

Putting Things In Perspective

Godliness

2 Peter 1:1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and **Godliness**, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with **Godliness**, 7 and **Godliness** with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Godliness - eusebeia, yoo-seb'-i-ah; from G2152; piety; specially, the gospel scheme:—godliness, holiness.

_____ (Pious) - the quality of being religious or reverent.

- ❖ Why say no to _____ when yielding would feel so good?
- ❖ Why be _____, kind, _____, and self-sacrificing towards others, especially when they don't seem to appreciate your efforts?
- ❖ In short, what _____ is there to be diligent to grow in godliness?
- ❖ What's in it for us?

- ❖ Perhaps you think that it's _____ to ask those questions.
- ❖ Shouldn't we do those things apart from any _____ to us because they're the right thing to do?
- ❖ But Peter asked essentially the same thing and the Lord did not _____ him.

Matthew 19: 16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" 17 ... If you would enter life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not ..."

20 The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." 27 Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?"

28 Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

- ❖ Jesus was saying that the eternal benefits should motivate us to _____ whatever hardship we now encounter in following Him.
- ❖ Peter is spelling out the benefits of growing in godliness to motivate us to _____ in the process.
- ❖ The benefits of growing in godliness are: _____, assurance, _____, and eternal blessings.

1. Growing in godliness results in fruitfulness in the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ (1:8-9).

A. There is a direct link between _____ in godliness and _____.

- ❖ Nobody in their right mind would set out at age 20 and say, "I'd like to waste my life!"
- ❖ Nobody writes out a plan for a wasted life:
- ❖ "I think I'll devote three hours per day, 21 hours per week, to watching television
- ❖ "I also plan to become addicted to alcohol and drugs. I plan to live so selfishly and with such disregard for others that I will shred all of my relationships.
- ❖ Also, I plan to spend far more than I earn so that I will run up huge debts."
- ❖ No one plans to be useless and unfruitful!
- ❖ And yet, many people end up that way!

B. If you truly _____ Christ, you will want to be useful and fruitful in serving Him.

- ❖ "If you have truly come to know the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be growing in godliness and seeking to be useful and fruitful in serving Him."

C. If you are **not** growing in godliness, you are short-sighted, forgetting your _____ from your former sins.

- ❖ The literal translation is, “they are blind, being short-sighted.” These people were so focused on their _____ that they were not growing in the qualities mentioned in verses 5-7. They had become virtually blind to what Christ had done for them in cleansing them from their sins. This forgetful and willful blindness, due to their temporal focus, quenched their motivation to be diligent to grow in godliness.
- ❖ Peter brings us back to _____. To grow in godliness requires applying all diligence, because you won’t grow effortlessly. Growth in godliness requires hard work and discipline over the long haul.
- ❖ What _____ you to keep at it?
Answer: Remember what Christ did for you! He shed His blood on the cross to purify you from your sins. Remembering God’s grace shown to you at the cross will motivate you to apply all diligence to keep growing in godliness. Without keeping the cross in view, you will drift into ungodly living and will waste your life in light of eternity. So the first benefit of growing in godliness is fruitfulness in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ _____

2. Growing in godliness requires diligence and results in _____ of salvation (1:10a).

A. Growing in godliness requires _____.

- ❖ “Therefore, brethren, be all the more _____ to make certain about His calling and choosing you.” “Brethren” - Peter is talking to Christians here
- ❖ Peter is saying, “One way to be _____ that God has called and chosen you is to be diligent to grow in these godly character qualities.”
- ❖ It doesn’t happen without deliberate, concentrated _____. If you’re cruising on spiritual autopilot, then take heed to Peter’s exhortation to be all the more diligent to make certain about God’s calling and choosing you. The way you do that is to be diligent to grow in godliness.

B. _____ in godliness results in assurance of salvation.

- ❖ There are a lot of mistaken notions about _____ of _____ in our day. Most evangelicals think that if you prayed to receive Christ, you are eternally secure and should never doubt that fact. But they overlook the clear biblical truth that new life in Christ always _____ itself in the fruit of godliness. As a result, there are thousands of professing Christians who are not growing in godliness, but they think that they are eternally secure in Christ.

3. Growing in godliness results in _____ in the faith (1:10b).

- ❖ Peter further explains: “for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble.”
- ❖ “These things” refers back to verses 5-7. But, does Peter mean that if you are diligent to practice these qualities you will never sin? That seems unrealistic, in that “we all stumble in many ways” (James 3:2). “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8).
- ❖ The Lord’s Prayer tells us to ask _____ for our sins often. So, Peter does not mean that we can attain to sinless perfection if we practice these things.

4. Growing in godliness results in _____ blessings (1:11).

- ❖ verse 10 “for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.”
- ❖ Peter means that if we are _____ to grow in godliness, God will welcome us into our eternal dwelling with Him in heaven.
- ❖ “Peter was not concerned here about _____ but whether people will enter the kingdom at all. He insisted that people cannot enter it without living in a godly way.”
- ❖ This is not to say that salvation is by _____, but rather that genuine salvation always results in a life of growing godliness.
- ❖ If you’re not applying all diligence to grow in godliness, you need to _____ yourself.
- ❖ Maybe, you have _____ what Christ did for you at the cross. If so, confess your sin and take steps to grow in godliness.
- ❖ But if you can shrug off the cross, then you aren’t headed for heaven.