

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 15

II Peter 1:9-10 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, May 24, 2023 Beneath the Cross (Getty) v. 3

Now for this very reason also, what reason? God has given power to live godly lives, (seeing His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness) **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; WORK HERE, you WILL be useful/fruitful/productive, where? in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. THIS sphere one that matters; society may deem you useful/fruitful, but GOD may say useless/unfruitful; NO focus on virtues w/o focus on relationship with Christ that produces growth in THESE virtues: THIS is hope of verse 8, Peter assumes these HAVE these qualities b/c have genuine faith—calling them to put focus here as antidote to false teachers proving that you truly looking at Christ b/c THIS is what growth looks like; look to Christ, LEARN of Him, respond to that knowledge; same standard that condemns is place look for aid/identity to continue! life of abiding Jn. 15:1-11 abide/bear fruit **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 to LIVE Blind—followed by 2 participles--short-sighted, 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 b. Being short-sighted leaves you doing the wrong things 1 Tim. 5:13 1 Tim. 5:9-15 how does this happen? life NOT filled w actions described—gossip b/c value what world values, not building what God wants built in others; (required? true knowledge—love for God, obedience IN/from relationship); abiding, feeding on Him, submitting desires/priorities to Him--If you are short-sighted, unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly, life will be filled w vice (Jude, II Pet. 2, I Jn. 2:11) opposite of life filled w good deeds Tit. 3:14, including Gal. 6:1; 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 see to BE what would be result of forgetting purification from former sins? Not Living in light of the gospel; what is hope of gospel? you can be forgiven—all against you taken away, you repent/turn from independence from God & submit to His Lordship, God's awakening you to these needs & sealing His work in your heart w indwelling of Holy Spirit; leads to new standing, symbolized by baptism Eph. 5:26, Col. 2:11-13 Schreiner water of baptism would remind them of cleansing through Jesus' death and resurrection—rooted in cultic language of OT Lev. 16:30, Ps. 51:2; Forgetting means work of Christ not present focus—not living as forgiven sinners, Schreiner, therefore Living by faith in something else if these virtues aren't showing/increasing, whether saved or not, acting like unconverted; (ie. Laodicea—lukewarm, remember why? Rev. 3:17 wrong source for evaluating value, therefore not God's values, therefore won't obey God, won't spread gospel if don't value, won't live in light of blood of Jesus cleansing from sin; How do you handle sin? What is right/wrong, what does justice look like? Forgiveness? Much of forgiveness issues (can't forgive, don't know how to live it, etc.) show that don't understand gospel—either study Christ Eph. 4:32 OR study self/others/culture to know how to respond; if not studying God and His gospel to depths of sin's destruction, then reminders of sin's presence and devastation will overshadowing the power and purposes of God over those sins; will seek justice out of proportion to seeking people be in right relationship with God through Jesus; will seek to justify yourself to yourself & others by performance instead of by faith in Son of God which leads to looking to Christ to make you outwardly holy, spurring you to proclaim excellencies of God's power and grace to world; focus in Peter is on false who profess faith but live in open sin, claim to have been forgiven, but no life change; SO EASY to slip into attitude of French skeptic Voltaire, "God will forgive; that's his job." Moo, p. 56 Moo, "Too many Christians are content simply with being Christians, happy simply to know they won't go to hell. But the true Christian never rests content with such a minimal (albeit important!) level of Christian experience." Calvin v. 9 THIS is beginning of Christianity—it follows that those who do not strive for pure and holy life do not understand even the first rudiments of faith . . . NO, if rolling in filth of flesh, then missing that blood was not pardon only but that God has separated us from the world to himself—though we daily sin, sin ought not to rule in us, but sanctification of Spirit prevails when see to BE--new identity/focus/values—true knowledge of Jesus Christ; I Cor. 6:9-11, Rom. 6:1-14; Let's take this out for a spin; how does this live? While trusting Christ for justification and His work of sanctifying us frees us from final wrath/judgment, our fellowship with God is still broken when we live with known sin. But we must also remember that God's name is dishonored when we live with unknown sin. Therefore, instead of focusing on whether we meant to sin or didn't understand or that those talking to us don't know/love us, how SHOULD fighting spiritual blindness cause us to respond to the reality of sin being displayed through our lives—both recognized and unrecognized by us? 1. Desire to have sin exposed so God glorified through us SHOW me my sin (not defend, explain; If work so hard to focus on where you/others doing right/misunderstood/OR eliminate them, NOT focusing on specific area missing and so often don't even SEE where to repent and then grow! others may be judgmental, or only focus on surface w/o knowing how to get to roots, but your HEART should value when God allows all that is not godly to come to surface—hallowed be Thy name; repentance is good thing! Speaks of spiritual sight AND freedom to move toward Christ BY yielding to Spirit of God; 2. Seek a deeper understanding of implications of gospel--true understanding of the gospel gives freedom to look at every instance of sin exposed as you seek to grow in these virtues and have hope b/c same gospel that paid your penalty/took wrath, gave provision to fight sin/lift up Christ as your source of righteousness/standing b/r God; if struggling, first need a final, powerful Word, look at presence/absence in II Thess. 2:10-17; therefore, Peter gives strong, sturdy anchor of final, powerful Word in II Peter 1:16-21—THIS is true knowledge of Lord Jesus Christ v. 3, 8; God's pardoning mercy should be fresh Nisbet, p. 230 alive! What were disciples taught to pray? Prayer by John Onwechekwa—forgive us our debts is daily awareness of work of Christ needed, so daily remember gospel/conversion symbolized by baptism--live identity w Christ, life, death, resurrection, Col. 2:1-3 truly treasure Christ; Heb. 1:3 then see grace Schreiner—grace comes first b/c forgiveness of sins comes first and godly life is EVIDENCE they are truly forgiven—if members of church live immoral lives, bear witness that forgiveness of sins means little to them—

