what is useless, same word from v. 8 in Matt. 12:36** (careless—useless b/c didn't effect change in godly way) Dangerous—most spreading don't "mean to" harm; people caught w cares of world, other things don't recognize that this keeping them from unfruitful (focused on what rest of world concerned about--safety, feelings, affirmation, not what God caring about in own life AND in theirs)--**Jm. 2:20 faith w/o works is useless/same word as v. 8; failure to take responsibility for labor involved with THESE works in v.9** (same problem w widows in I Tim. 5—um . . . w you?); Hiebert "He is so shortsighted that he is indeed blind to the spiritual qualities under consideration. They are beyond the scope of his earthbound vision." P. 57 Green notes that unfruitful not same as moral neutrality; **If you are unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly, what will characterize your spiritual life and subsequent actions?** life of vice **Jude 12**, spiritual blind, **I Jn. 2:11** opposite of life filled w good deeds **Tit. 3:14**, including **Gal. 6:1**; so afraid of doing wrong that see sins of commission as worse than sins of omission; see sins when "didn't mean it" as different as those who "mean it"; YES, but NO! **sin separates us from God which shows by deeds governed by other desires than His!** **look at your life; do your deeds show you look for ultimate spiritual value, not your/their values?** 2nd participle following blind **having forgotten his purification from his former sins.**

2. You can't remember

Imagine the scenario presented—what would be result of forgetting purification from former sins?

Leviticus 16:30 for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

Psalm 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin.

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;

Ephesians 5:26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

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, ² that 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.

Colossians 2:11-13 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

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.

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Revelation 3:17 Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,