2Pe 1:1 ¶ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

*Clothed with Truth*

*Jesus is Saviour - Jesus is Lord - Jesus is God - Jesus is Our Righteousness*

*Imputed - Put to our account by grace through faith*

*Imparted --- Partakers of His Divine Nature added to our faith*

*The faith to be like Jesus in His Righteousness*

*The faith for all that you see in Christ to be fully developed in you*

*Having the character to withstand every trial and not be blind, barren, breakdown (ignorant to the truth- without right knowledge), unfruitful, fall*

“Whereby” channel of action – faith is the title deed of our hope

A revealed word from God II Peter 1:19 “A More sure word of Prophecy”

We have the written word

We have God’s word revealed to us and in us.

God’s word added to our faith, more than just what has been said or read but now revevealed.

1. Channel of Knowledge
   1. Know how to obtain faith through revelation by the Spirit
      1. Knowing Jesus Christ is the only Saviour

2Pe 1:1 ¶ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

* + 1. Knowing Jesus Christ our Saviour is our righteousness

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

De 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

Jer 23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jer 33:16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

Jer 51:10 The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.

1. Knowing Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour

2Pe 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2Pe 2:1 ¶ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

**3:2** That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

1. Called of God
   * + 1. 2Pe 1:1 ¶ Simon Peter, a servant
       2. an apostle of Jesus Christ,
       3. Peter knew that he had a responsibility to share the truth that God gave him Jn. 21:15-17
          1. Feeding, walking and sharing with other’s
          2. to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:
   1. 1:2 “through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord”
   2. 1:3 through the knowledge of him
      1. that hath called us to glory
      2. that hath called us to virtue
   3. through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ
      1. The Christian walk is introduced to us by what we hear and see in the saint, those of like precious faith, (see their faith in action)
      2. Our Christian walk begins by faith in Christ’s finished work on the cross.
      3. Our Christian walk continues by walking in the light of truth that has been revealed

Job 36:3 I will fetch my knowledge from afar, and will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.

1Co 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

2Pe 1:5 ¶ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Joh 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Joh 17:17 ¶ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

1Pe 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

I. THE GREAT SALVATION OF GOD, 1:1-21

A.  The Great Gift of Jesus our Lord: Salvation, 1:1-4

1. He is the Lord worthy of total devotion v.1

a. Servant

b. Apostle

c. Under Shepherd

d. Like precious faith Servants of servants of God (brothers)

2Pe 1:1 ¶ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our **Saviour** Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

1Pe 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. 10 ¶ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

2Pe 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

2  He is the Lord of faith v.1

  a.  A most precious faith v.1

  b.  Faith obtained, not earned with merit or own righteousness by grace - faith

  c.  Through the righteousness of God and Christ v.1

3  He is the Lord of grace and peace v.2

  a.  An abundance of both v.2

  b.  Through knowledge of Him v.2

4  He is the Lord of life and godliness v.3

  a.  An abundance: All things v.3

  b.  By His divine power v.3

  c.  Through knowledge of Him v.3

5  He is the Lord of the divine nature v.4

  a.  By His promises v.4

  b.  By His great Purpose:

1. The Purpose of the Lord is To escape corruption v.4

Ro 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

1. To conform to the Image of God’s Son

Ro 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

*If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy*

*way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed*

*thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.*

Song of Solomon 1:8

INTRODUCTION

She has been calling out to him, seeking after him, and longing for him. She desires to be near him.

**Song of Solomon 1:7**

Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

Her great longing is to be close to Him.

When God responds and begins to talk back to us, it is not always in the way that we expect to hear. Sometimes He speaks to us in a corrective manner and a rebuke instead of in blessing.

1. A Corrective Admonition –

“If Thou Know Not”

**John 14:9**

Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me,** Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

* 1. A Rebuke

The Lord rebukes us to help us. Usually His rebukes are not stinging, but mild. He is rebuking her because she should have known, she has been with him, and spoken with him. She is more thrilled with Him than the wine, but yet she says here, “Where are you? How can I find you?” Here in response to her request, he kindly rebukes her.

* 1. A Loving Rebuke

Hebrews 12:6

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

He rebukes us because He loves us. He rebukes her here not to hurt her, but to help her.

* 1. An Informing Rebuke

Sometimes people rebuke us and we don’t know why we are getting rebuked. But, he informs her that she should know, but is ignorant of the fact of where he is. She did not know because she had been slothful in her experience, but she **should have** known.

The Lord’s correction gets us in line to receive His blessing! There is some obligation before we get the blessing.

1. A Complimentary Acclamation –

“O Thou Fairest Among Women,”

Lest she faint, he has something nice to say to her. He loves her because there is much within her that he is pleased with even though there are things that he is not pleased with. We cannot overlook the finest little area because the Lord does not.

She has said to him, “I am black…like the tents of kedar.” Yet, he says to her, “O Thou Fairest Among Women.” How can he says this? The Lord can see our failures; is He pleased with our failures?

