

2 Peter
(Lesson 9)

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 to 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. Each Christian is to give "*all diligence*" in adding the seven graces.
3. Review:
 - a. "*Faith*" is the foundation upon which the 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] is the third grace.
 - e. "*Patience*" [endurance, perseverance, steadfastness] is the fourth grace.
 - f. "*Godliness*" [reverence or respect toward God] is the fifth grace.
 - g. "*Brotherly kindness*" [an affectionate kind of love that God's children are to have for one another as brothers and sisters] is the sixth grace.
4. In this lesson we are concentrating on the seventh grace: "*charity.*"

Discussion:

- I. LET US DEFINE "*CHARITY*" [LOVE]
 - A. "*Charity*" is a special kind of love that "seeks what is best for other people in all situations."
 - B. The Bible teaches us to have this kind of love for:
 1. one another (John 13:34-35; 15:17)
 2. neighbors (Matthew 22:39; 7:12; Romans 13:8-10)
 3. enemies (Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:20-21).
 - C. Since "*charity*" is so important in Christianity, let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. PASSAGES THAT DESCRIBE AND EXPLAIN "*CHARITY*"
 - A. "*Charity*" is to be "true and genuine" (Romans 12:9a).
 - B. "*Charity*" is "active" (1 John 3:18).
 - C. "*Charity*" is to affect everything we do (1 Corinthians 16:14).
 - D. 15 characteristics of "*charity*" are listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.
 1. 8 negative characteristics:
 - a. "*Charity*" does not envy [is not jealous].
 - b. "*Charity*" does not vaunt itself [does not brag or boast].
 - c. "*Charity*" is not puffed up [arrogant].
 - d. "*Charity*" does not behave itself unseemly [act in a way unbecoming of a child of God].
 - e. "*Charity*" does not seek its own [have to have its own way].
 - f. "*Charity*" is not easily provoked.
 - g. "*Charity*" does not think evil [does not take into account a wrong suffered].
 - h. "*Charity*" does not rejoice in iniquity [unrighteousness].
 2. 7 positive characteristics:
 - a. "*Charity*" suffers long [is patient].
 - b. "*Charity*" is kind.
 - c. "*Charity*" rejoices in the truth.
 - d. "*Charity*" bears all things.
 - e. "*Charity*" believes all things.
 - f. "*Charity*" hopes all things.
 - g. "*Charity*" endures all things.
 - E. "*Charity*" is even greater than "faith" and "hope" (1 Corinthians 13:13).