

2 Peter  
(Lesson 3)

Introduction:

1. (2 Peter 1:1-11) God has provided some special blessings for the benefit of His people.
  - a. (vs.3-4) He has provided what we need so we can be "*partakers of the divine nature*," including "*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*" and "*exceeding great and precious promises*."
  - b. (vs.5-11) He has provided "the Christian graces" to prevent His people from falling.
2. The 7 characteristics listed in vs.5-7 are to be added with "*all diligence*."
3. "*Faith*" is the foundation upon which the graces are to be developed.
4. In this lesson we are concentrating on the first of the Christian graces: "*virtue*."

Discussion:

- I. LET US DEFINE "*VIRTUE*"
  - A. In general, "*virtue*" is "moral goodness" [being morally good].
  - B. God's people are to be morally good, but "*virtue*" (2 Peter 1:5) goes further in that it involves "vigor, courage, and the determination to do what is right."
  - C. In this sense, "*virtue*" was illustrated by:
    1. David (1 Samuel 17:40-49)
    2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:13-18)
    3. Daniel (Daniel 6:10).
  - D. These illustrations of "*virtue*" help us appreciate the instructions given in Ephesians 6:10-13.
- II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES RELATING TO "*VIRTUE*"
  - A. Our actions show whether we possess "*virtue*" (Ruth 3:11).
  - B. Virtuous people are a blessing to others (Proverbs 12:4).
  - C. To grow in "*virtue*" we must think on the right things (Philippians 4:8).
- III. "*VIRTUE*" IS ADDRESSED IN PROVERBS 31
  - A. (vs.1-9) Lemuel's mother taught him to pursue "*virtue*."
    1. She taught him to practice "*virtue*" by:
      - a. forsaking sinful activities
      - b. pursuing righteous activities.
    2. Both would require courage and the determination to do what is right.
  - B. (vs.10-31) Lemuel's mother taught him to pursue "a woman of virtue."
    1. (vs.10) The value of a virtuous woman is "*far above rubies*."
    2. What makes her so valuable?
      - a. She has a special relationship with her husband (vs.11-12, 23).
      - b. She is industrious and works willingly (vs.13-14, 16, 18-19, 24).
      - c. She is diligent in looking after the welfare of her family (vs.15, 21, 27).
      - d. She is strong, honorable, wise, and kind (vs.17, 22, 25-26).
      - e. She assists the needy (vs.20).
    3. Because she is so valuable, she deserves to be praised (vs.28-31).

Conclusion:

1. We are to give "*all diligence*" in developing "the Christian graces."
2. Faith is the foundation upon which we develop them.
3. To our faith we are to add "*virtue*" [courage, the determination to do what is right].
4. With "*virtue*" we will have the commitment necessary for adding the other graces.