God sees us in the merits of His Son. The best we can do is not all that God expects.

* 1. Imputed Righteousness

He can say this because he has done something for her. When the glory of God is upon a person they are beautiful—beautiful character and life.

Imputed: *put down to your account*

If we are walking in the light according to His Word and are under His blood, He does not see our faults and failures, but He sees His Son. He sees us in Him not only as at the beginning, but as the completed product. Because she has accepted of His grace, He has put down to her account of His righteousness.

**Matthew 3:17**

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom **I am well pleased**.

**II Corinthians 5:21**

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that **we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

* 1. Imparted Righteousness

Is it enough to have His righteousness imputed to us? Is it enough to have His righteousness put down to our account and then we live any way we want to live?

THIS ACCOUNT IS GOOD **ONLY** AS I WALK IN THE LIGHT.

The account stays open only as you use it.

I John 1:7

But **if we walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**Philippians 4:13**

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

There is no problem that you have that Christ can’t deliver you from, but you have to want to be delivered from it. We **can**, but we don’t only because we **won’t**. **We must appropriate the benefits of Calvary**.

“Flesh is flesh no matter whose bones it’s stretched out on.”

Others are not my problem, but my own flesh is my problem. God wants to get us beyond the place that not only is there a daily experience of the impartation of His righteousness, but so that we may arrive at the point of perfection. He sees her in a completed state: “, *O thou fairest among women*…” (1:8)

1. A Commanding Advisement –

“Go Thy Way Forth by the Footsteps of the Flock”

She has been requesting some things from Him, and now He gives her some commanding advice.

**I John 5:3**

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

There are some things that the Lord is expecting from us. He has some commandments.

* 1. Progression – “Go Thy Way Forth”

There is a break down in the Pentecostal church because they are not taught that they have to grow up. There is a certain amount of pain involved in growing up, but it is worth it! There might be some pain, but go ahead and grow up.

Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith to faith**: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

* 1. Obedience – “By the Footsteps of the Flock”

If you can’t find your own way, follow the saints. Don’t follow the sinner, the wishy-washy, the mediocre, or those that are half in and half out, but follow those that are in the flock!

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter ye in at the **strait gate**: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because **strait is the gate**, and **narrow is the way**, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

She gives the impression of the thought, “Maybe there is a shortcut or loophole for me,” because of their exchange of affectionate terms. The answer to her question is, “No. Get in the path, and follow in the footsteps of the flock.” **There are no shortcuts to having God’s best.**

**I Corinthians 11:1**

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

John 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

1. A Conclusive Assignment –

“Feed Thy Kids”

She is never to be neglectful of those that are around her even while she is taking care of her own. He is talking about little lambs, not goats. Let the goats feed the goats.

* 1. Who is to Feed – We are to Feed Them

Everyone that has been saved has a responsibility to share their experience with others. If you neglect this responsibility you will suffer; if you fulfill the responsibility you will be happy. **There is nothing like sharing your experience with someone else**.

This is the best thing going:

The more you give away the more you have;

the more you try to keep the more you will lose.

Our salvation experience is multiplied in our giving of it. **Not just the preachers, but EVERY ONE of us have this responsibility**. You might not feed the ‘flock’, but you can at least feed the little fellas! They are just as important as the big ones because the little ones become big ones as you teach and train them.

* 1. Who is to be Fed – The Young Ones

The first thing the Lord said to Peter wasn’t “Go out and evangelize the world,” but was:

John 21:15

… Feed my lambs.

He wants us to start with the little fellas.

* 1. Where They are to be Fed – Beside the Shepherds' Tents

“Tents” (plural) is referring to the under shepherds and not the Great Shepherd.

We have to lead young ones; there is a lot of pasture out there that is not of the Lord. Lead them besides the shepherds’ tents that are walking in God’s pathway. Guide them in the truth, and to where they’ll get truth.

**If you know truth, then you have a responsibility to share that.**

There are wolves in sheep’s’ clothing that the young ones need to be sheltered from. There are all kinds of false shepherds. How do you tell a wolf from a sheep? Not by what he says, but by his motive and action: he wants something for **himself**.

CONCLUSION

John 3:30

He must increase, but I must decrease.

We need to get back to the simple plan and pattern of the Gospel. We need to live honestly, godly, and righteously.

You can’t tell the difference. You can’t even tell the difference between wheat and tares. You cannot always tell sheep from a wolf.

**Matthew 13:29**

But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

**I Timothy 2:19**

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his**. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

The Lord is going to make the separation. Let’s make sure that we are feeding and leading others in the pastures where they will be fed truth. There is an awful lot of confusion and mixture today.

**II Kings 4:40**

So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is **death in the pot**. And they could not eat thereof.

We need to have the pure, unadulterated Word of God—good, green grass, beside good, clear water. You lead others, and you lead yourself.

**There are no shortcuts.**