

Monday 5/25

Related Verses**1 Peter 1:2**

2 Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

1 Pet. 2:24

24 Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.

1 Pet. 3:18

18 For Christ also has suffered once for sins, the Righteous on behalf of the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, on the one hand being put to death in the flesh, but on the other, made alive in the spirit;

Eph. 1:3-6, 9-10

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;

9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,

10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

1 Pet. 1:10, 12, 15

10 Concerning this salvation the prophets, who prophesied concerning the grace that was to come unto you, sought and searched diligently,

12 To them it was revealed that not to themselves but to you they ministered these things, which have now been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, which things angels long to look into.

15 But according to the Holy One who called you, you yourselves also be holy in all your manner of life;

Suggested Reading

In his two Epistles of only eight chapters Peter has covered the entire economy of God, from eternity past before the foundation of the world (1 Pet. 1:2, 20) to the new heavens and new earth in eternity future (2 Pet. 3:13). He unveils the crucial things related to God's economy, which the prophets prophesied and the apostles preached (1 Pet. 1:10-12), from four sides as follows: [from the side of the Triune God, of the believers, of Satan, and of the universe].

From the side of the Triune God, God the Father has chosen a people in eternity according to His foreknowledge (1 Pet. 1:1-2; 2:9) and has called them to His glory (1 Pet. 5:10; 2 Pet. 1:3). Christ, foreknown by God before the foundation of the world, but manifested in the last times, has redeemed God's chosen people (1 Pet. 1:18-19, 2) by His vicarious death (1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18) through His resurrection in life and ascension in power (1 Pet. 1:3; 3:21-22). The Spirit, sent from heaven, has sanctified and purified those whom Christ has redeemed (1 Pet. 1:2, 12, 22; 4:14). (Life-study of 2 Peter, pp. 116-117)

First Peter 1:2 shows us the working of the Divine Trinity...the foreknowledge of God the Father, the sanctification of the Spirit, and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ [the Son]. The Father as the source foreknew us...[Then] the Spirit came to sanctify us...to separate us and bring us back to God. This is the aspect of the Holy Spirit's sanctification before Christ's redemption. Then there is the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son, indicating Christ's redemption. The sanctification of the Spirit is divided into three stages. The first is for our repentance, the second is for our justification, and the third is for our transformation. In the book of Romans Christ's redemption is revealed first and then the Holy Spirit's sanctification. But in 1 Peter 1:2 the sanctification of the Spirit is first, and then the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ follows this sanctification. This is why we need to see the different aspects and stages of the sanctification of the Spirit.

In Luke 15 the Lord Jesus told three parables...These three parables reveal the Divine Trinity. The Son is the good shepherd, the Holy Spirit is the seeking woman, and God the Father is the loving and receiving father...The seeking woman lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and seeks

carefully until she finds her lost coin (vv. 8, 10, 17). This typifies the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. He enlightens us from within and searches out our sins one by one that we may know our sins and repent.

Before we received the Lord, we were living in the world with the worldly people. But one day the Spirit came to find us...He sanctified us, separated us unto God, before we were forgiven of our sins and justified by God the Father. His sanctifying work separated us unto God so that we would come to ourselves (v. 17), repent, and turn to God (Acts 26:20).

The seeking of the woman in Luke 15 typifies the initial sanctification of the Spirit, which is the sanctification of the Spirit revealed in 1 Peter 1:2. Thus, we can see that 1 Peter 1:2 unveils the divine economy through the operation of the trinity of the Godhead for the believers' participation in the Triune God. God the Father's selection is the initiation; God the Spirit's sanctification carries out the selection of God the Father; and God the Son's redemption, signified by the sprinkling of His blood, is the completion. (Living in and with the Divine Trinity, pp. 37-38)

Corporate Reading of "The Christian Life" Chapter 17
– **Sections:** *The Anointing Spirit—The Compound Spirit With All His Ingredients (Elements) Becoming The Anointing Ointment For The Anointing Of All The Things And Persons That Are Of God And For God*

Tuesday 5/26

Related Verses**2 Peter 1:3-4**

3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,

4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

1 Peter 5:10

10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a

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little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

Rom 8:18-19, 28-30

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed upon us.

