**Week of Nov 24, 2019**

**2 Peter 1:1-15**

**Key Verse:** “4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

(2 Peter 1:4)

**1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue****: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And\* beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh\* these things are blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten\* that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall\* never fall\*: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. 13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; 14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. 15 Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.**

**Understanding the Scriptures**

When Peter wrote this epistle to the church, many Christians were being influenced by false teachers. False teachers are often subtle and deceitful, able to deceive good Christians with their unbiblical doctrine, heresy, and cult activity. The first thing that Peter encouraged the people to do was to seek to know God better by putting forth great effort. Many people want God’s favor and provisions, but they do not want to get closer to Him by attending Bible study, seriously praying, and living right. Only though a closer relationship with God will people be able to understand the power and authority that God has, and how they have access to that same power and authority.

Peter emphasized the point that true faith should lead to greater growth and deeper understanding of spiritual things. To grow in Christian faith, believers must focus on goodness (moral excellence), knowledge (discernment of what is right versus what is wrong), self-control (the inners strength to control one’s desires), perseverance (having the courage to deal with difficult times), godliness (reverence and obedience), brotherly kindness (relationship of love, bearing one another’s burdens), and love (deliberate desire for the highest good of the person loved). Christian who do work to develop their faith in these areas will be able to live effective and productive lives. Christians who do not develop their faith in these areas are more likely to be influenced by false teachings. Peter wanted Christians to take his advice seriously and put in the work that was necessary to build their relationship with God. Versus 10 states to “confirm your calling and elections.” As Christians begin to see positive changes in their lives, this evidence should reassure them that God called them to Himself.

Peter made a commitment to remind the early Christians about the things they needed to do to grow spiritually. Christians must continue to practice and refine those things that are necessary to live an effective and productive life in God,

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