

# Treasure - Part III

## 2 Peter 1:4

### Intro

This morning we will complete our opening series of **2 Peter** which has been entitled ***Treasure...***

*And before we jump into our study, let's remind ourselves of what we covered last week in vs 2-3 of 2 Peter 1...*

**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,**

In these two verses, we focused on ***God's grace and peace*** which come to us through ***the Lord Jesus Christ*** and we focused on ***God's divine power*** that enables us to live the life that God has called us to...

We were reminded that God's grace is ***His unmerited favor given to those who come to Him thorough the Lord Jesus Christ...***

- This ***grace*** is obtained through ***believing and receiving*** and ***not*** through ***earning and deserving...***

*We also considered two distinct aspects of the peace that we receive through relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ...*

First of all, as believers we receive ***peace with God...***

- We are no longer at war with God — we are no longer God's enemies because we have been reconciled to Him through Jesus' death for our sins...

Secondly, we receive the ***peace of God*** — the peace that *God has in being God — the settled assurance that God is in control...*

- We were also reminded that God's grace and peace in our lives is multiplied greatly as we ***grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ...***

Finally, we were reminded that as believers ***we are not called to live out our lives in our own power...***

- Instead, we have been given ***divine power*** to walk out our calling in Christ — *we have what we need to walk in obedience to Him...*

And this divine power is made accessible through our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ — the One who called us to Himself *through His glorious and virtuous life...*

*When we take some time to put the pieces together, it makes perfect sense...*

As we grow in relationship with the Lord, we will become increasingly conformed into His image and as a result He will be able to entrust us with more of His power...

With these thoughts in mind, we turn our attention to **2 Peter 1:4** in a message I have entitled ***Treasure - Part III...***

*So please follow along as I read **2 Peter 1:1-4** as we seek to understand our **text** within its **context**...*

## **2 Peter 1:1-4 (NKJV)**

**1 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.**

*Verse 4 divides nicely into 3 treasure-filled sections...*

***1) Precious Promises***

***2) Divine Partakers***

***3) Escaped Prisoners***

*Let's move into our first section...*

## **1) Precious Promises (vs 4a)**

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

*The first thing we should do is consider the phrase **by which** — as this phrase takes us back to verse 3...*

As we make the connection between verses 3 & 4, we understand that that it is **by the divine power and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ** that we have been given these **exceedingly great and precious promises...**

- Furthermore, it is by **the *glory and virtue of the Lord Jesus Christ*** that we have been given **exceedingly great and precious promises...**

***This is a vital truth to understand — the promises of God are priceless treasure that come to us only through the Lord Jesus Christ...***

*The Apostle Paul made this clear in...*

### **2 Corinthians 1:19-20 (NKJV)**

**19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.**

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

*This is a glorious truth!*

*You and I are not the key to treasure of the promises of God — **the Lord Jesus Christ is...***

You and I are not deserving of God's promises — but God has made provision so that we might receive these promises anyway...

***And the Lord Jesus Christ is the provision — He is the conduit of these promises...***

*Now, before we consider some of the promises that come to us through the agency of the Lord Jesus Christ — let's dig a little deeper into the first part of vs 4...*

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

**given** — *to present as a gift; perhaps formally...[ex. special occasion...]*

***What if we chose to read the Bible with a focus on the promises of God?...***

- ***And what if we chose to view those promises of God as formal gifts from Him to us?...***

***And how would our lives change if we received those promises as formal gifts?...***

***If we treated those promises with the same reverence and respect that that we do when a loved one gives us something irreplaceable?...[expand]***

*Continuing on in vs 4, we see that these promises have been given...*

**to us** — *to believers...*

The promises of God come **to us** through the Lord Jesus Christ...

- Unfortunately, those outside of a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ ***do not have access to the promises of God...***

*Thankfully, that problem is easily remedied...*

Because anyone who enters into relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ ***will gain access to the promises of God!...***  
[expand]

*Continuing on in vs 4 we read that these promises are...*

**exceedingly great and precious promises**

**exceedingly great** — *lit. greatest; no other promises can be greater...*

**precious** — *costly; of exceptional worth; no other promises are worth more...*

***But what are some of these exceedingly great and precious promises?...***

*Out of the hundreds of exceedingly great and precious promises, I will share 10 of them...*

## ***The Promise of Christ's Presence***

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)**

**18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

**19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.**

## ***The Promise of the Holy Spirit***

**Luke 11:13 (NKJV)**

**“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”**

## ***The Promise of Everlasting Life***

**John 3:16 (NKJV)**

**“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”**

## ***The Promise of Abundant Life***

**John 10:10 (NKJV)**

**“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”**

## ***The Promise of Life after Death***

**John 11:25-26 (NKJV)**

**25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.**

**26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**

## ***The Promise of Bearing Fruit***

**John 15:5 (NKJV)**

**"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

## ***The Promise of Christ's Unending Love***

**Romans 8:35-39 (NKJV)**

**35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

**36 As it is written:**

**"For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."**

**37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**

**38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,**

**39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

### ***The Promise that what we do for the Lord is not in vain***

**1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)**

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

### ***The Promise of the Peace of God***

**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.**

### ***The Promise of Forgiveness***

**1 John 1:9 (NKJV)**

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

These are simply 10 of hundreds of **exceedingly great and precious promises** that have been given to us through the Lord Jesus Christ...

***EXHORTATION — Read the Bible with a focus on the exceedingly great and precious promises that are yours in Jesus Christ!...[expand]***

- [ex. Looking though Christmas catalogs as a kid — but I received few (if any) of the items that were displayed on the pages of the catalogs...]

