

2 Peter

(Lesson 6)

Introduction:

1. In 2 Peter 1:1-11, some special blessings are revealed that God has provided 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:
 - 1) "*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*"
 - 2) "*exceeding great and precious promises.*"
 - b. (vs.5-11) He has provided "the Christian graces" to prevent His people from falling.
2. The 7 graces 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, the determination to do what is right] is the first grace.
 - c. "*Knowledge*" [moral wisdom, such as seen in right living] is the second grace.
 - d. "*Temperance*" [self-control, self-discipline, mastering the desires and passions, the ability to control one's own life] is the third grace.
4. In this lesson we are concentrating on the fourth of the Christian graces: "*patience.*"

Discussion:

- I. LET US DEFINE "*PATIENCE*"
 - A. One word in the New Testament that is translated "*patience*" refers to "forbearance" or "longsuffering" (James 5:7-8).
 - B. However, "*patience*" (2 Peter 1:6) refers to "endurance," "perseverance," "steadfastness," or "the ability to bear up under trials."
- II. WHY "*PATIENCE*" MUST BE DEVELOPED
 - A. Included in the instructions given in Romans 12 is the admonition to be "*patient in tribulation*" (vs.12).
 1. Christians are not immune to tribulation (Acts 14:22).
 2. Without "*patience*," tribulation can cause a person to fall away (Matthew 13:20-21).
 - B. (Luke 21:19) Jesus said: "*In your patience possess ye your souls.*"
- III. HOW "*PATIENCE*" IS DEVELOPED
 - A. "*Patience*" is developed as a result of going through "tribulation" (Romans 5:3).
 - B. Some important instructions relating to "*patience*" are given in:
 1. Romans 8:18
 2. 1 Corinthians 10:13
 3. Hebrews 4:14-16
 4. James 1:2-8, 12.
- IV. SOME BENEFITS OF DEVELOPING "*PATIENCE*"
 - A. "*Patience*" will help us while we wait for the reward we hope to receive (Romans 8:24-25).
 - B. "*Patience*" will help us in "bearing fruit" (Luke 8:15; John 15:8).
 - C. "*Patience*" will help us in our prayer lives (Psalm 40:1).
- V. BIBLE CHARACTERS WHO DEVELOPED "*PATIENCE*"
 - A. Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-3)
 - B. Job (James 5:11)