

**2 Peter – Growing in Grace**  
*Everything for life and godliness - 2 Peter 1:3-4*  
preached on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Hope Community Church East Building by Dr. Steve Treichler  
10am – Facebook Live (Coronavirus Pandemic 2020)  
*For His Glory and Our Joy!*

Outline:

**Introduction** – *It's been quite a summer...*

**Follow the flow of this amazing passage!**

1. Christ's Divine Power gives
2. Everything we need for godly living
3. Through our knowledge of him
4. Who called us by his glory and goodness
5. AND by this glory and goodness has given promises
6. So that we participate in the divine nature
7. Escaping the corruption in the world

**A Deeper Dive into 7 Truths:**

*Christ's Divine Power*

1 Corinthians 1:20-31

*Everything we need for life and godliness*

Ephesians 1:3ff

Ruth Anne Reese quote

*Through our knowledge of him*

John 17:3

Jl Packer quote

*Who called us by his glory and goodness*

Piper Book "God is the Gospel"

*His great promises*

Hebrews 6:13-20a

*Participating in the divine nature*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Ephesians 5:31-33

Spurgeon quote "hope in Christ, not in hope"

*Escaping the corruption in the world*

Keller quote

**Gospel Application** – *How will you live in light of these deep truths?*

Passages Quoted (from New International Version):

**2 Peter 1:3-4**

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

**2 Peter 1:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

**2 Peter 3:18**

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

**1 Corinthians 1:20-31**

<sup>20</sup>Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup>God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup>It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

**Ephesians 1:3**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

**Hebrews 6:13-20a**

<sup>13</sup>When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup>saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” <sup>15</sup>And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. <sup>16</sup>People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. <sup>17</sup>Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. <sup>18</sup>God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. <sup>19</sup>We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup>where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

<sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

### **Ephesians 5:31-33**

<sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

### **John 17:3**

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

#### Quotes:

*Ruth Anne Reese:*

The faith that Jesus gives to his followers is not only for their ultimate rescue from death and darkness but is more immediately directed towards their daily lives and their practice of godliness. In other words, Jesus is the Savior who provides everything that they need for all aspects of their life. This is not simply a provision for spiritual life but rather a provision for every part of life. This is obtained through the divine power that Jesus himself ratified by the righteous life that he lived and by his death and resurrection that made human entry into God’s kingdom possible.<sup>1</sup>

*J.I. Packer:*

What were we made for? To know God. What aim should we set ourselves in life? To know God. What is the eternal life that Jesus gives? Knowledge of God. “This is life eternal, that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). What is the best thing in life, bringing more joy, delight, and contentment than anything else? Knowledge of God. “Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not

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<sup>1</sup> Ruth Anne Reese, [2 Peter and Jude](#), The Two Horizons New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007), 134.

the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me" (Jeremiah 9:23). What, of all the states God ever sees man in, gives him most pleasure? Knowledge of himself. "I desire ... the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings," says God (Hosea 6:6).... Once you have become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord.<sup>2</sup>

*C.H. Spurgeon:*

Remember, therefore, it is not thy hold of Christ that saves thee – it is Christ; it is not thy joy in Christ that saves thee – it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument – it is Christ's blood and merits; therefore, look not so much to thy hand with which thou art grasping Christ, as to Christ; look not to thy hope, but to Jesus, the source of thy hope; look not to thy faith, but to Jesus, the author and finisher of thy faith. We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul. If we would at once overcome Satan and have peace with God, it must be by "looking unto Jesus." Keep thine eye simply on him; let his death, his sufferings, his merits, his glories, his intercession, be fresh upon thy mind; when thou wakest in the morning look to him; when thou liest down at night look to him. Oh! let not thy hopes or fears come between thee and Jesus; follow hard after him, and he will never fail thee.

C.H. Spurgeon, From: *Morning and Evening*, Morning devotion for June 28.

*Timothy Keller:*

1. *Spiritual growth is possible.* Let's take a look at verses 3–4. "His divine power has given us everything we need for godly living, so that through him you may participate in the divine nature." These are stupendous statements, and just to throw into relief how stupendous they are let me just say I would be rich if I had a dollar for every time I heard somebody over my lifetime say, "People don't really change." I'd be rich. I would be 10 times richer if I also got a dollar for every time I quietly assumed that toward other people and even toward myself. That people really don't change is, I think, a working assumption for most of us, and verses 3–4 radically contradict that. Verse 4 says ... He's speaking to us. He's speaking to Christians who have believed the promises of the gospel. It says through them we participate in the divine nature. That is an astounding way to put it.