19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.

2 Pet. 3:18

18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and unto the day of eternity. Amen.

Suggested Reading

At the beginning of his second Epistle Peter speaks concerning the divine provision. He tells us that the divine power has granted us and even imparted to us all things related to life and godliness in order that we may partake of the divine nature. Furthermore, according to chapter one of 2 Peter, the divine provision gives us not only the divine life but also the divine light (v. 19).

At the end of his first Epistle Peter says, “But the God of all grace, who called you into His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you” (5:10). Here Peter indicates that we shall be grounded in God Himself. Then at the end of his second Epistle Peter says, “But grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (3:18). Here the knowledge of our Lord is equal to the truth, the reality of all that He is. Therefore, in this verse Peter charges us to grow in grace and in truth, reality. Although Peter covers many matters in his Epistles, the basic structure of his writings is the Triune God becoming our grace that we may enjoy Him, grow in life, and through the growth in life be perfected, established, strengthened,

and grounded in the Triune God. (Life-study of Jude, pp. 27-28)

Second Peter 1:1 speaks of the equally precious faith allotted to us, which is the same faith that Peter had. Then verse 3 speaks of the divine power within us, which has granted to us all things which relate to life within and godliness without, and verse 4 speaks of precious and exceedingly great promises. Finally, verse 4 says that we are partakers of the divine nature. If we have these six items—precious faith, divine power, life, godliness, precious promises, and the divine nature—what else could we desire?

We can never be rid of this precious faith within us. When we are under trials and temptations, we may say that it is no good to try to be a Christian. We simply cannot make it, so we try to drop being a Christian. However, we cannot drop it. We may try to drop the Lord, but He will not drop us; the precious faith grabs hold of us. Because there is something living within us, which is precious faith, the more we try to drop the Lord, the more He lays hold of us. This is truly mysterious. This precious faith within us is the strongest confirmation that we have been chosen by God.

It is from this living faith within us that we have the divine power. Today many people are seeking the outward power of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. However, real power is not outward but inward. We may illustrate this with atomic power. Atomic power is not merely outward; it is contained within even the poorest natural materials. Within us there is a divine “atomic” power. This divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness. Life is the content within, and godliness is our living without.

We have everything we need. God takes care of us in such a full and complete way. He knows our true condition, so He gives us many precious promises that through them we might become partakers of His divine nature to be the same as He is in nature. How wonderful this is! (A General Sketch of the New Testament in the Light of Christ and the Church, Part 3: Hebrews through Jude, p. 333)

Corporate Reading of “The Christian Life” Chapter 17 – Sections: The Spirit—The Consummated Spirit Of

The Processed And Consummated Triune God As The Consummation Of The Triune God; The Spirit And The Bride; The Christian Life

Wednesday 5/27

Related Verses

1 Peter 1:3-5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 Unto an inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, kept in the heavens for you,

5 Who are being guarded by the power of God through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time;

2 Peter 1:11

11 For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly and bountifully supplied to you.

Heb. 11:1

1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb. 12:1-2a

1 Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and run with endurance the race which is set before us,

2a Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith,

2 Pet. 1:1

1 Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have been allotted faith equally precious as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

2 Pet. 3:13

13 But according to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Suggested Reading

[Of the four crucial things related to God’s economy, the second is from the side of the believers.] The believers, as God’s possession, were chosen by God (1 Pet. 1:1-2; 2:9), called by His glory and virtue (1 Pet. 2:9; 3:9; 2 Pet. 1:3, 10), redeemed by Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19), regenerated

