

“Standing Firm in the Grace of God Series”

Lesson #1 “True Knowledge Leads to Growth”

2 Peter 1:1-15

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:17-18 “You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of Unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

Introduction:

A bishop of a century ago pronounced from his pulpit and in the periodical he edited that heavier-than-air flight was impossible.

It seem as though the discussion about whether flying was possible had been on the table. I still laugh as I see these early flight machines on TV don't you?

The bishop went on to add that the idea of flying was also contrary to the will of God and should not even be attempted.

Well the bishop went on to have two sons can you name them?

-Orville & Wilbur Wright the pioneers of modern aviation

*Wright was wrong. Sure of himself, but wrong.

*[Robert P. Dungan, Jr., Winning the New Civil War, p. 38.](#)

Have you ever, been hooked up with some bad information and proceed to do something and maybe you worked at it for a short time or even years and then found out it was wrong and all of your work and effort was in vain. What an irritation right? What a waste of time too.

Transitional Statement:

Church God wants us to have spiritual success for ourselves and His kingdom work, so He has provided us with the correct information which is the Truth of His Word. We must be vigilant to the fact that false thinking about God is prevalent in our society and we must focus in on God's Word lest we end up teaching in vain the doctrines of men.

Lesson:

I. Grace and peace increase in us through knowledge of God and Jesus

2 Peter 1:1-2

1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord”

A. Peter opens this letter by explaining that he is a bond-servant / slave of Jesus Christ.

1. Now it is important to remember that slaves don't carry out their own wants and desires but they live their lives engaged in the will of their masters.
2. And as an Apostle Peter is a commissioned messenger of Christ, an ambassador of the Gospel a delegate of the Most High.

* In other words this message is from God and we should listen carefully.

B. And in Verse 2 we see the idea that God's grace and peace should be increasing in us.

1. Grace has different meanings through out the New Testament but basically it has to do with God's favor toward us and it includes the blessings and privileges that He gives us. So here Peter says that God's favor and its effects which are peace, quietness, rest and tranquility are to be increased through knowledge of God and Jesus.
2. The Grace of God is not meant to be static or stuck in one place not moving, but the idea is that the more we grow in Christ the more God can put his favor upon us to carry out His will.

-In other words God wants us to be growing, growing, growing!

3. And our text says this growth happens through knowledge of God and Jesus.

-Interestingly enough the word “Knowledge” is the Greek word (ep-ig'-no-sis), and it includes more than simple awareness or understanding.

*This knowledge also includes:

-A thorough participation in acquiring it.

-It includes personal involvement and ownership.

-So i.e. knowledge of God becomes like a water facet, when we learn more about God we open the divine facet allowing His grace to pour forth in our lives.

4. Which means that we have something to do with the measure of God's Grace.

*Its scary to realize that we can and do sometimes do limit God's grace in our lives.

*And ultimately Jesus says where much is given much is expected. (Luke 12:48)

II. God gives us everything we need through true knowledge

2 Peter 1:3-4

3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

A. God has given us everything we need for:

1. Life
2. Godliness or spirituality

*Through the true knowledgethrough His word!!!

B. And Through true knowledge we have access to God's promises

- Salvation through His Son
- Justification by Faith
- Holy Spirit

C. So that, through God's Promises we become partakers of the divine nature.

-That is, we become participants or sharers in godly character.

-And, escape the corruption that is in the world by lust

D. So, in essence True Knowledge, helps us be more God like

III. True Knowledge of God, requires faith.... plus

2 Peter 1:5-9

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

- A. “For this very reason” ...Since we are partakers of God’s nature.
- B. We must (supply) or add to our faith....

***WHY.....Because Faith is not enough!!!**

- 1. Moral excellence.....Goodness / Righteousness
- 2. Knowledge.....Understanding
- 3. Self Control.....Temperance
- 4. Perseverance.....Endurance / Steadfastness
- 5. Godliness.....Being like God
- 6. Brotherly kindness.....Affection toward each other
- 7. Love.....Charity / The tie that binds

*Each one builds on the other.....just like building blocks

-That’s the point.....Growth is a building process!

***And is to be done with Diligence.....Eagerness**

- C. Verse 8 “For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”

- 1. If they are increasing.....then they make you:

-Useful

-Fruitful

*Basically, Productive in the true knowledge of Jesus!

- D. But, Verse 9 says “For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins”

- 1. If these qualities are stagnate.....then we are:

-Useless & Fruitless

-Matthew 3:10

“The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

IV. We are to make our calling sure

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

- A. Therefore, strive earnestly to make certain or firm God's invitation and selection in your life.

-Protect your relationship with God lest you lose it.

- B. And by practicing goodness, understanding, self control, endurance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love not only will you be productive for the kingdom but:

-You will be protected from stumbling & have entrance to the eternal kingdom.

V. Reminders are good

12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. 13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, 14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind."

- A. Peter points out that these folks know what he is saying but he is reminding them of these truths.

-God is pretty big on the idea of reminders....

-From the Ebenezer Stones in the Old Testament to the Lord's Supper in the New, God wants us to be reminded frequently of His words.

-To stir us up.

- B. So as the years pass in the preaching of God's word we will periodically discuss the same things over and over.....and this is good!!!

Conclusion:

Well just think how far off old Bishop Wright was. He was so far removed from the facts that he was flat out wrong. Armed with the faulty information he not only thought flight impossible but tried to justify it scripturally. A lack of true knowledge led him to unfruitfulness.

-But his kids dug deep for true knowledge and flew to new heights..

-Maybe today you have discovered some faulty perception in your life and God's word has touched you....are you ready to soar to new heights?