

2 Peter
(Lesson 1)

Introduction:

1. The apostle Peter wrote 2 of the 21 New Testament letters.
2. This lesson is a study of the information presented in 2 Peter 1:1-11.
3. As we examine this text of Scripture, let us first consider several . . .

Discussion:

- I. INTRODUCTORY MATTERS (vs.1-2)
 - A. (vs.1a) Simon Peter was the inspired writer.
 1. He was *"a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ."*
 2. In writing this letter Peter was fulfilling his responsibility to teach the Lord's followers to observe everything the Lord had taught him (Matthew 28:19-20).
 - B. (vs.1b-2) Peter wrote this letter to Christians.
 1. Peter's primary purpose for writing was to encourage Christians to remain faithful to the Lord (3:17).
 2. He placed special emphasis on remembering certain things (1:12-15; 3:1-2).
- II. GOD HAS GIVEN CHRISTIANS WHAT WE NEED TO BE *"PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE"* (vs.3-7)
 - A. (vs.3) He has given us *"all things that pertain unto life and godliness."*
 - B. (vs.4) He has given us *"exceeding great and precious promises."*
 - C. (vs.5-7) He has given us characteristics ["the Christian graces"] that we must develop.
 1. Each Christian is to develop these graces with *"all diligence."*
 2. *"Faith"* is the foundation upon which we are to add these special graces (Hebrews 11:6).
 3. The graces include:
 - a. *"virtue"*
 - 1) In general, virtue is "moral goodness."
 - 2) In this passage it refers to "courage and the determination to do what is right."
 - b. *"knowledge"*
 - 1) In general, knowledge is "being aware of facts."
 - 2) In this passage it refers to "moral wisdom, such as seen in right living."
 - 3) It enables us to know what is right so we can put it into practice.
 - c. *"temperance"*: self-control, self-discipline
 - d. *"patience"*: endurance, perseverance, steadfastness, the ability to bear up under trials
 - e. *"godliness"*: reverence or respect toward God, piety
 - f. *"brotherly kindness"*: brotherly love, love that Christians cherish for each other as brothers and sisters (Romans 12:10a)
 - g. *"charity [love]"*: a special kind of love that "seeks what is best for other people in all situations" (John 13:34-35).
- III. PETER SHOWED WHY DEVELOPING THESE GRACES IS ESSENTIAL (vs.8-11)
 - A. (vs.9) Those who fail to develop the graces have:
 1. a vision problem -- they are spiritually blind and shortsighted
 2. a memory problem -- they have forgotten they were purified (1 Peter 1:22-23).
 - B. Those who develop the graces with all diligence:
 1. will be fruitful in the knowledge of Christ (vs.8)
 2. will remain faithful (vs.10)
 3. will be blessed with a home in heaven (vs.11).

Conclusion:

1. Developing the Christian graces will produce great results.
2. Let us give all diligence to developing and increasing virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity.