

2 Peter
(Lesson 4)

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. Review:
 - a. "*Faith*" is the foundation upon which these graces are to be added.
 - b. "*Virtue*" [courage and the determination to do what is right] is the first grace.
4. In this lesson we are concentrating on the second of the Christian graces: "*knowledge.*"

Discussion:

I. LET US DEFINE "*KNOWLEDGE*"

- A. In general, "*knowledge*" is "knowing something" [being aware of facts].
- B. God's people are to be knowledgeable in this general sense, but "*knowledge,*" in 2 Peter 1:5, is "moral wisdom, such as seen in right living" (Colossians 1:9-10).

II. THE BIBLE CONTAINS NUMEROUS WARNINGS THAT RELATE TO "*KNOWLEDGE*"

- A. A lack of "*knowledge*" will cause God's people to be destroyed (Hosea 4:6).
- B. Zeal without "*knowledge*" does not please God (Romans 10:1-3).
- C. "*Knowledge*" without love does not edify (1 Corinthians 8:1-2).
- D. We must avoid Solomon's mistake.
 1. God blessed Solomon with great wisdom (1 Kings 3:9-12).
 2. Unfortunately, Solomon forsook his wisdom (1 Kings 11:1-8).
- E. These warnings should impress us with the importance of gaining and retaining "*knowledge.*"

III. SOME ESSENTIALS FOR GAINING "*KNOWLEDGE*"

- A. We must desire to gain "*knowledge*" (1 Peter 2:1-2).
- B. We must actively pursue "*knowledge*" (Matthew 7:7-8).
- C. Reading and studying are essential; however, we must study with the intent of understanding the Lord's will (Ephesians 5:15-17).
- D. As we come in contact with the Scriptures we must practice the things that we learn (James 1:21-25).

Conclusion:

1. "*Virtue*" is "the determination to do what is right."
2. "*Knowledge*" enables us to know what is right so we can put it into practice.