

2 Peter 1:1-4

You Have Been Given All You Need

Please to turn to 2 Peter –

A)The first part of 2021 – On Sunday we spent 5.5 months – studying 1 Peter

B)Summer series in Proverbs – This fall – Focus 2 Peter

1) Pertinent book for us to be studying

C)The letter has three primary purposes:

- to alert the readers to the dangers of false teachers
- to remind the readers that their personal faith should not remain static
- to encourage the believers in their faith and in expectation of the Lord's second coming.

Application for us today!

A)We are living during a time where Christians are under attack – sometimes for the wrong things

B)We are living during a time when the gospel is being distorted **both in the church and outside of the church.** –

1)It's important that we know what we believe and why

C)We are living in an age where the signs of the times are telling us **that we are moving closer and closer to the soon return of Jesus**

1)so we need to be ready – busy / occupy.... Come

2)Occupied with the Right things

So 2 Peter is a pertinent book for us to be studying at this particular time and season

A)Only 3 chapters, but they pack a punch

B)Today we are going to zero in on V.1-4. Message entitled – we have been given all that we need

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us 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, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him

who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

V.1 Introduces us to the Author and the Audience

A)The Author - Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

B)Recall When Jesus first met Peter he said “ you are Simon – but you shall be called Peter or Petros

C)**Petros = rock** – I love this about Jesus – He has a plan for Peter

1)and he sees what Peter is going to become – **A Pillar in the church**

D)there will be set backs and stumblings – Peter's story is very messy – but Peter will be used mightily

In the same way Jesus has a plan for your life and my life – he sees what we are going to become in Him

A)Yes messy, stumbles – times where our flesh gets the best of us

B)But Jesus is committed to finishing the work that he has begun in us

1)He has a unique plan for each one of our lives

C)Also interesting that Peters given name reveals the means by which he is going to grow into Peter

Simon = to Harken – to listen intently

A)Matthew 17 – Mt of transfiguration Jesus – Moses and Elijah –

B)Peter who was by nature a doer – his impulse was always to do

1)Sword at Jesus arrest

2)Fishing instead of waiting after the Rez

3)Here – Let me Build

C)Peter was a doer – I can relate

I am a doer too.

A)After surgery – rest and healing – driving me crazy – surgery on Tuesday – **going for it right away – exercises**

B)Point on Friday – Rob you are doing to much – give time to heal – **I am impatient – I will fix this**

Doer – Peter was a doer

A)Let me build..... – The father says Listen to him

B) The key to Simon becoming Peter would be in his willingness to slow down and listen to Jesus and glean from Jesus

1)Growing in his understanding of who Jesus is – His heart – his agenda, his plan, his kingdom

C)Allowing the words of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform him – change him.

D)Jesus gives the same invitation to us:

*²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28*

This is what Peter wants us to know – experiencing Growth and Transformation comes as we grow in our understanding of who Jesus is.

A)Yoke ourselves to him more and more

B)The more we come to know of Him/ the more we become like him

C)The more we understand – who we are in Jesus 1)the stronger and more effective we will be for the Kingdom of God

D)That is exactly what Peter will tell us in the opening verses of 2 Peter

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

A)The way Peter introduces himself is important: "bondservant and apostle to Jesus Christ."

B)The term apostle carries authority: he is a representative of Jesus – there were only a small number of Apostles

C)Peter was one of the original 12 – He is an important dude!

But note this: He calls himself a Bondservant first – Apostle second

A)Not by accident and it is important

B)Bondservant was a willing servant – slave –

C)Peter calls himself a bondservant first –

1)his way of showing he doesn't want to use his position as an apostle to lord it over these people

D)Saw a similar example of this 1 Peter 5:1 – Peter is writing to Pastors and Elders of the churches –

1)**He calls himself – “a Fellow Elder”**

E)I am one of you – Not over you!

Good thing for all of us to remember is before we are the boss, or the head of the house, or the class/group

A)We are servants of Jesus first

B)You go to work – Boss or manager – or Foreman – 1st you are a servant of Jesus

C)Home -you are a servant of Jesus

D)That is your identity – Embrace that!

1)That will affect the way you treat others and approach everything in your life this week!

