

Multiplication

Harmony M.B.C., April 10, 2011, July 19, 2020 (Morning)

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2Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

- Just a few words about this verse:
 - ▶ precious faith
 - ▶ gotten through the righteousness of God, our Savior Jesus Christ

- Now, the primary subject of our message:

2Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

- This is not a wishful expression, but a fact and promise from the apostle as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

I. Think of grace and peace being multiplied

- These are two invaluable treasures available from the Lord. When they are multiplied toward us we gain things that nothing else can give us.
- Grace multiplied gives:
 - ▶ Sense of purpose
 - ▶ Sense of being loved and valued
 - ▶ Behavioral change
 - ▶ Thought change
- Peace multiplied gives:
 - ▶ Sense of safety
 - ▶ Sense of oneness with the Lord
 - ▶ Sense of orderliness (in your own life; in the affairs of creation)
 - ▶ Stability in turbulence

II. How does grace and peace get multiplied? (“through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord...”)

- There is grace received and a level of peace arrived at when we first trust Christ. So, we know what that feels like. But what about this thing of grace and peace being multiplied? That is the next step. And we start those steps by advancing in our knowledge of the Lord.
 - ▶ We need to understand that gaining in this kind of knowledge does not happen automatically just because we live on as believers.
 - ▶ See Paul’s understanding of this: Philip. 3:8-10
 - ▶ Devaluation of all that we had before Christ - “Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss (and do count them *but* dung) for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...”

- ▶ Acknowledge that there is personal loss in this process - "...for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, that I may win Christ..."
- ▶ All done for deeper personal knowledge of Christ - v.10 **That I may know him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

III. Notice the principle of God by which our advancement in knowledge multiplies grace and peace in our lives: 2Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath **given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him** that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2Peter 1:4 Whereby are **given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- First, we have everything we need for life and godliness, but access to it comes through the knowledge of Christ (v. 3). They are all there and available when we come to a knowledge of Him as Savior. They are in reserve for us to draw out and use. But, without growth in knowledge, we hardly know where or how to begin getting access to them, and using them in our daily lives.
 - ▶ Illustrate: Donald Trump has a 14 year old son, Barron. He is heir to Donald's empire along with Donald's other children.
 - ▶ Everything Barron is given right now is provided by his dad and mom. But, there are a lot of things in the Trump kingdom that Barron doesn't know he owns right now. They are held in trust for him.
 - ▶ As he needs them, or even wants them, Donald may give them to him. Right now, he doesn't know what to ask for. As soon as he learns what to ask for, he might ask for it. The possibilities are limitless!
 - ▶ There will be things that he will learn he needs. He may need them right now, but he doesn't know they are available, and he may not know that he needs them. So, he lacks the knowledge of what he needs or has available for the asking, so he doesn't ask.
 - ▶ There are things in Donald's property and possessions that Barron may not yet know how to use. There may be a data analysis program on the family computer that Barron doesn't know how to use, but it is right there for the using. Barron sees all the ritzy cars out in the garage, but he isn't old enough to legally drive them yet. When he finally gets old enough to get his license, and everything is in order, he can drive those cars. When he learns how to use the things that President Trump may have in his possession, then he can use these things.
 - ▶ Barron watches his dad do things, say things that he may not fully understand right now. As he gets to know his dad more, he will learn why his dad says things and does certain things. He will then be able to use that knowledge to improve his relationship with his dad...to get his dad's approval about how he does things because he has learned how to do them as a result of coming to a knowledge about his dad and about

the reasonableness or logic of the things said or done.

- ▶ Just so, **learning Christ gives us insights** into what is there in the kingdom for us to have and use. Learning about Christ will **reveal to us the value of behaving like Him**.

■ Second, He has promised these things so that we might be more Christ-like because we have power over, and an avenue of escape away from, the drawing power of carnal, worldly longing (v.4 - Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust**).

- Longing after worldly things is death to climbing the staircase of increasing spiritual growth through learning more and more about our great Savior
- Longing after worldly things is a staircase that leads downward to a dungeon of imprisonment. The bars of that dungeon are thick steel and are made of our own commitments to worldly effort to get those things we lust after
- **1John 2:15** “Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world.”
- But, we are not bound by these carnal longings. If we would be free from them, there is an avenue to be free. It is simple. Just study Christ.
- Being partakers of the divine nature of Christ means more than just being a new creature. The nature of a any creature expresses itself in thinking and doing. That thinking and doing is shaped by the creature learning from a model how to appropriately express its nature.

- ✓ Illustrate: watching squirrels in side yard. - They hop, they dig, they stand on their hind legs and gnaw on an acorn they have found; they run up a tree, they run down it, they bark at me. They are acting out their nature. But why does all this use of energy show itself as hopping, digging, climbing, barking? Because these squirrels grew up learning from their parent. In the same way, all creatures act out the fundamentals of their nature based on a combination of having the actual nature to be able to do certain things and then coming to know about those things through studying a model.

- ✓ Interesting side note: Some animals who imprint on a substitute parent, not of the same species, will behave like the substitute parent in a lot of things (not like their own species).

- The great end of **getting to know Christ** is that we learn how to **turn the capabilities of our new nature into thoughts and act that mimic Him**. By doing that, we escape the snares of the world.