“Those who treasure being forgiven live in a way that pleases God.” p. 304 **result is testimony to world bringing glory to God**; **3. Submit to the slow growth of grace**; One of reasons fail to accept the “slow growth of grace” is that can’t see how there can be this much fight with sin to obey God; Davids “Many Christians wish that their growth in Christ were a series of crises in which holiness and other virtues were suddenly infused into them.” p. 184 short-sighted when demand quick change; why these qualities valued? because work of Christ changes at character level—changes desires, perspective, eternal—impatience focuses on me/now—life in Christ focuses on Him eternally—we’ve got time (ie. II Pet. 3:9 The Lord is NOT slow); continued look to Christ leads to **increasing lifelong process**, sloppy w work of loving neighbor points to slop w work of relationship with God; don’t understand depth of dependence on Him until see that wanting to or trying not good enough; Nisbet, not enough to believe that these things belong to us/are in us from Christ, but must labor to inspect; it is in the living of inspecting, seeking, living these characteristics that life of Christian will be busy and “bearing the fruits of cheerful obedience to Christ’s commands, edifying and supplying others and the like” p. 229; settle in for lifelong process of increasing in these qualities by looking to Christ, watching for fleshly desires creeping back in; what does this look like in I Tim. 5:13 situation? right thing to do w I Tim. 5:13 “news” about each other is to go before Father of all wisdom who has the power to change, provision to carry out our part according to His word/will; need His help, His wisdom but willing to get involved in mess of relationships b/c your forgiveness is secure and provision given to change you THROUGH representing Christ before and with others; And THIS godly gospel focus and living is what Peter lays out in vv. 10-11 as completes this section—amazing reward ahead!

IV. Lived with His Calling in View vv. 10-11

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you;

a. Maintenance in line with God’s calling protects from eternal devastation. v. 10

All the more diligent, implies you ARE moving—word related to one in v. 5, eager, take pains, pursuit of something one cares about, attentive benevolence “as thoughtful as it is efficient.” Spicq TLNT inside Green, p. 200 to **make certain** word speaks of what is firm/solid, validating a will—way to fight blindness of v. 9 is to focus on your relation to His calling and choosing you—is it on solid ground? COULD be concern for constant UNCERTAINTY (He holy, I can’t measure up), but focus not so much on more strenuous activity to prove saved, but on place of focus for assurance that leads to strenuous activity; **what does calling/choosing imply? Where does it lead you to focus?**

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.

Psalms 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.

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 5:26 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,