



Remembering Truth When it Really Counts

*“... a primer to
guard against false
teaching by...”*

Understanding Our Faith (1:2b – 11)

Back to the Basics: Our Quest,
Journey & Results



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2 Peter

Remembering Truth when it really Counts

- Introduction & Salutation (1:1 – 2a)
Author, Background, Destination & Recipients, Date & Place of Writing, Context & Themes, & Outline

Guard Against False Teaching By...

- Understanding Our Faith (1:2b – 11)
Back to the Basics: Our Quest, Journey & Results
- Understanding Our Scriptures (1:12–21)
Our Reminder, Our Eyewitnesses & Inspiration
- Understanding Our Adversaries (2:1–22)
Their Infiltration, Iniquity, Impurity & Impact
- Understanding Our Promise (3:1–18)
Its Certainty & Power

"This second letter, beloved, I now write to you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder that you remember the words spoken..."

2 Peter 3:1-2

Back to Basics

- **Our Quest (Part 1)**
 - *To Know Our God (1:2b – 4)*
- **Our Journey (Part 2)**
 - *To Become More Like Him (1:5 – 7)*
- **Our Results (Part 3)**
 - *To Achieve Success (1:8 – 11)*



Back to Basics

Our Quest: To Know Our God (1:2b – 4)

Our Passion (2c)

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

God's Sufficiency (3-4a)

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...

His Power (3a)

His Provision (3b)

His Procurement (3c)

His Promises (4a)

God's Purpose (4b)

... in order that by them you might become partakers of *the* divine nature...

Our Part (4c)

... having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust

In Summary...

As we passionately pursue knowing God
through His precious and magnificent promises and...



lean fully into the power of His resurrection...

we have everything we need to please God!

As we decide to run from the lusts of the world
that corrupt and deceive our souls...

we will become more like Christ!



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Back to Basics

Our Journey: To Become More Like Him (1:5 – 7)

⁵ Now for this very reason also,
applying all diligence, in your faith
supply moral excellence, and in your
moral excellence, knowledge;

God's Prescription (5a)

Our Pursuit (5b-7)

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.

Our Pursuit (5b-7)

- “Moral excellence”
 - This phrase came to encompass the most outstanding character quality in someone’s life; that could be one’s obsession for knowing God or living in integrity or purity
- “Knowledge”
 - This is meant to refer to knowing divine truth that is the foundation or “grid” for discernment and wisdom; it is the “*true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*”; It is the process of “acquiring the mind of Christ”
- “Self-control”
 - This is the discipline in our lives to make the right decisions for the right reasons
- “Perseverance”
 - This word connotes patience and endurance in doing what is right in the midst of resisting temptations and being steadfast during trials and difficulties that stretch over extended time

Our Pursuit (5b-7)

- “Godliness”
 - This means reverence of God; a high view
 - Those who have it properly honor and adore God
- “Brotherly kindness”
 - These words refer to our “devotion” or our “affection” for other believers
- “Love”
 - This is the sacrificial, selfless love of the will
 - Love for others is inseparable from our love for God; they are directly proportional



In Summary...

Because we have been given everything we need for life and godliness along with God's love letter...

as we diligently pursue the virtues God has prescribed for us which are...

moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love...

we will lavishly supply confirmation to our souls as to the assurance of our salvation!!



Back to Basics

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Back to Basics: Our Results



Learning Objectives:

To determine the possible outcomes available to me in life and decide to please the Lord so I will grow experientially in my intimacy with Him and strengthen my confidence in our living hope...

Back to Basics

Our Results: To Achieve Success (1:8 – 11)

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.

Positive Possibilities
(8, 10-11)

⁹ For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

Negative Possibilities
(9)

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.

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Negative Possibilities (9)

“For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins”

- Option #1: Not pursue these virtues...

- “For he who lacks these qualities” – what qualities?

- Verses 5-7 – Moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love

- This is a believer who, regardless of the reason, hasn’t made an explicit decision to pursue these virtues

- Results: Failure

- Blind and short-sighted – “Is blind or short-sighted”

- This describes a person who cannot see or rightly discern anything spiritually
 - This is true for where they are at today and out into the distance or into the future (Isaiah 59:1-2, 9b-10; Revelation 3:18-19)
 - They lack a biblical world view or grid to interpret life!



