

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 17

II Peter 1:10-11 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, June 7, 2023 Trust & Obey 349

I. The Life of Relationship with God is Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5 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) applying all diligence, In your faith, supply **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** one sphere that matters, in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **B. Negative Results for Failure to Pursue These Goals v. 9 1. You can't see to LIVE** For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, **a. Being short-sighted leaves you unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly.** see only earthly things nearby but unable to see heavenly things far away Kistemaker **b. Being short-sighted leaves you doing the wrong things** supposed to have life filled w good deeds, **Ti. 3:14** including **Gal. 6:1** but vice/wrong words/deeds result from not seeing clearly, (Jude, II Pet. 2, I Jn. 2:11) **2. You can't see to BE** having forgotten his purification from his former sins. **what would be result of forgetting purification from former sins?** **Not Living in light of the gospel**; work of Christ not present focus—not living as forgiven sinners, Schreiner, therefore **Living by faith in something else** (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, **How do you handle sin?** **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; **focus in Peter is on false who profess faith but live in open sin, claim to have been forgiven, but no life change; 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 . . . 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; your HEART should value when God allows all that is not godly to come to surface—hallowed be Thy name; **2. Seek a deeper understanding of implications of gospel**—true understanding of gospel gives freedom to look at every instance of sin exposed and have hope b/c same gospel that paid your penalty/took wrath gives provision to fight sin/lift up Christ as your source of righteousness/standing b/r God **3. Submit to the slow growth of grace**; short-sighted when demand quick change; 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** changes at character, desire level—focus moves from now/earth to THEN/eternal--**lifelong process** **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** way to fight blindness of v. 9 is to focus on your relation to His calling and choosing you—is it on solid/certain ground? focus not so much on more strenuous activity to prove saved, but on place of focus for assurance that leads to obeying calling; **what does calling/choosing imply? Where does it lead you to focus?** Puts focus on Him—He initiates both effectual calling and election; don't try to understand election which took place before time Eph. 1:4 without focusing on response to gospel proclaimed inside time (idea in Hiebert, p. 59); **focus on content and character of One backing it**; THAT is where certainty lies (firm, solid); **based on WHO He is, then can focus with certainty on our responsibility resulting from that calling**; CALLED to be holy **Eph. 1:4, Col. 1:22** **all the more diligent** implies pursuit of something one cares about, attentive benevolence “as thoughtful as it is efficient.” Focusing on purpose for calling and your inability to fulfill on own frees you from looking to self or own performance and reminds you that HE initiated calling and choosing; **but** as He called us to the end that we may be pure and spotless in his presence, then “purity of life is not improperly called the evidence and proof of election, by which the faithful may not only testify to others that they are the children of God, but also confirm themselves in this confidence, in such a manner, however, that they fix their solid foundation on something else.” Calvin, p. 377 He holy AND only means for you to BE holy in practice as well as position; look at Him as provider, trainer, from position of security of being called (He wants you)—**this work to maintain what God has said is your identity & calling gives firm foundation/assurance so you are free to obey from where you are right now, resulting in growth in these character qualities**; LIVE these character qualities in light of Col. 3:12, II Pet. 1:3 identity. **What would this focus do for your everyday living?** means inability to show godly character should cause us to look for identity issues which forces you back to One identifying you; there is assurance/confidence when not proving to God that you matter/can, but God as the ultimate **Why** determines calling (He determines the what, then means for how)—then free to be **all the more diligent** to dig in to build kingdom everyday from where you are! Trust/obey; THIS is NORMAL, everyday, Christian living—Gal. 2:20 *life I live in flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who LOVED ME and gave Himself for me*; THEREFORE, verse ends, **for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble**; problem here is that some think their salvation firm enough w/o having to pursue any of these virtues our author recommends Davids, p. 188 continuous way of life; obedience NOT option—striving to grow not option, “**God's grace should not lead to moral relaxation but intense effort.**” Schreiner, p. 304 Wiersbe **do** not preach election to unsaved people; we preach the Gospel p. 440 God uses gospel to call sinners to repentance, then sinners discover they were chosen by God—election no excuse for spiritual immaturity or for lack of effort in Christian life **assurance lies w those LIVING in line w calling which demands looking to Christ where get identity, calling, and means to carry it out**; “As some comfortable measure of the certainty of both may be attained to, even by ordinary believers, so this jewel of assurance does not fall in the lap of any lazy soul, nor can any expect to attain to it, or yet to entertain it, in whose hearts grace is without exercise, and whose conversation is without fruitfulness; for so the Apostle exhorts to give all diligence to make them sure; importing that, without that diligence, they cannot be made sure to our hearts.” Nisbet, p. 231 Spicq TLNT inside Green, p. 200 Calvin, living looking to Him to be holy and blameless is proof [certainty] not taken from the cause, but from the sign or the effect **emphatic negative, NOT EVER stumble**—not mean never sin, but rather “kept from an irretrievable fall” Hiebert, pp. 60-61 will not come to eternal ruin heretics/false teachers and their disciples face Green, p. 202 **Jude 24 uses same root for falling**; these virtues will keep you from stumbling on path to God's kingdom “and thus fail to arrive.” Davids, p. 189 **Where should the promise of v. 10 lead us when we find ourselves overwhelmed**

by doubts, instability, feelings of worthlessness, or lack of purpose? If constantly aware of feelings of rejection by others, by failure b/c not enough reward for work, by feelings that not good enough for self/God, shows NOT focusing on One who saves—grace given b/r Christ, but for us, start w riches in Christ—look to Him & continue w calling--if NOT practicing these things vv. 5-7, then have at best diseased faith of v. 9—rightfully lose assurance; Don't live in v. 9! These warnings of terrible end are one of means God uses to help His own persevere—YES, grace to grow, obey, do His will, but also to grow in fear of falling “finally or scandalously” Nisbet—all this leads to “all the more diligent” in these areas; but not just negative fear of falling, there is more—v. 11

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 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Colossians 1:22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

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

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,