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by God through His living word (1 Pet. 1:3, 23), and saved through the resurrection of Christ (1 Pet. 3:21). They now are being guarded by the power of God (1 Pet. 1:5), are being purified to love one another (1 Pet. 1:22), are growing by feeding on the milk of the word (1 Pet. 2:2), are developing in life the spiritual virtues (2 Pet. 1:5-8), and are being transformed and built up into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to serve God (1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9). They are God's chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, and peculiar people for His private possession to express His virtues (1 Pet. 2:9). They are being disciplined by His governmental judgment (1 Pet. 1:17; 2:19-21; 3:9, 14, 17; 4:6, 12-19; 5:6, 9), are living a holy life in an excellent manner and in godliness to glorify Him (1 Pet. 1:15; 2:12; 3:1-2), are ministering as good stewards of His varied grace for His glorification through Christ (1 Pet. 4:10-11) (under the elders' exemplary shepherding — 1 Pet. 5:1-4), and are expecting and hastening the coming of the Lord (1 Pet. 1:13; 2 Pet. 3:12) in order to be richly supplied with an entrance into the eternal kingdom of the Lord (1:11). Further, they are expecting the new heavens and new earth, in which righteousness dwells, in eternity (v. 13), and they are growing continually in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (v. 18). (2 Pet. 3:16, footnote 2)

[First Peter 1:1-2:11 reveals that] God in eternity past selected us according to His foreknowledge to be His chosen people....God selected us for a purpose,...that God would put Himself into us as our life so that we may grow with Him into a building, His dwelling place....Furthermore, this building becomes God's expression to "tell out the virtues of Him" as the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9). To tell out God's virtues is to express what He is. This is God's purpose. This is also God's goal.

If God would fulfill His purpose and reach His goal, He needs to apply to us what He decided in eternity past. In order to do this, it is necessary for God to be the Spirit. It is the Spirit who applies to us what God has decided. Moreover, because His chosen people had become fallen, it became necessary for God to accomplish redemption....In 1 Peter we see that the Spirit applies God's decision to us, the Son redeems us, and the Father regenerates us (1:3)....God entered into us as the divine

life containing the divine "genes" to regenerate us. Now that we have been regenerated, we may taste that the Lord is good (2:3). (Life-study of Jude, p. 30)

Faith [2 Peter 1:1] may be compared to a root, and the divine power [v.3], to a sprout. Then out of this comes a tree with fruit, which are the virtues which grow out of faith. Verse 5 speaks of adding, bringing in beside. This means that beside the six items in verses 1 through 4—precious faith, divine power, life, godliness, precious promises, and the divine nature—we must add all the virtues in verses 5 through 7. By the divine power and divine nature, virtue grows out as the issue of faith....This growth begins from faith and issues in love, like the growth of the tree of life. (A General Sketch of the New Testament in the Light of Christ and the Church, Part 3: Hebrews through Jude, p. 334)

Corporate Reading of "The Overcoming Life" Chapter 1 – Sections: *Our Experience; The Life That God Has Ordained For A Christian; Eight Types Of Failure In A Christian; Spiritual Sins*

Thursday 5/28

Related Verses

1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be sober; watch. Your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour.

9 Him withstand, being firm in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being accomplished among your brotherhood in the world.

2 Peter 3:7-13

7 But the heavens and the earth now, by the same word, have been stored up for fire, being kept unto the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 But do not let this one thing escape you, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day.

9 The Lord does not delay regarding the promise, as some count delay, but is long-suffering toward you, not intending that any perish but that all advance to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the elements, burning with intense heat, will be dissolved, and the earth and the works in it will be burned up.

11 Since all these things are to be thus dissolved, what kind of persons ought you to be in holy manner of life and godliness,

12 Expecting and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved, and the elements, burning with intense heat, are to be melted away?

13 But according to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Suggested Reading

[Of the four crucial things related to God's economy, the third is from the side of Satan.] Satan is the believers' adversary, the Devil, as a roaring lion walking about, seeking someone to devour (1 Pet. 5:8).

