

2 Peter 1: 1-11

Introduction

Thank you to the elders for this opportunity to teach and to all of you for your faithfulness to be here. Let's pray.

Lord, give us ears to hear you with, minds to understand what you are telling us, and hearts with desires to obey you more. Amen.

A high view of scripture. The Bible as the inerrant, infallible, sufficient word of God. Jon believes that. Jon, for two decades now, has taught through entire books of the bible. Week in, week out, he brings God's truth to bear on our lives. Our elders have a high view of scripture as well. They work hard to guard the word, to teach and preach the word. As members at Grace, we would agree that Grace Baptist as a whole, and we, would claim individually, have a high view of scripture. But do we? Do we understand what God says? Possibly. Do we accept and believe what God says in His word. Maybe. Do we believe it enough to be obedient to it, even when it goes against our feelings? This week as I studied, I came to realize some very specific areas of my life that I professed knowing what God says, but my life didn't match what I said I believed. I am sure I am not alone in this. As we work through 2 Peter 1:1 - 11 see if you can pinpoint any areas in which you need to grow as well.

Turn in your Bibles to 2 Peter 1. We will work through the first 11 verses. There are three elements in these 11 verses.

1. A fuller understanding of salvation/faith, v. 1-4
2. Understanding what that faith should lead to, v. 5-9
3. So, what do I do now? v. 10-11

Understanding Salvation/Faith

(2 Peter 1:1-2 LSB)

"Simeon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received the same kind of faith as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in **the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;**

1. v.1 - 2 — Salvation given.
 - "Simeon Peter", Slave and Apostle (humility and dignity)
 - "have received" - passive - we don't get it, its given to us.
 - "same kind as ours" - humility and dignity for us as well
 - "by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ" — here is the gospel!

(1 Peter 1:3-5 LSB)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy **has caused us** to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, **having been kept** in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

(Ephesians 1:4–6, 8–9, 11 LSB)

“just as **He chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love, **by predestining us** to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which **He graciously bestowed** on us in the Beloved.”

“which **He caused** to abound to us in all wisdom and insight, **making known to us** the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Him”

“In Him, we also **have been made** an inheritance, **having been predestined** according to the purpose of **Him who works** all things according to the counsel of His will,”

(Colossians 3:10 LSB)

“and **have put on** the new man who **is being renewed** to a full knowledge according to the image of the One who created him”

- since you put on (enduō - middle passive, single event in the past) the new man, is being renewed (greek tense for renewed is present, passive, participle)

(Colossians 2:6-7 LSB)

“**Therefore as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him**, having been firmly rooted and being built up in Him, and having been established in your faith—just as you were instructed—and abounding with thanksgiving.”

(Philippians 2:12–13 LSB)

“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; for it is God who is at work in you**, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

— What do we know of salvation? It's passive, done to us by God. It's active.. we walk, we work out our salvation, our working out is God working in us. (mystery/its what it says it is)

This is the warning that salvation is not One and Done. It's not about a prayer you said, “Oh, I believe in Jesus”, or you got baptized 20 years ago. If your life doesn't match your profession, it raises questions about your profession. “You can't judge my heart, you can't see people's motives.” Warnings I hear a lot, and in a sense, it's true. But what does scripture say?

(John 14:15 LSB)

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

(1 John 2:3–4 LSB)

“And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;”

“Do not judge, so that you will not be judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with what measure you measure, it will be measured to you.”
(Matthew 7:1–2 LSB)

“You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, **and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.**”
(Matthew 7:5 LSB)

“You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.”
(Matthew 7:16–20 LSB)

“And He was telling this parable: “A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and did not find any. And he said to the vineyard-keeper, ‘Behold, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?’ And he answered and said to him, ‘Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in manure, and if it bears fruit next year, fine, but if not, cut it down.’”
(Luke 13:6–9 LSB)

bear fruit in keeping with repentance (Matt. 3:8. Luke 3:8, Acts 26:20)

(James 2:26 LSB) (14-26)

“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”

— gnosis - knowledge, basic

— epignosis - knowledge, full, precise, accurate **2 Peter 1:2, v.3, v.8**

— v.2 Grace and Peace is multiplied in the FULL KNOWLEDGE of God and Christ (knowing vs. knowing more fully. dating vs 20 years of marriage)

— what follows?

