

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 11

II Peter 1:8-9 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, May 3, 2023 389 More About Jesus

Book opens by focusing on the GOD of Relationship, **Now for this very reason also**, what reason? 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. 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** 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 from wherever you are focused this way **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; **But specific sphere of usefulness; in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. SOCIETY may deem you useful/fruitful, but GOD may say useless/unfruitful; THIS sphere only one that matters, 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; Blum EBC—knowledge of God is beginning, continuance, and goal of Christian life; Jn. 15:1-11 abide/bear fruit; resulting godliness v. 3, v. 6 brings glory to God b/c result of God's power to trust God's words so that learning of Christ results in growth in these virtues—**they 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?** 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 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 **are you looking with faith toward God as you choose where your effort goes?** **Phil. 3:19-20**; therefore, **For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.** **B. Negative Results for Failure to Pursue These Goals v. 9** 1. **You can't see** Blind—followed by 2 participles—**short-sighted**, rare word (related to myopia); Green notes, seems to be more than myopia, more serious condition of eye which could indeed close it—think disease of ophthalmia p. 198—produced discharge from eyes—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 ended by asking, according to 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. Talking about how live—blind/short-sighted affects perception, seeing what is there and acting accordingly; talking about not seeing in the moral/spiritual realm; **Mk. 4:19** cf. Matt. 13:22 **Matt. 3:8-10**; **things DON'T focus on b/c of perceived strong identity or b/c of pressing cares/other desires WILL change the works themselves!** **What are your thoughts here?** Short-sighted in that sees only earthly things nearby but unable to see heavenly things far away Kistemaker 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 shows to self, world, and God that he savingly has interest in Jesus Christ as his Lord; **"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 **Need both positive incentive and negative, harsh consequences**--THIS is why can't just give positive believing that **if we just show benefits, they will respond—blindness of sin's deceitfulness—undermine doctrine of total depravity when just appeal to benefits—must evaluate actions and must show consequences/give them—failure of parents to show both duty and seek to create desire/make attractive is misrepresenting God & His eternal perspective—which side do you struggle with?** **b. Being short-sighted leaves you doing the wrong things** **I Tim. 5:13** **I Tim. 5:9-15** **how does this happen?** Nothing else other than information rather than work of handling that information; **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 (so concerned about what rest of world concerned about, safety, feelings, affirmation, not what God caring about)--**Jm. 2:20 faith w/o works is useless/same word as v. 8**; failure to take responsibility for labor involved with THESE works; 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 and what is the appropriate spiritual response?**

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;" 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,

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, 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,