[The fourth is from the side of the universe.] The fallen angels were condemned for eternal judgment (2 Pet. 2:4); the ancient ungodly world was destroyed by a flood (2 Pet. 2:5; 3:6); the ungodly cities were reduced to ashes (2 Pet. 2:6); the false teachers and heretical mockers in the apostasy and the living mankind will all be judged unto destruction (2 Pet. 2:1, 3, 9-10, 12; 3:3-4, 7; 1 Pet. 4:5); the heavens and the earth will be burned up (2 Pet. 3:7, 10, 11); and all the dead men and the demons will be judged (1 Pet. 4:5). Then the new heavens and the new earth will come as a new universe, in which God's righteousness will dwell for eternity (2 Pet. 3:13). (Life-study of 2 Peter, p. 118)

We need to see the central focus of [1 and 2 Peter and Jude]....In 1 Peter actually only one and a half chapters are crucial in relation to life.... [This includes] all of chapter one and the first eleven verses of chapter two. In addition, we need to regard Peter's word in 5:10 as crucial....We have a similar situation in...2 Peter. In this book the first half of the first chapter and the last verse of the last chapter are crucial in relation to life. In these vital portions of 1 and 2 Peter we have the central focus of these Epistles.

In 1 Peter 1:2 we see the foreknowledge of God the Father, the sanctification of the Spirit, and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. This verse reveals the Father's foreknowledge, the Son's redemption, and the Spirit's application. This is the operation of the Triune God to carry out God's full salvation. In verse 3 Peter says that the Father has regenerated us unto a living hope. The full salvation of God is composed of three elements: the

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Father's regeneration, the Son's redemption, and the Spirit's application. When we experience this salvation, we have a life that is characterized by holiness and love. We are holy in our manner of life, and we love the brothers. Therefore, holiness and love are the issue of God's full salvation. Furthermore, in this salvation there is a seed, the incorruptible seed, which is the living and abiding word of God. This is a simple sketch of chapter one of 1 Peter.

Let us now go on to consider 1 Peter 2:1-11. Having been regenerated, we are now newborn babes longing for the guileless milk of the word so that by it we may grow unto salvation (v. 2). In chapter one we see that we have been regenerated and that the full salvation of God is our portion. Now we need to partake of and enjoy this salvation. For this, we need to feed on the milk of the word.

By feeding on the guileless milk of the word and by growing unto salvation, we shall be transformed into precious stones. Therefore, Peter refers to the believers as living stones (v. 5). These stones are for the building up of a spiritual house, and this house is a holy priesthood: "You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, into a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (v. 5). On the one hand, this spiritual house is God's dwelling place; on the other hand, it is something that tells forth the virtues of God, that expresses what God is [v.9]. This spiritual house, of course, is a corporate matter. We are being built up together in a corporate way to afford God a dwelling place and to tell forth God's virtue, that is, to express Him. (*Life-study of Jude*, pp. 38-40)

Corporate Reading of "The Overcoming Life"
Chapter 1 – Sections: Sins of the Flesh; Sins of the Mind; Sins in the Body

Friday 5/29

Related Verses

1 Peter 3:3-4

3 Let your adorning not be the outward plaiting of hair and putting on of gold or clothing with garments,

4 But the hidden man of the heart in the incorruptible adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, which is very costly in the sight of God.

1 Peter 4:14

14 If you are reproached in the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1 Peter 1:11, 23

11 Searching into what time or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ in them was making clear, testifying beforehand of the sufferings of Christ and the glories after these.

23 Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God.

1 Peter 2:2-3, 5, 9

2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,

3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Suggested Reading

[Peter unveils that the] Triune God is our portion. This fact is indicated by the word "partakers" in 2 Peter 1:4. According to this verse, we have become partakers of the divine nature. This indicates that the Triune God is now our portion. If God were not our portion, we could not partake of His nature.

In his writings Peter also reveals the way for us to partake of the Triune God as our portion. The way involves the hidden man of the heart, and this hidden man is our spirit (1 Pet. 3:4). In his Epistles Paul has much to say concerning our spirit, but he does not use the expression "the hidden man of the heart." This hidden man, our human spirit, is the means by which we enjoy the Triune God as our portion.