We get the Holy Spirit, yes, but this is helpful to put it like this. We participate in the divine nature. When you are conceived, the DNA of your ancestors is implanted into you. The genetic material of your ancestors is implanted into you. When you're born and you live your life, that DNA essentially plays itself out in the rest of your life, making you what you are. When you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you receive the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not just a nebulous force that is with you. He is the third person of the Trinity. That's God come into you.

Therefore, when you believe, the very DNA of God is implanted in you and the rest of your life is an outworking of that DNA, which makes you the person you will become. Because we're being told the very DNA of God has been implanted in you when you

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<sup>2</sup> J. I. Packer, *Knowing God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973), p. 29.

believe in Jesus Christ, that's the reason Peter can say this most convicting and yet most hopeful verse, verse 3. It's maybe the most devastating and most hopeful verse at the same time in the New Testament. Look at what it says. **"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life ..."**

Do you want to hear the devastating aspect of that? There are no excuses. Peter is saying, "Don't tell me you don't have what you need to live as you should. You absolutely do. What more would you want? You have the divine nature. No, you don't need some kind of esoteric knowledge that you don't have yet or some mystical experience. You have it, if you are a Christian who believes and has received the Holy Spirit. You are a participator in the divine nature."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Timothy J. Keller, ["Our Power: Spirit-Filled Living,"](#) in *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive, 2014–2015* (New York: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2014), 2 Pe 1:3–11.





**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**





# SECOND PETER

GROWING IN GRACE

*Where we are going*

**2 Peter 3:18**

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord  
and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both  
now and forever! Amen.

## 2 Peter 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God  
and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as  
precious as ours:

<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the  
knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

the  
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This week's message:

*Everything for life and godliness*

2 Peter 1:3-4

[hopecc.com/slides](http://hopecc.com/slides) & [hopecc.com/notes](http://hopecc.com/notes)

## 2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

<sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Follow the flow of this amazing passage!

Christ's Divine Power gives

Everything we need for godly living

Through our knowledge of him

Who called us by his glory and goodness

AND by this glory and goodness has given promises

So that we participate in the divine nature

Escaping the corruption in the world

# A Deeper Dive into these 7 Truths:





# A Deeper Dive into these 7 Truths:

## 1. Christ's Divine Power

**POWER**

## 2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

<sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

## 1 Corinthians 1:20-31

<sup>20</sup>Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

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<sup>26</sup>Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup>God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup>It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

# A Deeper Dive into these 7 Truths:

2. Everything we need for life and godliness



## 2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

<sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

## **Ephesians 1:3**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

The faith that Jesus gives to his followers is not only for their ultimate rescue from death and darkness but is more immediately directed towards their daily lives and their practice of godliness. In other words, Jesus is the Savior who provides everything that they need for all aspects of their life. This is not simply a provision for spiritual life but rather a provision for every part of life. This is obtained through the divine power that Jesus himself ratified by the righteous life that he lived and by his death and resurrection that made human entry into God's kingdom possible.



~ Ruth Anne Reese, *2 Peter and Jude*, The Two Horizons New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007), 134.



# A Deeper Dive into these 7 Truths:

3. Through our knowledge of him



## 2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

<sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

## John 17:3

Now this is eternal life: that they know you,  
the only true God, and Jesus Christ,  
whom you have sent.



July 17  
2020



July 17  
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What were we made for? To know God. What aim should we set ourselves in life? To know God. What is the eternal life that Jesus gives? Knowledge of God. “This is life eternal, that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). What is the best thing in life, bringing more joy, delight, and contentment than anything else? Knowledge of God. “Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me” (Jeremiah 9:23).



