

Treasure - Part II

2 Peter 1:2-3

Intro

Last week we began our study of 2 Peter and we only made it through the first verse in a study entitled ***Treasures - Part I...***

- If you missed that study, I would encourage you to listen to it online...

And since this study is a continuation of what we covered last week, let's begin by reading the verse that we studied last week...

2 Peter 1:1 (NKJV)

**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:**

*In this verse we looked at **two aspects of treasure...***

First of all, we saw that ***Simon Peter was treasured by God...***

- And we focused on the fact that Simon Peter was treasured by God ***before*** he was a believer and he was treasured by God ***after*** he became a believer...

The same is true for you and me as well...

You were treasured by God **before** you became a believer and you are treasured by God **now** that you are a believer...

- We also considered how Simon Peter is a treasure to us as believers...[expand]

In like manner, **we** can be a treasure to fellow believers...

- As we walk in **obedience to the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit** we become **open treasure boxes** of blessing to others... [expand]

In **2 Peter 1:1** we also saw that as believers we too have trusted in the same precious faith that the apostles did...

- And this precious faith is a priceless treasure — and if we view it as treasure we will fight for it...

We will contend earnestly for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints...

- We also saw that we have received this treasure by the righteousness of **our God and Savior Jesus Christ**...

This treasure of the faith is a **gift of grace** — God the Son — the Lord Jesus Christ — is the righteous one who **established the faith** through His *perfect life and substitutionary death*...

- It is His righteousness that established the faith — and it is His righteousness that is given to us so that we might be saved...

He gave up His life so that we might become an imperishable treasure and so that we might enter into relationship with Him and enjoy Him forever...

*With this in mind we come to the passage that we will be studying this morning in a message I have entitled **Treasure - Part II...***

2 Peter 1:2-3 (NKJV)

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,

I have divided this passage into 2 sections...

1) Grace & Peace

2) Divine Power

Let's move into our first section...

1) Grace & Peace (vs 2)

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

The words **grace** and **peace** are commonly found in the opening greetings of the NT epistles...

*And I think it is helpful to remind ourselves that **grace** and **peace** are two elements of treasure in the Christian life...*

First of all, the Christian life is a life of grace...

- [ex. Getting pulled over — **Justice** — **Mercy** — **Grace**...]

Justice — *getting what I deserve...*

Mercy — *not getting what I deserve...*

Grace — *getting what I don't deserve...*

Grace — *divine favor; the absolutely free expression of the loving kindness of God to men finding its only motive in the bounty and the benevolence of the Giver; unearned and unmerited favor...*

- [GRACE — God's Riches At Christ's Expense...]

Now, outside of a ***relationship with God through Christ***, we will make life about ***earning and deserving*** — we will establish a form of ***works-righteousness***...

- [ex. The Office cold opening — Dwight's standing desk...]

Now, the grace of God is not about ***earning and deserving*** — because we can never earn and deserve anything from God...

*Instead, the grace of God is about **believing and receiving**...*

As we **believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on our behalf we **receive** the grace of God — we **receive** God's unearned favor...

- You see, **earning** and **deserving** is about climbing the ladder — it is about me building my own kingdom — it's about me being better than someone else...

But God's Kingdom is built on **believing** and **receiving** because He is focused on **relationships that are founded on love...**

- And love cannot be earned and deserved — it can only be believed and received...

Wonderfully, as we **love God** and **love others** we grow into the people that God has created us to be...

- And it is true that we are to walk in the good works that He has called us to — but those good works come only after we have **believed** and **received...**

To see this, please turn to...

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NKJV)

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of

the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

So, after we ***believe*** and ***receive*** through ***grace***, we are to ***walk in the good works*** that He has prepared beforehand...

*But this is still not about ***earning*** and ***deserving*** — it is still about ***believing*** and ***receiving***...*

Because as I walk in the good works that God has prepared for me — I am to walk in those good works in the grace of God...