Negative Possibilities (9)



- Results: Failure (Continued)
 - Forgot what God has done - *“Having forgotten his purification from his former sins”*
 - This actually means to “have received forgetfulness of catharsis or cleansing”
 - They easily forget or dwell on what God has done for them in the past and is doing for them in the present or will do in the future
 - Because of this they will lack assurance of their salvation (**Ephesians 2:4-7; 5:8, 26; Titus 3:5-7; James 1:18, 22-25; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 1:7**)
 - Other Observational Outcomes...
 - Useless and unfruitful – *“useless and unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”* - It appears we can assume this person will be spiritually “idle” as to really knowing God and, as a result, “barren”
 - Plagued by sin – *“you will stumble”* – This person will struggle and be much more susceptible to sin patterns and strongholds and could suffer immense misfortune as a result!!!

Positive Possibilities (8, 10-11)

“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... 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; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.”

- *“Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you”*

- To be “*diligent*” conveys a sense of urgency and eagerness (see verse 5)
- To “*make certain*” is used as a way to legally validate or confirm
- “... *about His calling and choosing you*” - the author is not saying that these virtues produce salvation, but that these virtues are the evidence of our salvation; they confirm or validate or assure us that we are His elect (Romans 11:29; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:14; 2 Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 6:11)

Diligent

Positive Possibilities (8, 10-11)

OPTION 2

- Option #2: Intentionally pursue these virtues...
 - Acquire – “For if these qualities are yours...”
 - It is our responsibility to acquire these virtues
 - Develop – “For if these qualities are increasing...”
 - To be “*increasing*” means to “possess more than enough, even too much, of something”; it is to claim ownership of these virtues in progressively increasing amounts
 - There are evidently degrees of ownership of these qualities, implying degrees of productivity in one's intimacy with Christ
 - It is our responsibility to continually grow and develop these virtues
 - Practice – “For as long as you practice these things...”
 - It is our responsibility to “*practice*” these virtues
 - This refers to the ongoing drum beat or pattern of daily conduct; this is the regular discipline or habit of intentional focus (Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:15-17; Romans 12:9-13; Colossians 3:12-17)

Positive Possibilities (8, 10-11)

- Results: Success

- Useful and fruitful – *“they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”*
 - To “*render*” here means to “make” or to “set in order”
 - In other words, our decision to intentionally pursue these puts our lives back in order or in a place that we ensure we are “*useful*” or “purposeful” and “*fruitful*” or “productive” for really knowing God and living of His glory
- Not sin – *“You will never stumble”*
 - As we pursue these virtues, we will “*never*” trip up, stumble, sin, or fall
 - Because of that we will confidently enjoy an abundant and productive spiritual life and intimacy with God (Psalm 16:11; John 10:10; Ephesians 1:18; 1 Timothy 6:17)



Positive Possibilities (8, 10-11)

- Results: Success (Continued)



building
confidence

- Build confidence – *“for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.”*
 - “for in this way” means as we discipline our lives to please God and become more like Christ... as we do that...
 - “the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you”
 - This describes the blessings of assurance we are children of God
 - This describes the encouragement towards endurance and perseverance that will lavishly splash all over us and be a strong tower in the midst of trials and suffering
 - This confidence will be the encouragement to “abundantly supply” or undergird our souls when we need it the most!!!
 - This also implies a future reward awaits us (Revelation 22:12)



In Summary...



To the extent we lack and don't pursue these virtues...

We will be unable to rightly diagnose life, will quickly forget what God is up to and will stumble spiritually!!

As we acquire, develop, and practice these virtues...



We will develop intimacy with God and a biblical world view, we will not sin and therefore, aggressively, eagerly and confidently validate the assurance of our salvation!!

Assurance of Salvation

- Doctrine of “*eternal security, preservation, or perseverance of the saints*” – is the Spirit-revealed, objective fact that salvation is forever
- “*Assurance*” – the believers’ Spirit-given, subjective confidence that they truly possess that eternal salvation
- The trustworthy, all-sufficient promises of God’s Word provide a firm foundation for a strong assurance of salvation (**Job 19:25; Isaiah 32:17; Colossians 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5; Hebrews 6:11; 10:22**)

Value Proposition of Assurance?

- It completes our Joy
 - Assurance is not a small matter but actually the supreme blessing of our experience (Romans 5:1; 8:38-39; Psalm 3:8; Isaiah 12:2)
 - One who doubts forfeits the enjoyment of all other blessings of life in Christ (Ephesians 1:3-14)
 - It causes the soul to live at the highest level of joy (1 John 1:4)
- It removes barriers to seeking God's purposes
 - Assurance enables us to seek His purposes first over anything else in our lives (Matthew 6:9-10; 33)

Value Proposition of Assurance?

