

**Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**  
**Bible Study Notes**  
**8-2-17**

**2 Peter Chapter 1**

**Confirming One's Calling and Election - Verses 1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup> His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. <sup>8</sup> For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, <sup>11</sup> and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Verses 1-4**

The power to grow doesn't come from with us, but from God. Because we don't have the resources to live full of "glory and virtue." God makes us "partakers of the divine nature" to keep us from sin and help us live for him. When we are born again, God by his Spirit empowers us with his own moral goodness. See John 3:6; 14:17-23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; and 1 Peter 1 22,23.

## **Verses 5-9**

Faith is more than belief in certain facts; it must result in action, growth in Christian character, and moral discipline, or it dies away because it does not demonstrate a truly transformed life. (James 2:14-17). Peter lists several of faith's actions: learning to know God better, developing patience, doing God's will, loving others. These actions do not come automatically; they require hard work. They are not optional; all of them must be a continual part of the Christian life. We don't finish one and start on the next, but he also assigns us the responsibility of learning and growing. We should not be surprised or resentful of the process.

## **Verse 6**

False teachers were saying that self-control (temperance") is not needed because works do not help the believer anyway (2:19). It is true that works cannot save us, but it is absolutely false to think they are unimportant. We are saved so that we can grow to resemble Christ and so that we can serve others. God wants to produce his character of active love in us. But to do this, he demands discipline and effort from us. As we obey Christ who guides us by his Spirit, we will develop self-control, not only of food and drink, but also of our emotions.

## **Verse 9**

Our faith must go beyond what we believe; it must become a dynamic part of all we do, resulting in good works and spiritual maturity. Salvation does not depend on good works, but it results in good works. A person who claims to be saved while remaining unchanged does not understand faith or what God has done for him.

## **Verse 10**

Peter wants to rouse the complacent believers who have listened to the false teachers and believe that because salvation is not based on good works they can live as they want. If you truly belong to the Lord, he says, your hard work ("diligence") will prove it. If you're not working for God, maybe you don't belong to him. If you are the Lord's - and your hard work backs up your claim - you will never be led astray by false teaching or glamorous sin.

## **Prophecy of Scripture**

<sup>12</sup> So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. <sup>13</sup> I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, <sup>14</sup> because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. <sup>15</sup> And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. <sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. <sup>19</sup> We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

#### **Verse 12-15**

Outstanding coaches constantly review the basics of the sport with their teams, and good athletes can execute the fundamentals consistently well. We must not neglect the basics of our faith when we go on to study deeper truths. Just as an athlete needs constant practice, we need constant reminders of the fundamentals of our faith and of how we came to believe in the first place. Don't allow yourself to be bored or impatient with messages on the basics of the Christian life. Instead, take the attitude of an athlete who continues to practice and refine the basics even as he learns more advanced skills.

#### **Verse 13-14**

"Put off tis my tabernacle" means Peter knew he would soon die. Many years before, Christ had prepared Peter for the kind of death he would face (see John 21:18,19). Now Peter knew his death was at hand. Peter was martyred for the faith in about A.D. 68. One tradition says he was crucified upside down, at his own request, because he did not feel worthy to die in the same manner as his Master.

#### **Verse 16-18**

Peter is referring to the transfiguration where Jesus' divine identity was revealed to him and two other disciples, James and John.

### **Verses 16-21**

This section is a strong statement on the inspiration of Scripture. Peter affirms that the Old Testament prophets wrote God's messages, and he puts himself and the other apostles in the same category since they also proclaim God's truth. The Bible is not a collection of fables or of human ideas about God. It is God's very words given through people to people. Peter emphasizes his authority as an eyewitness as well as the God-inspired authority of Scripture to prepare for his attack on the false teachers. If these wicked men contradict the apostles and the Bible, their message cannot come from God.

### **Verse 19**

Christ is the "day star," and when he returns, he will shine in his full glory. Until that day we have the Scripture as a lamp, and the Holy Spirit to illuminate Scripture for us and guide us as we seek the truth. For more on Christ as the day star, see Luke 1:78; Ephesians 5:14; Revelation 2:28; 22:16.

### **Verse 21**

"The holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" means that the Scripture did not come from the creative work of the prophets own invention or ecstasy. God inspired them, so their message is authentic and reliable. God used the talents, education, and cultural background of each writer (they were not mindless robots); but God cooperated with the writers in such a way to insure that the message he intended was faithfully communicated in the very words they wrote.