And I didn't get most of what was in those Christmas catalogs because there was no one in my life who had ***the resources*** or ***the inclination*** to get them for me...

*And that was as it should be — to receive all of those gifts would not have been good for me...*

- ***But the Bible — the Word of God — is different — it is greater than any Christmas catalog....***

It contains countless promises from our Creator — ***promises that will enrich us without spoiling us...***

- And as believers we have been saved by ***the One who has both the resources and the inclination to give us what the Bible promises us...***

These **exceedingly great and precious promises** are promises that will make us better for having received them...

- And they are available to anyone who seeks them through relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ — the provider of the promises of God...

*With that said, let's move now to our second section...*

## **2) Divine Partakers (vs 4b)**

**that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature,**

The phrase **that through these** refers to the **exceedingly great and precious promises** that we have access to through the Lord Jesus Christ...

*And this reminds us that the life of the believer is **integrated** — it is **interconnected**...*

We place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and we are saved and we then have access to immeasurable treasure...

- We have access to the **exceedingly great and precious promises** and then *through those promises we **may be partakers of the divine nature**...*

*But what does it mean to be partakers of the divine nature?...*

**partaker** — *one who takes part in something with someone; companion, partner, sharer...*

- *This word is used of the partnership of James and John with Peter and Andrew...*
- *It is used of the partnership of Paul and Titus...*
- *It is also used by Paul to refer to a partnership of suffering and then of consolation...*

**divine nature** — *God's attributes and qualities...*

*As we put the pieces together, it seems clear that being a **partaker of the divine nature** means at least two things...*

***First of all, it means that believers are partners with God — that as believers we team-up with Him — we are co-laborers with the Almighty...***

*We see this in...*

**Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV)**

**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.”**

[ex. Great Commission — Jesus is with us...]

### **1 Corinthians 3:9 (NKJV)**

**For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.**

### **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.**

### **Philippians 2:13 (NKJV)**

**...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**

***Secondly, being a partaker of the divine nature also speaks of the fact that the Holy Spirit Himself — the Third Person of the Trinity — enters into a new and permanent relationship with us the moment that we believe...***

- *We are born again by the Spirit...[expand]*
- *We are sealed by the Spirit...[expand]*
- *We are gifted by the Spirit...[expand]*
- *We are filled and empowered by the Spirit...[expand]*
- *We are led by the Spirit...[expand]*
- *And we bear the fruit of the Spirit...[expand]*

***This relationship with the Holy Spirit enables us to be co-laborers with God — what an incredible privilege!...***

And we are reminded once again that we must *value the knowledge of the Word of God* if we are to walk in this amazing treasure...

- The Bible reveals to us this amazing treasure and by faith we appropriate these exceedingly great and precious promises and enjoy the incredible life that is possible as partakers of the divine nature...

*This brings us to our third and final section...*

### **3) Escaped Prisoners (vs 4c)**

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

These words — and the meaning behind them — cause me to think of one of the books in C.S. Lewis' ***The Chronicles of Narnia***...

- The book I am speaking of is — in my opinion — the most underrated of the series...

The book is titled ***The Horse and His Boy*** and it primarily follows Shasta, a slave boy, who is living under the oppressive rule of a man who is not his father...

As the story progresses, Shasta comes to know Aslan — who represents Christ — and Shasta is finally reunited with His true father and Shasta comes into his full inheritance...

***And in many ways this is the story of every believer...***

We come into this world as slaves to sin and — as unappealing as it may sound — the devil is our abusive father and slave owner...

- The fallen world system, our sinful desires and the devil and his demons cooperate in a unholy trinity of corrupt powers keeping us captive...

*This is the terrible condition that we find ourselves in apart from Christ...*

**John 8:34-36 (NKJV)**

**34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.**

**35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.**

**36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."**

Living in sin is slavery that leads to death but living in obedience to Christ is freedom that leads to life...

- The Lord Jesus came to give us life and that more abundantly...

*And this is what Peter is communicating here in the last part of 2 Peter 1:4 when he writes...*

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

This is the incredible privilege that we believers have — we are ***escaped prisoners*** — we are no longer slaves...

- Now, here in vs 4 Peter here is using the word **escaped** in the sense of *fleeing away from*...

As believers we have been blessed with the ability to ***flee away from the corruption that is in the world through lust***...

**corruption** — *inward depravity*...

**lust** — *a desire for something forbidden or an inordinate desire for something*...

This is what the fallen world system is built on — a never-ending desire to satisfy our sinful desires...

- ***But through the Lord Jesus we are enabled to flee from that sort of life — we have been freed!***...

*For the most complete teaching on this subject, let's wind down our time by turning to...*

**Romans 6 (NKJV)**

**1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?**

**2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

**3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?**

**4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

**5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,**

**6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.**

**7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.**

**8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,**

**9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.**

**10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.**

**11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.**

**13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**

**14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

**15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!**

**16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?**

**17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.**

**18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**

**19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.**

**20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.**

**21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.**

**22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.**

**23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## **Conclusion**

*We will stop here for today — and Lord-willing pick up in vs 5 next week...*

- And as we close, I would encourage each of us to rejoice in the priceless treasure that is available to us through the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ...*

***1) Through the Lord Jesus we have been given exceedingly great and precious promises that are to be believed and received...***

***2) Through the Lord Jesus we have become divine partakers — co-laboring with God in the power of the Holy Spirit...***

***3) Through the Lord Jesus we are escaped prisoners — we are no longer slaves of sin but instead we are free to live abundantly in fellowship with our God...***