So that is the author - THE AUDIENCE

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ

A)Notice the description of who he is writing to- the Equality of the believers

B)We have a unified faith – like precious faith – idea in faith here is a conviction concerning the truth

1)Like Faith – based in the same thing – Same foundation

C)That we have obtained = idea of a gift given not something that has been earned

D)The means through which has come to us – the righteousness of Jesus

We have a faith that we have been made righteous by the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross –

Communion

A) Unified in this – none of us have arrived –

B) Broken people who are in the process of being transformed by a loving redeemer

C) We are relying entirely on the FINISHED work of Jesus – His grace

D) Note the description of Deity - by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ

Peter's Heart

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

A) This is more than just a benediction or nice greeting –

B) This statement really serves as the goal of what Peter wants to see happen in these people and us

C) We know this because Peter ends this letter in a similar way: (3:18): **"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."**

D) Grace is who God is and peace is the result of knowing Him

E) So he ends the letter by saying - **Grow in Grace and knowledge of our Lord**

F) Begins - **let grace and peace be multiplied** – He is praying that they would abound in grace

Peter was one who tried to follow Jesus in his own strength – lean on his own understanding – fell flat on his face –

A) Many Stumbles – Messy – but Jesus showed him much grace

B) Grace = Undeserved favor – Jesus didn't give up on Peter – rebuked but also restored –

C) Grace also means - **G**od's **R**esources **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense

D) Peter came to learn that the key to him being who Jesus wanted him to be and doing what Jesus wanted him to do **was Grace**

This is our great need in the Christian life

A) Saved by grace – God's undeserved favor – Hell – Heaven

B) Enemy – friend – Banished – brought into family

C) Saved by grace - Sustained by grace – His grace that upholds us

1) **His grace is sufficient – power in weakness**

D) GRACE IS THE KEY –

E) The more we grow in grace and walk in grace – the more that we experience peace

1) **GRACE AND PEACE BE MULTIPLIED**

Note: Our growing in Grace and peace – both here and in 2 Peter 3:18 are connected to our growing in our knowledge of who Jesus is

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

A) When Peter speaks of knowledge –

B) He speaks of more than an intellectual knowledge 1)– It includes that – which is why apologetics is important

C) We need to know what we believe and why.

We need to know what is the evidence for our faith – how everything hinges on the Res of Jesus

A) We don't believe in the Resurrection because the Bible says that Jesus rose

B) Tons of evidence – from eyewitness testimony – empty tomb

C) The Resurrection is the Key – We believe in the Bible because of the Resurrection

Jesus rose -everything else makes sense

A) Creation – Jesus Spoke – Marriage Jesus spoke – Jonah Jesus spoke

B) So when Peter says we are to grow in our Knowledge of Jesus –

1) This includes an intellectual and informational knowledge

C) but it is more than that

Knowledge by experience

A) Have you experienced Jesus – know Him

B) Listening to an interview with apologist **Sean McDowell** – brilliant so appreciate his work

C) But he made a point that one of the main reasons why young people are **turning from the faith in larger numbers today** –

D) is not because they don't know the truth

1) It is not because someone has debunked their faith

E) It is because they haven't really ever experienced God – the two go hand in hand

1) Truth + experience

When students understand their *personal* need for God, and experience God's grace firsthand, they can develop a faith that lasts. Sean McDowell

One of the reasons I love what our student ministry Pastors Tyler and Aaron are doing – they are preaching the truth –

A) But they are also creating an atmosphere and culture where – kids are experiencing God

B) To the young People -I am so blessed by you guys – your passion for Jesus – contagious

1) You stir us up

C) When I was a youth pastor – **that worship thing**

D) They were having a real experience with Jesus

1) something vibrant going on in their hearts – and their friends literally felt the void

E) That is what Peter is talking about here: **A knowledge that – comes from experience**

1) The Christian life is not simply knowing facts about Jesus it involves experience his power and presence in our lives

In the next two verses of our text Peter builds on this connection now between knowledge of God and the power of grace.