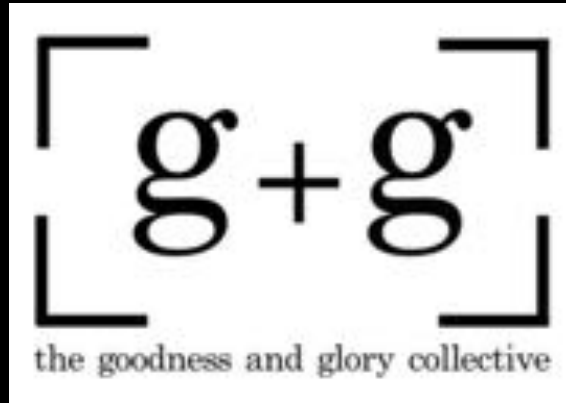
“What, of all the states God ever sees man in, gives him most pleasure? Knowledge of himself. “I desire ... the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings,” says God (Hosea 6:6)... Once you have become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life’s problems fall into place of their own accord.

~J. I. Packer, *Knowing God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973), p. 29.



# A Deeper Dive into these 7 Truths:

4. Who called us by his glory and goodness





## 2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

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# GOD IS THE GOSPEL

MEDITATIONS ON GOD'S LOVE  
IN THE GIFT OF HOPE



JOHN PIPER

# A Deeper Dive into these 7 Truths:

## 5. His great promises



## 2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

<sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

## Hebrews 6:13-20a

<sup>13</sup>When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup>saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” <sup>15</sup>And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. <sup>16</sup>People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. <sup>17</sup>Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. <sup>18</sup>God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. <sup>19</sup>We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup>where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.

# A Deeper Dive into these 7 Truths:

## 6. Participating in the divine nature



## 2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

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## 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

<sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.



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<sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Remember, therefore, it is not thy hold of Christ that saves thee – it is Christ; it is not thy joy in Christ that saves thee – it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument – it is Christ's blood and merits; therefore, look not so much to thy hand with which thou art grasping Christ, as to Christ; look not to thy hope, but to Jesus, the source of thy hope; look not to thy faith, but to Jesus, the author and finisher of thy faith. We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is,



not what we are, that gives rest to the soul. If we would at once overcome Satan and have peace with God, it must be by “looking unto Jesus.” Keep thine eye simply on him; let his death, his sufferings, his merits, his glories, his intercession, be fresh upon thy mind; when thou wakest in the morning look to him; when thou liest down at night look to him. Oh! let not thy hopes or fears come between thee and Jesus; follow hard after him, and he will never fail thee.



~ C.H. Spurgeon, From: *Morning and Evening*, Morning devotion for June 28.

# A Deeper Dive into these 7 Truths:

## 7. Escaping the corruption in the world



## 2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

<sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

*Spiritual growth is possible.* Let's take a look at verses 3-4. "His divine power has given us everything we need for godly living, so that through him you may participate in the divine nature." These are stupendous statements, and just to throw into relief how stupendous they are let me just say I would be rich if I had a dollar for every time I heard somebody over my lifetime say, "People don't really change." I'd be rich.

I would be 10 times richer if I also got a dollar for every time I quietly assumed that toward other people and even toward myself. That people really don't change is, I think, a working assumption for most of us, and verses 3-4 radically contradict that.



He's speaking to us. He's speaking to Christians who have believed the promises of the gospel. It says through them we participate in the divine nature. That is an astounding way to put it. We get the Holy Spirit, yes, but this is helpful to put it like this. We participate in the divine nature. When you are conceived, the DNA of your ancestors is implanted into you. The genetic material of your ancestors is implanted into you. When you're born and you live your life, that DNA essentially play itself out in the rest of your life, making you what you are. When you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you receive the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not just a nebulous force that is with you. He is the third person of the Trinity. That's God come into you.



Therefore, when you believe, the very DNA of God is implanted in you and the rest of your life is an outworking of that DNA, which makes you the person you will become. Because we're being told the very DNA of God has been implanted in you when you believe in Jesus Christ, that's the reason Peter can say this most convicting and yet most hopeful verse, verse 3. It's maybe the most devastating and most hopeful verse at the same time in the New Testament. Look at what it says:

**"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life ..."**





Do you want to hear the devastating aspect of that? There are no excuses. Peter is saying, “Don’t tell me you don’t have what you need to live as you should. You absolutely do. What more would you want? You have the divine nature. No, you don’t need some kind of esoteric knowledge that you don’t have yet or some mystical experience. You have it, if you are a Christian who believes and has received the Holy Spirit. You are a participator in the divine nature.”



~ Timothy J. Keller, “Our Power: Spirit-Filled Living,” sermon delivered on June 9, 2014 at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NY.

# Gospel Application

*“How will you live in light of these deep truths?”*