- It opens the door to worship
 - Assurance fills our heart with gratitude and praise (Psalm 71:14-15; 103:1-5)
- It strengthens us
 - Assurance fortifies our soul against temptations and trials (Ephesians 6:13, 16-17)
- It provides us hope
 - Assurance dispenses hope in the midst of trials and temptations that because we have been saved, we will be rescued (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

Value Proposition of Assurance?

- It makes us love to obey
 - Assurance transforms the motivations of our hearts to want to please God (Psalm 119:166)
 - Assurance compels us or urges us on to glue ourselves the stuff of eternity (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
- It provides us peace
 - Assurance calms the soul with perfect peace and rest in the midst of life's storms and provides an anchor for our souls (Hebrews 6:19)
- It provides us hope
 - Assurance dispenses hope in the midst of trials and temptations that because we have been saved, we will be rescued (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

Value Proposition of Assurance?

- It allows us to wait on the Lord
 - Assurance enables us to wait patiently upon God's perfect timing for His mercy and strong right hand (Romans 8:25; Psalm 27:13-14; 130)
- It refines our hearts
 - Assurance purifies our heart because we are confident that "everything counts" (1 John 3:2b-3; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10)

Why Do We Doubt Or Lack Assurance?

- The preaching we sit underneath
 - Problem: Some sit underneath demanding, confronting, convicting preaching of the law that upholds a high standard of righteousness. It forces people to acknowledge their sinfulness, and feel the full weight of sin and God's displeasure.
 - Solution: Balance teaching that also conveys strong comfort to those who are under grace
- We feel we are too sinful to be saved
 - Problem: Some find it difficult to accept forgiveness
 - Solution: Teach forgiveness, grace, and mercy along with the difference between the OT law and justice versus the NT

Why Do We Doubt Or Lack Assurance?

- We don't understand the gospel
 - **Problem:** Some have a wrong notion that maintaining our salvation requires our effort as well as God's; we need to cooperate with God to stay saved. Some think God only forgave those sins committed up until the moment of salvation. All those to follow remain un-forgiven unless confessed.
 - **Solution:** Understand that salvation is utterly a sovereign, divine operation in which our redemption depends solely on God and God alone to open our eyes, rescue us, justify us, transform us and glorify us (**John 6:37, 44-45, 64-65; 15:16; Romans 8:31-39; Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:9; Jude 24-25**). Scripture teaches God forgave all our sins - past, present, and future (**Isaiah 43:25; 44:22; 53:5, 8, 11; 61:10; John 1:29; Romans 3:25; 5:8-11; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 1:7; 2:2; 4:10**). The resurrection affirms and secures our salvation (**Romans 4:25; 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:17**)

Why Do We Doubt Or Lack Assurance?

- We don't remember when they were saved
 - Problem: Some people cannot remember the exact moment of their salvation
 - Solution: Understand that salvation is not based upon a past action but on a present reality of trusting in Christ's atoning sacrifice (1 John 1:6-6; 2:6)
- We struggle with the intensity of our flesh
 - Problem: We feel the strong influence of our unredeemed humanness and wonder if we really are a "new creation" in Christ.
 - Solution: The very pull of the old man on our desire to live to please God is a confirmation that the Spirit is alive in us; non-believers have no such struggle (Romans 3:10-20)

Why Do We Doubt Or Lack Assurance?

- We don't recognize God's hand in trials
 - Problem: Some people fail to see how God is at work in their trials and temptations and therefore lack assurance
 - Solution: Understand the redemptive nature of trials and God's sovereignty in the midst of them and that He has "ordained" them (Romans 5:1-5; Hebrews 6:10-12; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7). They are the crucible from which assurance derives (Job 23:10; Romans 8:35-39).
- We aren't walking in the Spirit
 - Problem: Some people do not know or obey the Word of God and fail to walk in the Spirit, whose ministry it is to assure obedient believers
 - Solution: He does so by illuminating Scripture to them (Romans 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10). He testifies we are children of God and experience intimacy (1 John 4:13-14; Romans 8:15).

Why Do We Doubt Or Lack Assurance?

- We willfully sin
 - Problem: Some people are walking in the flesh and fulfilling the desires of the flesh
 - Solution: Walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-23; Ezekiel 36:27; John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13). Purity and assurance go hand-in-hand (Hebrews 10:22).