

2 Peter

Sermon Notes – May 19, 2019

[#03] *Diligently Pursue Virtue with Faith*

2 Peter 1:5–11

Children's Sermon: Who Should You Thank?

Who should you thank?

- ...when your mom makes you your breakfast?
- ...when your brother help you pick up the mess you have made?
- ...When your sister helps you spell a word

Matthew 5:13–16 (Salt & Light)

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and **give glory to your Father** who is in heaven.



Why do you think God will get credit for our good works?

Ligon Duncan: “So what is the role of obedience to God’s Word, of God’s law in the Christian life? **Gratitude, assurance, and witness.**”
(Bold Mine; NCC Q. 34)

Notes:

God’s Gospel Provision for Change
2 Peter 1:3-4

Today’s Biblical Bullet...

Jesus has granted us power to overcome our *evil desires* & to put on God’s own character through his promises.



1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

2 Peter 3:13

But according to his **promise** we are waiting for *new heavens and a new earth* in which righteousness dwells.

Divine Power for Divine Virtue through Divine Promises.

⁵ For this very reason...

Diligently Pursue Virtue with Faith
2 Peter 1:5-11

I. Add Character (5-7)

⁵ ...make every effort to **supplement your faith** with **virtue**, and virtue with **knowledge** (of Jesus; Cf. 3:18), 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**.

Self-Control “being constrained by conviction rather than passion”ⁱ
“The term points to the power or dominion over oneself especially with regard to consumption of food, the tongue, and sexual desire”ⁱⁱ

“Endurance” is the ability “to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty” (BDAG 1039)ⁱⁱⁱ (bold mine)

II. Gospel Fruit (8)

⁸ For if *these qualities are yours and are increasing*, **they keep you from being** (render you not) ineffective (useless) (n) or unfruitful in *the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*.

Or, **Productive & Fruitful** in the knowledge of Jesus Christ

III. No Gospel Fruit (9)

⁹ For whoever **lacks** these qualities **is** so **nearsighted** that he is **blind**, *having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins*. (i.e. the Gospel!)

IV. Command (10)

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, **be** all the more **diligent** (give yourself entirely) to **confirm** your **calling** and **election**, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall (stumble).

So, **Fruit** provides **confirmation** (assurance)
Lack of fruit means no **assurance**

V. Promise (11)

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.



2 Peter 3:4

⁴ They will say, “*Where is the promise of his coming? ...*”

Ligon Duncan: “**Gratitude, assurance, and witness.**”

2 Peter 3:13

But according to his **promise** we **are** waiting for *new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells*.

Grace Grants a Zealous Heart

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Grace grants us a zealous heart that wants to please Jesus and serve others more and more.

Do you possess this grace?



I. Self-Assessment

A. Weariness... (Is growing in Christ-likeness worth it?)

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Cf. Gal. 6:9; 2 Thess. 3:13)

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, *always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*



B. Fear or Gratitude (v.9 Are you gospel motivated?)

C. **True Knowledge of God:** Everything is from him, through him & for him! (Cf. Rom. 11:33-36)

D. **Christians are Granted:** A growing, God-Confident pursuit of **virtue**, a hunger and thirst for **knowledge** of God's word, an ability to exercise **self-control** to do what Jesus says not what I feel like in the moment, and a determined **steadfastness**, knowing that **godliness** and **brotherly affection**, and **love** are beautiful and worth the effort.

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ **Examine yourselves**, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—*unless indeed you fail to meet the test!*

II. What if You Fail the Test?

Divine Power for Divine Virtue through Divine Promises.



1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

III. Assessing Others

A. Increased/Diminishing **Assurance**

1 Thessalonians 1:3–5

³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For **we know**, brothers loved by God, **that he has chosen you**, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

1. Not every professor is a possessor

Matthew 7:21–23

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but the one who does the will of my**

Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, **you workers of lawlessness.**’

2. Even Christians struggle with sin (Grace not Performance)

B. Warning a Brother who Lacks Fruit in Love

2 Thessalonians 3:14–15

¹⁴ If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and *have nothing to do with him*, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Do not regard him as an enemy, but *warn him as a brother*.

1 Thessalonians 5:14–15

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, *be patient with them all*. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but **always seek to do good to one another and to everyone**.

ⁱ Green, G. L. (2008). *Jude and 2 Peter* (p. 193). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

ⁱⁱ Ibid. (p. 193).

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid. (p. 194).