³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of

the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Peter is building on a very important truth here: We have been supplied

A) Given – Divine Power Everything we need that pertains to life – idea is real life – quality of life –

B) And godliness – Christlikeness

C) Those are the two things we are yearning for – REAL LIFE – John 10:10 – Abundant life

D) godliness - becoming more like Jesus

E) Peter says everything we need to experience those two things has been given to us

- Divine Power
- Divine Promises
- Divine Nature

We have been supplied – given everything that we need

A) Important premise here to catch

B) See next week when we come to V. 5 **therefore add to your faith**

1) a better word for add here would be supply your faith

C) We hear the word – Add and we think – addition

1) I need to add to the work of Jesus, these things to my life

D) I have to somehow muster up these traits

That is not what Peter is saying at all –

A) Peter is saying through Divine Power – Divine Promises – Divine Nature – you have been supplied

B) You have been given everything you need – life and godliness

C) So supply your faith – your belief your living for Jesus with what you have already been given in Jesus

D) Analogy Given \$50 million – deposited into your account – but you don't live like it –

1) You drive an unreliable beat up car – collect food stamps – FOOLISH – CAPTIAL F

E) Supply your life by using what has already been deposited into your bank account

Or think of it his way:

A) **GIVEN A new HOUSE** – yours – but it is empty no appliance – no furniture – just a shell –

B) Empty house – better than nothing – right

C) To add to your house – you are going to go out and buy appliances, beds, couches etc –

D) But if the person who gave you the house also says 1) You have access to a warehouse full of appliances – furniture –

E) go pick out – supply your house – go furnish

That is more the idea – you have been given all that you need in Jesus –

A) Supply your life with what he has given you - Go and furnish your life

His Divine Power!

A) Paul said in the book of Ephesians that the same power that brought Jesus out of the grave is available to us -

B) We just need to know it believe it

C) Divine power comes through the work of God's Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

D) When Zerubbabel – the Governor of Judea was faced with an insurmountable situation – the Lord said to him

1) **Not by might nor by power – but by my Spirit says the Lord. Zechariah 4:6**

That is God's word to us to – Husband, wife, witness, servant –

A) It is not in our strength, ability, ingenuity – it comes through the Power of His Spirit

B) Here is an alarming Statistic

62% of self-identified born-again Christians contend that the Holy Spirit is not a real living being, but merely a symbol of God's power, presence or purity. – The Christian Post September 10, 2021

C) NO wonder the church is anemic today -

D) Niagara Falls greatest unused power – Nope, it's the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church

Through his Divine power we have been given.....godliness

A) We experience that power when we recognize our need for the HS - And learn to live lives dependent upon him

B) **We are in a Spiritual battle** – Victorious as we learn to stand Strong in the Lord and in the power of his might

C) Divine power

2ND Divine Promises

⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises,

²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. – 2 Corinthians 1:20

A) We supply our lives by standing on the promises – Promise believers

B) Trusting in the faithfulness of God!

C) Tried and proven - Our God is reliable – he is faithful – his promises can be counted on.

D) The Chief promise – Holy Spirit - Not going to leave you orphans – Send the Holy Spirit

1) Teach you, guide you, empower you

E) We have been supplied with Divine Power – Divine Promises

3rd DIVINE NATURE -

⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

A) The moment you are born again – put your faith in Jesus – you are given a new nature

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. 1 John 3:9 NLT

B) This NEW NATURE – also connected to the Holy Spirit – The Life that is in us is the abiding work of the Holy Spirit

C) What Peter is wanting us to understand is it is through depending on the Divine Power and walking in the Divine Promises

D) That we become partakers or participants in the Divine nature – that helps us escape the corruption of this present world

The battle – the old and the new

A) Old: Serve Self – Please Self

1) New: Serve Jesus – Please Jesus

B) Old: Building My Kingdom – My Agenda – Dreams

1) New: Part of His Kingdom – His Agenda

C) Old: Enemy Of God

1) New: Drawn To God – Gal 4:6 Abba Father

The starting place is growing in our knowledge of Jesus – our understanding of who He is

A) And then experiencing him as we learn to yield our lives to him.

B) First come to Faith – Jesus is Savior

C) Grow – Jesus becomes our friend

D) Grow still more – our King – His kingdom not our kingdom

1) He doesn't exist for me but I really exist for Him

E) I exist to bring him glory

F) Savior – Friend – King - Supplier

G) Our everything

Is Jesus just a part and not the center of your life?

Where are you at today?