- As I continually believe in the Lord and receive from Him I will be empowered to do what He has called me to do...

Paul illustrated this beautifully in...

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- [expand — Paul and Christ supernaturally cooperating in the work of the ministry — definitely a mysterious interaction...]

Now, here is something that it is vital to understand regarding the works that we do as a believers — works that God has prepared for us...

These works are not done to earn merit from God or for the building up of our own kingdoms...

- Instead, these works that God has prepared beforehand are actually ***the method through which we grow in relationship with Him...***

[ex. Installing over-the-range microwave with my son-in-law...]

You see, as we work with God in the works that He has prepared for us, *we grow in relationship with Him, we invest in His Kingdom, we invest in people and we grow in conformity to Christ...*

- The works that God has called us to are not a ***burdensome obligation*** but are instead a ***blessed opportunity*** to become the person that God has called us to be...

God's plan is to draw us close to Him through the work that He has called us to...

And I would encourage you to continually seek out God's calling for your life...

- To ask yourself — *“How is God, by His grace, giving me opportunities to get to know Him through the work He has called me to?”*...[expand]

*Let's turn back to 2 Peter 1 as we move from **grace** to **peace**...*

peace — *peace of mind, tranquility, arising from reconciliation with God and a sense of divine favor...*

Once we have believed and received through the grace of God — and continue to believe and receive through the grace of God — we experience the **peace** that God gives...

And it is helpful to consider two fundamental aspects of this peace...

The first is ***peace with God***...

- To come to grips with this aspect of God's peace, it is important to understand that as unbelievers we were *at war with God — He was our enemy*...

We see this as we turn to...

Romans 5:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Now let's move down to...

Romans 5:8-10 (NKJV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Please turn to...

Colossians 1:21-22 (NKJV)

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight...

So, the bad news is that unbelievers are not neutral — they are enemies of God — they are opposed to God and His purposes for them...

The good news is that God loves His enemies and has made a way for them to enter into relationship with Him...

In our unbelief we were enemies of God — we were lost in our rebellion — and He made the way of peace through the Lord Jesus Christ...

- We have ***peace with God*** as we believe and receive the Lord Jesus Christ...

As believers we are no longer at war with God — we have ***peace with God*** through the Lord Jesus Christ...

But wait — there's more — there is a second fundamental aspect of the peace that God gives...

As believers we receive not only ***peace with God***, we also receive the ***peace of God***...

It is the peace of God that Paul writes about in...

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Paul also writes of the peace of God in...

Colossians 3:15 (NKJV)

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Now, I would argue that the ***peace of God*** is *God's kind of peace* — *the type of peace that God has in being God...*

- Think about how secure God is in being God — He has nothing to worry about — He is absolutely settled in who He is...

And I believe that this is the ***peace of God*** — the sort of peace that He wants to give to you and to me as we enjoy relationship with Him...

- Now, since peace originates in God, no human being can have ***peace with God*** or the ***peace of God*** apart from relationship with Him...

With that said, when we choose to enter into relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ then both ***peace with God*** and the ***peace of God*** will be immediately and continually available to us!...

- What an amazing treasure God's grace and God's peace are to us!...

Now please turn back to 2 Peter 1:2 as we continue on...

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

multiplied — *increased greatly...*

And we see here that the **grace** and **peace** of the believer is **multiplied** — is increased greatly — **in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord...**

- In other words, if we want to grow in the grace and peace of God then we must make it our aim to ***grow in the knowledge of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...***

[expand — read the Bible, listen to sermons, read godly books, walk in the good works that God has prepared for you...]

This reminds us that our ***believing*** and ***receiving*** is ***active and not passive...***

- As it has been well-said, ***“Grace is not opposed to effort but it is opposed to earning”***...[expand]

Ultimately, the Bible, godly teaching, and faithful obedience are treasure maps — they tell us of the treasure of God’s grace and peace and they tell us where to find it...[expand]

Let’s move now from Grace & Peace to our second section...

