

## Life and Godliness

### 2 Peter 1-1-15

- **2<sup>ND</sup>** Peter was written either the **yr** of, or the **yr** before Peter was crucified by Nero, remember here is a man who in Jn 21 was told by the Lord > **how he would die** (martyred), **when he would die** (old) and **why he would die** (following Him). In writing this last letter, do you think it mattered, I certainly do. **Question:** If faced with the same circumstance as Peter, knowing your death is imminent, who would you write to, and what would you write?

### V1-3

- Peter starts by identifying himself and notice the order **1<sup>st</sup>- bondservant-** after 6yrs of service slaves were set free, but if the slave wanted to remain in service to his master he could by having his ear pierced signifying he was a slave by choice. **2<sup>nd</sup>- Apostle-** he was 1 of Jesus sent ones, when introducing themselves most will tell you what they do- this is pastor, elder, deaconess, to describe who they are, but Peter says **1<sup>st</sup>** and foremost I am a humble servant.
- The **1<sup>st</sup>** letter was to the Jews who were scattered abroad, all we are told of whom he is writing is they have obtained the same faith as him and his colleagues. Peter is a big tough guy able to slice a man's ear off with 1 swing of a sword, **Jn 21** after the huge catch of **153** fish it was Peter who dragged that net ashore, yet we see a tender side of Peter as **1** of his favorite words in his writings is **precious**. He used this word to describe his faith, the believer, God's promises and Jesus. All of us desire much grace and more peace right?
- **V2** says the more knowledge you have of Jesus then the greater understanding you'll have of God, which leads to more grace-peace in your life. **V3-** we are called by Jesus own glory and His virtue, to understand this remember when Jesus **1<sup>st</sup>** called Peter- **Lk 5:4-11-** Peter after responding to Jesus with sarcasm gets a glimpse of Jesus divine power and it overwhelms him, so much so, that he asks "depart from me for I am a sinful man, O Lord" before he called Him master afterward He calls Him Lord! This is the type of power Peter refers to.
- It's glorious, it's virtuous, it's powerful, and its provided everything we need to live a life of Godliness. **Life-** Zoe, it's the same word used in **Jn 14:6-**is not speaking of the necessities of life such as food-clothing, but the fullness of life, that which gives meaning to our existence. Godliness-eusebeia, eu-well, sebomai- to worship, literall- well worship or worship rightly directed.
- That's what Godliness is, worship that's done properly in our conduct-conversation, sacrifice-prayer, God has provided everything we need to live an abundant, fulfilling, Christ honoring life. Notice just as **grace-peace** came from intimate knowledge of Jesus, so do **life- Godliness**; it's through Him- **Col 1:19**.

### V4-9

- Included among the things that God has provided to promote a life of Godliness are His exceedingly great and precious promises. Here are a few
  1. Grace that is sufficient **2 Cor 12:9**
  2. Peace that's beyond understanding **Philip 4:6-7**
  3. Strength needed to overcome **Philip 4:13**
  
- All these things help us to escape the corruption of the world and to add to our faith. Because God has given to us all that's necessary for a divine life we must be diligent to cultivate it (due diligence- maximum effort)
  1. **Virtue**- spiritual courage before a hostile world
  2. **Knowledge**- understanding of spiritual truth
  3. **Self control**- a life of discipline- the root word is disciple **Prov 16:32**
  4. **Patience**- to withstand trials in a way that honors God
  5. **Godliness**- worship that's not just well meaning, but properly done.
  6. **Brotherly kindness**- a genuine love, demonstrated by sacrifice
  7. **Love**- Love for the brethren leads to love for all mankind
  
- Paul had already demonstrated a love for people that caused him to put himself in harms way, but **Rom 9:3**- takes the cake. Love for the saints also produces a love for the (aints). If you don't want to be useless and unfruitful, Peter says then overflow in these 7 characteristics.
  
- Just as people who are nearsighted are unable to see distant objects, spiritual shortsightedness is when people live for the present rather than the future, their so occupied with the material, that they neglect the spiritual. Shortsightedness eventually leads to 2 things
  - A. **Blindness**- you become blind to what is central in life
  - B. **Forgetfulness**- you go back to your old sins, those that caused the death of God's Son.

#### V10-15

- **2Cor 13:5**- tell us to examine ourselves and make sure were in the faith, Peter tells us to have full assurance that you're born again. Our call takes place when we are converted; my election took place before the world was made. Peter gives a prescription to keep us from stumbling, as he's speaking from experience.
  
- **V11** spiritual progress magnifies the promise of a richly blessed entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Peter knowing he's on borrowed time repeats the same thing 3 times, hmm sound familiar?
  1. Although you know these truth's, I won't be negligent to remind you
  2. As long as I'm alive, I'll stir you up by reminding you
  3. Arrangements will be made that when I'm dead you'll be reminded.
  
- Here's a man with 1 thing on his mind and that's live a life of Godliness by continuing to add to your faith. Notice faith was not included in the 7 characteristics, why? Because faith is our building foundation, and if you don't have the faith, it's no need in trying to apply the other 7, so faith was a given.