Although Peter speaks of God's Spirit only a few times, his terminology is marvelous. In 1 Peter 4:14 he says, "If you are reproached in the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."...The Spirit of glory is the Spirit of God. Peter also speaks concerning the Spirit of Christ (1 Pet. 1:11). Our

human spirit as the hidden man of the heart and God's Spirit as the Spirit of glory and as the Spirit of Christ are the means for us to partake of God as our portion. (*Life-study of Jude*, p. 26)

We have pointed out that the Epistles of Peter are on the subject of God's government, in particular on God's governmental dealings through judgment. This is the central subject of these two books. Nevertheless, the structure of 1 and 2 Peter is the Triune God, who has been processed to become our portion so that we may participate in Him, partake of Him, and enjoy Him through His Spirit, who is the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of glory, and by the exercise of our spirit.

I encourage you to study all the details in the Epistles of Peter. However, as you study these details, do not be distracted from the central thought and the basic structure of God's holy writings in general and the Epistles of Peter in particular. The basic structure is the Triune God who has been processed to become our all-inclusive portion. We enjoy Him by exercising our spirit to cooperate with and respond to the divine Spirit. We should never forget this basic structure or be distracted from it. If we hold firmly to the basic thought and the basic structure as we study all the other points in the writings of Peter, we shall be enriched and we shall experience the Triune God in a very rich, absolute, and detailed way.

The three Epistles of 1 and 2 Peter and Jude cover many points. But the basic structure of these Epistles is the Triune God operating on His elect that they may be brought into the full enjoyment of the Triune God. Both Peter and Jude indicate strongly that the Triune God has passed through a process in order to do many things for us and to become everything to us that we may partake of Him for our enjoyment.

As we study the details of the Epistles of Peter and Jude, we need to remember that all the detailed points help us to solve our problems so that we may be brought back to the enjoyment of the Triune God. Therefore, we should not consider the details in a detached way. Every point is a help in solving our problems so that we would not be distracted further from the enjoyment of the Triune God, but instead be brought back to this enjoyment. (*Life-study of Jude*, pp. 27-28)

Corporate Reading of “*The Overcoming Life*”
Chapter 1 – Sections: *Sins in Disposition; No Willingness to Obey God’s Word*

Saturday 5/30

Related Verses

2 Peter 3:15-16

15 And count the long-suffering of our Lord to be salvation, even as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you,

16 As also in all his letters, speaking in them concerning these things, in which some things are hard to understand, which the unlearned and unstable twist, as also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Eph. 4:13-16

13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,

15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

2 Cor. 3:6

6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Cor. 5:9-10

9 Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.

10 For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

Paul in his writings also speaks “these things” [2 Pet. 3:16]...Hence, Peter refers to Paul’s writings to strengthen his writings, especially concerning God’s governmental and disciplinary judgment upon the believers. Paul also strongly and repeatedly emphasizes this matter in his writings (1 Cor. 11:30-32; Heb. 12:5-11; 2:3; 4:1; 6:8; 10:27-31, 39; 12:29; 1 Cor. 3:13-15; 4:4-5; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10).

What beauty and excellency are in this commendation! Although the Corinthians attempted to divide Peter and Paul according to their own divisive preference (1 Cor. 1:11-12), Peter commends Paul, and says that both of them teach the same things, “these things,” and that Paul’s writings should not be twisted, but be regarded as “the rest of the Scriptures” and receive the same respect as the Old Testament...Peter was bold in admitting that the early apostles, like John, Paul, and himself, although their style, terminology, utterance, aspects of their views, and presentations of their teachings differed one from another, participated in the same unique ministry, the ministry of the New Testament (2 Cor. 3:8-9; 4:1). Such a ministry ministers to people, as its focus, the all-inclusive Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God, who, after passing through the process of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, dispenses Himself through the redemption of Christ and by the operation of the Holy Spirit to His redeemed people as their unique portion of life, life supply, and everything, for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ, which will consummate in the full expression, the fullness, of the Triune God, according to the eternal purpose of the Father. (2 Pet. 3:16, footnote 2)

In 2 Peter 3:16 Peter says that the unlearned and unstable twist Paul’s writings and also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. This indicates that the mockers (2 Pet. 3:3) and their followers must have twisted the Scriptures and the apostles’ teachings.

