

2 Peter

Sermon Notes – May 12, 2019

[#02] *God's Gospel Provision for Change*

2 Peter 1:3–4

Children's Sermon: Power to De-Dragon!

C.S. Lewis, *"The Voyage of the Dawn Treader"*

"There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it."

- Arrogant, Bully... Edmond & Lucy; Selfish
- Narnia... Became a Dragon... Aslan...

"It would be nice and fairly nearly true, to say that 'from that time forth, Eustace was a different boy.' To be strictly accurate, he began to be a different boy. He had relapses. There were still many days when he could be very tiresome. But most of those I shall not notice. The cure had begun."

- Every one of us struggles with being selfish...

2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV)

Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- Jesus Gives Us Power to Stop Being Selfish!



Transition: Summer after my Jr. Year...

"Stupid Morals" or "Evil Desires" (to strongly desire to have what belongs to someone else and/or to engage in an activity which is morally wrong—to covet, to lust, evil desires...)

God meets you where you are, but he doesn't leave you there!

God's Gospel Provision for Change

2 Peter 1:3-4

Today's Biblical Bullet...

Jesus has graciously provided us with the power to change.



I. Bird's Eye View (1:2–3, 8)



² May **grace and peace** be multiplied to you *in the knowledge* (ἐπίγνωσις) of God and of Jesus our Lord. (.)

³ ("as"; or "seeing that") His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and **godliness, through the knowledge** (ἐπίγνωσις) of him who called us to his own glory and **excellence** (virtue)

1:5 (add to your **faith** virtue ...)

1:8 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*.

II. Divine Power through Promises for Life and Godliness (3–4)

A. Power Granted through Knowledge (3a)

³ (seeing that) His divine power

has granted

to us all things

that pertain to life and godliness,

through the knowledge of him

B. Called to His Glory (3b)

who **called** us (Cf. 2 Thess. 2:13-14)

to his own glory and excellence (the quality of moral excellence—‘outstanding goodness, virtue.’),

C. Power Granted through Promises (4)

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 nature¹,
having escaped from

the corruption² [that is]

in the world

in **evil desire**.



2 Peter 3:4 (Cf. 3:9, 13)

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

Cf. James 1:12

“steadfast under trial”

“the crown of life”

Evil Desire – to strongly desire to have what belongs to someone else and/or to engage in an activity which is morally wrong—‘to covet, to lust, evil desires, lust, desire.’ⁱⁱ

(Evil desires in 2 Peter – Greed, Lust & Despising Authority)

2 Peter 2:1a

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be *false teachers among you*, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies...

2 Peter 2:10a

[God will judge the wicked] ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge in *the lust of defiling passion* and *despise authority*.

2 Peter 2:18–19

¹⁸ For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by *sensual passions of the flesh* those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹ *They promise them freedom*, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

¹ “To share in the divine nature therefore means to participate in the supreme virtues of [God]” In other words, **“Human virtue comes to resemble that of God.”** Green, G. L. (2008). *Jude and 2 Peter* (p. 186-7). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

² 2 Pet 2:19–20, “corruption” is parallel with “defilement” indicating that Peter has moral corruption in view.

Gospel Power to Change

I. Two Fatal Flaws in Utopian Visions for the Future

- A. Even if We Could... What about God? (Godliness)
- B. Selfishness in Every Heart!

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Jesus has granted us power to overcome our evil desires through his promises.



II. Spiritual Growth 101:

- A. **Our Problem** Evil Desires: We Want What Does Not Belong to Us. (Lust, Control, Relief)
- B. Power through Promise:
 - 1. A Promised Escape

1 Corinthians 10:13–14

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation **he will also provide the way of escape**, that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry**.

2. Promised Forgiveness & Help

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.

3. Promised Inheritance

2 Peter 3:13

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

ⁱ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 743). New York: United Bible Societies.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.