

My Beloved Son

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 31st, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

~2nd Peter 1:2-3 (NASB)

1) Simon Peter, Slave & Sent To Those Of The Faith...

- A) Like the first letter from Peter to the followers of Christ throughout Asia Minor, the second letter of Peter also clearly claims Peter's apostolic authorship (2nd Peter 1:1).
- B) However, unlike Peter's first letter, this second letter is not written to a specific region (cf. 1st Peter 1:1), but is rather written about a specific subject, false teaching (2:1ff).
- C) This letter, like other New Testament letters, was meant to be distributed to all those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as God and Savior (1:1) for growth in knowledge (1:2).

2) The Ultimate Moral Quality Of Love

- A) Knowledge of Jesus Christ provides everything needed for "life and godliness" (1:3), a "magnificent promise" (1:4) of continuing growth in Christ's "divine nature."
- B) The "divine nature" is not another set of rules to live by, but is actually relationship with Jesus Christ Himself!

- C) Through this constantly deepening relationship comes a life of moral excellence which conquers all lusts (1:4-5).
- D) Illustrating the great breadth and depth of Christlike moral excellence, Peter uses a literary device (a progressively building ladder of logical arguments which lead to a climactic conclusion) to illustrate the impact of a relationship with Jesus Christ (1:5-7).
- E) Love champions Peter's list of increasing virtues which come through a "true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1:7-8). Knowing Jesus means an increasing and progressive moral excellence in a Christian's life!

3) Passionate Reminders Of Jesus Christ

- A) A progressively changing lifestyle (from the world of lusts to the moral excellence of Jesus Christ) is the best assurance of both a stable life (1:10) and security of the Christian's salvation (1:11).
- B) Like any good leader, Peter made sure he constantly reminded the faithful that life in Christ was of the highest importance. Reminders of these truths are critical for growth and excellence in all Christians (1:12-15).
- C) Knowledge of Jesus Christ (His life, works, death, and resurrection) was being disputed by some heretics as a fable, but was the product of Peter's own personal experiences with Jesus Christ (e.g. 1:16-18).
- D) In other words, constantly increasing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ as God and Savior was not a fable (do not be distracted), but was a firm testimony from both God and from Peter's own eyewitness (Mount of Transfiguration, cf. Mark 9:1-11; Matthew 17:1-13).