According to the context, “destruction” in verse 16 refers not to eternal perdition, but to the punishment of the divine governmental discipline. (*Life-study of 2 Peter*, p. 119)

The heart of 1 Peter is the operation of the Triune God to carry out His threefold salvation, which includes regeneration, redemption, and application. We have

become God’s children through regeneration, and now we need to feed on His word in order to grow unto full salvation. Then we shall be transformed in order to be built together to provide God a dwelling place and to be His expression. For this purpose, the God of all grace will perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground us. Furthermore, according to 2 Peter 3:18, we need to grow in God’s grace and in the knowledge of Him. This is the focus of 1 and 2 Peter and...Jude.

[The] basic structure [of these books] is the Triune God operating to accomplish a threefold salvation so that we may be regenerated, that we may feed on His word, and that we may grow, be transformed, and be built up in order that He may have a dwelling place and that we may express Him.

This basic thought can also be seen in the Epistles of Paul...(2 Pet. 3:15-16). Paul also reveals that we may feed on the Lord and grow in order to be built up into a spiritual house so that God may have a corporate expression. Therefore, these two apostles ministered the same thing, but with somewhat different terminology. Both Peter and Paul had the same focus. I hope that none of us in the Lord’s recovery will be distracted from the central focus and the basic structure of the apostles’ ministry revealed in the New Testament. (*Life-study of Jude*, pp. 40-41)

Hymns, #1211

1

Given us, given us, God has given us
Precious faith, power divine, greatest promises.
We believed, we received, now we have all three;
By these we may grow unto maturity.

2

Precious faith in each saint, precious equally,
Precious faith holding us, holding ceaselessly.
Disagree or agree, still it holds us fast,
Day by day, eternally this faith shall last.

3

Power divine wrought in us is the source so great;

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Power divine is in us now to operate.
Hence will spring everything for our life within
And for godliness without, expressing Him.

4

Promises, promises, all God's called ones share;
Promises, given us, great and precious are.
These we take to partake of God's nature true,
Having thus escaped the world's corruption too.

5

Christ within, as the pow'r, in our spirit lives;
Christ without is the Word—all God's promises.
Now the key is that we daily contact both,
Calling, praying, reading to produce the growth.

6

Faith and pow'r, promises—these our full supply.
Diligence, diligence, let us now apply;
For if we, to these three, full attention show
From the seed of faith the fruit of love will grow.

7

In the growth from the seed many items come;
By this growth in the Lord fruitful we become.
For this we need to see what the Lord's begun,
Ne'er forgetful be nor blind to what He's done.

8

Diligence day by day will this growth insure;
Diligence thus will make our election sure.
When indeed with this seed we cooperate,
We're supplied the kingdom's entrance, rich and great.

9

For this growth, for this growth, Lord, ourselves we give,
By the faith, promises, and the pow'r to live.

Nothing more, nothing less, will our basis be
By Thy grace we will cooperate with Thee.

Lord's Day 5/31

Related Verses

2 Peter 1:4-11

4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

5 And for this very reason also, adding all diligence, supply bountifully in your faith virtue; and in virtue, knowledge;

6 And in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, endurance; and in endurance, godliness;

7 And in godliness, brotherly love; and in brotherly love, love.

8 For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he in whom these things are not present is blind, being shortsighted, having forgotten the cleansing of his past sins.

10 Therefore, brothers, be the more diligent to make your calling and selection firm, for doing these things you shall by no means ever stumble.

11 For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly and bountifully supplied to you.

Life Study Messages

Living in and with the Divine Trinity, ch. 4

Life-Study of 2 Peter, msg. 13

Life-Study of Jude, msgs. 4, 5