(2 Peter 1:3-4 LSB)

³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, **through the full knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence.

⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

v.3-4 His power for everything in life and godliness through FULL KNOWLEDGE of Christ

2. Here we get to the second point. Understanding what that faith should lead to, v. 5-9

(2 Peter 1:5-9 LSB)

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, 6 and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-

control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these things are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the **full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. 9 For in whom these things are not present, that one is blind, being nearsighted, having forgotten the purification from his former sins.

Verse 5. “Now for this very reason also,”
 — everything pertaining to life and godliness
 — granted us precious and magnificent promises
 — escaping corruption
 v.5 - 7. applying all diligence — make every effort!

Remember...God works in us (Philippians 2:12-13)

(2 Corinthians 3:4–6 LSB)

“And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. **Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves**, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

(Hebrews 4:15–16 LSB)

“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things like we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, **so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**”

(Ephesians 4:13, 15 LSB)

“until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ, (15) but speaking the truth in love, **we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head**, that is Christ,”

(Colossians 1:9–10 LSB)

“For this reason also, since the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that **you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, to please Him in all respects, **bearing fruit in every good work** and **multiplying in the full knowledge of God**,”

8 For if these things are yours and **are increasing**, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the **full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. (2 Peter 1:8 LSB)

— v.8 We can all point to moments where we can say, oh look, I have self control, or, hey on Monday I did everything on your to-do list Pam, can't I just “relax” (hear: be lazy) today? Oh I didn't overeat at Logan's where the rolls are so yummy on Tuesday, so it's okay if I do it at

Thanksgiving. I didn't quit on my homework yesterday, so quitting today must be okay, its been an exhausting day. Do you know what I had to do today?

No, v.8 says these things are yours and ARE INCREASING....making us useful and fruitful....key IN THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. As you grow in knowledge of Christ, these things will grow in you!

9 For in whom these things are not present, that one is blind, being nearsighted, having forgotten the purification from his former sins. (2 Peter 1:9 LSB)

— v.9 these things v.5 -7. Sometimes it can be easier to understand if we think about their opposite, so bear with me.

DILIGENCE — Lazy, careless, ignorant

MORAL EXCELLENCE/VIRTUE — immoral, evil, sinful, vice

KNOWLEDGE — ignorance

SELF CONTROL/TEMPERANCE — excess, overindulgence, lust, unrestraint

PERSEVERANCE — quitting, indifference, instability

GODLINESS — profane, impiety

BROTHERLY KINDNESS/AFFECTION — hostility, animosity, cruelty, malice, selfish

LOVE — Opposite of 1 Corinthians 13: Not patient, not kind, jealous, brags, arrogant, **(Doesn't act unbecomingly)** inappropriate for ones character or position (**my dad would have said, don't embarrass the name Stienbarger**), selfish, easily provoked, counts every wrong against them, celebrates (rejoices) sin (gluttony, what do you watch, what gets your attention), thinks the truth is boring, fails people.

As Voddie used to say, if you can't say amen, you better say ouch.

— not present, not increasing— WARNING — blind, nearsighted, forgotten purification. (Gospel Primer helps with not forgetting your purification from former sins.)

3. God is calling you today...

(2 Peter 1:10-11 LSB)

10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and choosing sure; **for in doing these things, you will never stumble;**

11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you."

v. 10 -11

— be more diligent

— in doing these things, you will never stumble

(Romans 8:28-30 LSB)

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many

brothers; and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified.”

God promises to finish what he starts. If you question what you see in yourself, ask some of the godly men and women around you here at Grace, someone who will tell you the truth in love (“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is Christ,” (Ephesians 4:15 LSB)...”hey, do you see diligence (or self-control, or perseverance, or godliness) in me, and do you see if they are increasing?” “Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is salvation.” (Proverbs 11:14 LSB)

Listen with open minds and open hearts. Then seek to change what God shows you.

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.” (Proverbs 27:6 LSB)

If you don’t see these things and that they are increasing, and others don’t either, take the warning. Seek Christ, repent, and ask God to work these things in you. Then get to work, trusting God to do it.

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⁶ and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,

⁷ and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

⁸ For if these things are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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