2) Divine Power (vs 3)

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,

Let’s look at the treasure that we find in this verse...

as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,

The first thing to see is that ***it is God's divine power*** that gives us this wonderful treasure...

divine power — *God's power, might, strength, force, capability; His almighty energy...*

Here are some scriptures that speak of this divine power...

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 4:33 (NKJV)

And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NKJV)

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

As we consider these scriptures, we must understand a vital truth...

*And that truth is that **we are not called to live out the Christian life in our own power...***

- Instead, we are called to live out the Christian life ***in the power that God provides through His presence in our lives...***

*“**God’s calling is God’s enabling**” — God has *all the power* that we need to do what He has called us to do...*

This really takes the pressure off of us as believers...

- We do not have to try to make things happen — instead, we can simply work in the power that God provides...

[expand — will be supernaturally natural...]

I love the way that Paul expressed this idea in...

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NKJV)

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

The reality is that the Apostle Paul was given the power to do what God called Him to do and God will give ***you the power to do what He calls you to do...***

- God will give you the power walk out your calling — but He won’t do the work for you...

Allow me to remind you of...

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

As we submit ourselves to the Lord, we will find that we have all the power that we need to ***walk in the good works that He has prepared for us...***

Continuing on in 2 Peter 1:3 we read...

as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,

This phrase **life and godliness** is expressing the idea of “***a godly life***”...

- And this is just what we have been talking about in this section — ***that God’s divine power has given us what we need to live a godly life...***

*The question is: **do we believe that this is true?**...*

Because if we do not believe that it is true then we are ***cutting ourselves off from the power that God is willing to share with us...***

You see, obedient faithfulness is the avenue for receiving God’s power...

We must **believe** that God is able to empower us and we must be seeking to do the work that God has called us to do in the way that He wants it done...

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Continuing on in 2 Peter 1:3...

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,

*Again Peter highlights the importance of the **knowledge of God** if we are to live out the life that God is calling us to...*

Hosea 4:6 (NKJV)

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me...”

In the context of Hosea, we understand that the Israelites had rejected the knowledge that God had shared with them and as a result they lost their opportunity for service...

- And the same can happen to us as believers — if we fail to grow in the knowledge of God then we are likely forfeiting opportunities that God has provided for us...

- [ex. Coach wants to play you but you refuse to learn the plays — it's not coaches fault that you don't play — it's your fault...]

So, it is true that individual believers bear responsibility for growing in knowledge...[expand]

- At the same time, it is also true that every local church fellowship bears responsibility for helping believers grow in knowledge...

To see this, please turn to...

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

And it seems abundantly clear to me that ***the teaching of the word of God*** is the primary way that a church helps people grow in the knowledge of God...

This aligns with what the Apostle Paul wrote in...

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Now to the last part of 2 Peter 1:3...

through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

In this section of vs 3, Peter reminds believers that they were called to salvation through the ***glory*** and ***virtue*** of the Lord Jesus...

- The ***glory*** of the Lord Jesus refers to His majesty and praiseworthiness...[expand]

2 Corinthians 4:6 (NKJV)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The ***virtue*** of the Lord Jesus refers to His moral excellence...

- No one who has ever lived had been more morally excellent than the Lord Jesus...

[ex. the Lord Jesus' teachings & the way that He treated people — read the NT with a focus on the Lord Jesus' glory and virtue...]

Conclusion

We will stop here for today and Lord-willing pick up in vs 4 next week...

As we close I will leave you with three parting exhortations...

1) God's Kingdom is about believing and receiving through grace — not earning and deserving through works...[expand]

2) Peace with God and the peace of God is available to anyone who comes to God through the Lord Jesus Christ...[expand]

3) God's divine power is available to empower us to do what He has called us to do as we grow in the knowledge of Him... [expand]