

2 Peter
(Lesson 11)

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 have for one another as brothers and sisters] is the sixth grace.
 - h. "*Charity*" [love that seeks what is best for other people in all situations] is the seventh grace.
4. (vs.8-11) We are shown why developing these graces is so important.
5. In our last lesson we examined the information presented in vs.9.
 - a. (vs.9a) One who fails to develop these graces has a vision problem [he is "*blind*" and "*cannot see afar off*"].
 - b. One who fails to develop these graces has a memory problem [he has "*forgotten that he was purged from his old sins*"].
6. In this lesson we are concentrating on the positive information presented in vs.8, 10-11.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.8) ONE WHO DEVELOPS THESE GRACES WILL BE FRUITFUL IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST
 - A. The Lord wants His followers to bear fruit (John 15:8).
 - B. To bear fruit we must hear the Lord's Word correctly (Matthew 13:8, 23).
 - C. The Lord's Word teaches us to develop these graces -- by doing so we will be fruitful in the knowledge of Christ.
- II. (vs.10) ONE WHO DEVELOPS THESE GRACES WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL
 - A. The Bible teaches that a child of God can fall.
 1. The rocky soil illustrates this principle (Matthew 13:20-21).
 2. Also, see 1 Corinthians 10:12; Galatians 5:4; 2 Peter 2:20-21.
 - B. However, by developing these graces we make our calling and election sure -- we won't fall.
- III. (vs.11) ONE WHO DEVELOPS THESE GRACES WILL BE BLESSED WITH A HOME IN HEAVEN
 - A. The Lord will bless His faithful servants (Matthew 25:20-23; Revelation 2:10).
 - B. Heaven is described in Revelation 21:1-4.

Conclusion:

1. After revealing the graces (vs.5-7), Peter showed why we must develop them (vs.8-11).
2. Let us examine ourselves to determine if we are diligently complying with the Lord's instructions (2 Corinthians 13:5a; 10:12, 18).