

EPISTLE OF 2 PETER
WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN BELIEVERS
PART 1-“A LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH”
2 PETER 1:1-4

Introduction

READ: 2 PETER 1:1-4

The **EPISTLE OF 2 PETER** is one of the **HEBREW** or **JEWISH CHRISTIAN EPISTLES** and was written to **ESTABLISH** the dispersed **JEWISH BELIEVERS** who were **IN THE FAITH**. It is tied to **PETER’S FIRST EPISTLE** not only because of its **AUTHOR**, but because of its **NATURE** and who the initial **RECIPIENTS** were.

1 Peter 1:1–“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 Peter 3:1–“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

Any time that we find a 2nd or 3rd epistle with the same name, the first is normally **DOCTRINAL** in nature while the others are **PROPHETIC** of the times preceding the **SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**.

Though this was addressed to the **“strangers scattered”**, understand that it is also given to the **END-TIME CHURCH** for **APPLICATION**.

We just read the reason for **2 PETER** was to **“stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.”** Remembrance of what? Well when **PETER** was closing out his first **EPISTLE** in **1 PETER 5:8**, he warned his readers both then and now that our **ADVERSARY**, the **DEVIL**, walks about **“as a roaring lion,”** seeking whom he may **DEVOUR**. (*Elaborate on this!*)

In **2 Peter**, we find the **DEVIL** revealed as going back to his old ways as a **“SERPENT,”** subtly deceiving **GOD’S children**.

As **BLESSED BELIEVERS**, we should keep fresh in our minds and reflect upon the many **BLESSINGS** that the **LORD** has given to us by way of our **POSITION** of being **“IN CHRIST.”** And we who are **“IN CHRIST”**, indeed, are **TRULY BLESSED!** And all of **GOD’S PEOPLE** should say **“AMEN!”** right there because we **KNOW** it to be **TRUE!**

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We **KNOW** it and yet, if we are not careful, the **WORLD**, the **FLESH**, and the **DEVIL** will tend to get our focus **OFF OF** our **POSITION OF BLESSING IN CHRIST** and **ON TO** our **PRESENT PHYSICAL CIRCUMSTANCES**—which may be **GOOD** at times and **NOT SO GOOD** at other times!

SATAN loves for us to just focus on our **TEMPORAL PHYSICAL BLESSINGS** or our **PERCEIVED LACK THEREOF!**

PETER reminds us in his **EPISTLE** here to **THINK BEYOND THE TEMPORAL THINGS OF THIS LIFE** and to rather **THINK ON THE SPIRITUAL THINGS** that we have that are **ETERNAL “IN CHRIST.”**

Even the **APOSTLE PAUL** concurred with this in his writings to the **CHURCHES!**

Ephesians 1:3– “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”

Colossians 3:1–3– “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”

This morning, I want us to begin to take a look at **SOME OF THE THINGS** that the **LORD** has given to those of us who are **BELIEVERS!**

And listen to me, if you are not **“IN CHRIST”** today, understand that these things that we are going to see are available to you today! They can be yours as just as well as ours, if you will become a **BELIEVER!** You become a **BELIEVER** by **REPENTING** of your **SIN** of **UNBELIEF** and **TRUSTING CHRIST** and **HIS GOSPEL!** The **GOSPEL** is that **CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS** according to the **SCRIPTURE** and **HE WAS BURIED** and that **HE WAS RAISED THE THIRD DAY!**

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So, let's begin...

WE WHO ARE “IN CHRIST” HAVE OBTAINED A LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH! (Vs 1)

I. OUR SALVATION IS A LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH THAT WE SHARE WITH EVERY OTHER BELIEVER!

OK class, let's go back to our grade school days for a moment here. Remember when we were taught **ENGLISH GRAMMAR** in school how, if we were paying attention, that the word “*like*” is a term that means “*the same*” or “*similar*”. (It was called a “*simile*”!)

“a like precious faith” – means “a faith of equal value.”
i.e. We could say an equally precious faith!

In this case, **PETER** was writing to these who he said “*have obtained a like precious faith with US*”

That “**US**” is referring to **PETER** himself as well as all the other **APOSTLES!** Every person who has been genuinely **BORN AGAIN** by **SAVING FAITH IN CHRIST** shares in the **SAME SALVATION** that **PETER** and the other **APOSTLES** possessed! (i.e. It is *equally PRECIOUS for US as it was for THEM!*)

*Jude 3–“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of **the common salvation**, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

The word “**common**” referring to salvation there– doesn't mean that it's *not extraordinary*. It means that it is *shared!*

*Titus 1:4–“To Titus, mine own son after **the common faith**: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.”*

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*Romans 1:11-12–“11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; 12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you **by the mutual faith both of you and me.***

Again, “*a like precious faith*” – “*means a faith of equal value.*” Understand that we **ALL** came to be “**IN CHRIST**” the same way— By **GRACE** through **FAITH** in the **GOSPEL OF CHRIST!**

And, **ALL** of us who are **SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH** have the **POSSESSION** of the **SAME SALVATION IN CHRIST!** That's **LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH!**

What does it mean when something or someone is “**PRECIOUS?**” The word “**PRECIOUS**” can mean “*of great value or worth*” or it can mean “*highly valued, much esteemed or much prized; beloved.*” (e.g. *Gold and silver are called precious metals.*)

When **SOMETHING** or **SOMEONE** is either **DEFINED AS PRECIOUS** or **DEEMED PRECIOUS** there are usually three qualities that can be found in that which is **PRECIOUS:**

A. For Something To Be PRECIOUS It Should Be RARE!
The **SALVATION** we enjoy “**BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST**” is **RARE!**
There is **NOTHING** else like it!

*Matthew 7:13-14–“13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 **Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**”*

Cf. John 14:6, Acts 4:12

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B. For Something To Be PRECIOUS It Should Have What Is Called INTRINSIC VALUE!

(i.e. intrinsic = inherent; essential; belonging naturally.)

That “**PRECIOUS**” nature of our **FAITH** is **INHERENT** , not necessarily in our minds, but rather in the **PRECIOUS NATURE** of that which we **POSSESS BY OUR FAITH IN CHRIST!**

Is it possible to have something in your **POSSESSION** that you don’t fully appreciate the **PRECIOUS NATURE** of? Yes, of course!

*(e.g. When our parents went home to be with the LORD we inherited some things. In fact we came to **POSSESS** some things that were more **PRECIOUS** than we realized! And some things were less **PRECIOUS** than we realized! **The PRECIOUSNESS** or **VALUE** was there whether we realized it or not!)*

C. For Something To Be PRECIOUS It Should Be USEFUL!

Our **FAITH** in the **GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST FREED US FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN...FREES US FROM THE POWER OF SIN...and it assures us that one day it will FREE US FROM THE VERY PRESENCE OF SIN!**

*(If you’ve ever played **MONOPOLY** you came to know the **VALUE** of the **GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD!** That was **USEFUL** when you needed it!)*

Our **FAITH** is **PRECIOUS** in that it keeps us out of **HELL!** Our **FAITH IN CHRIST CHANGED OUR VERY NATURE** and thereby **CHANGED OUR FUTURE!**

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OUR SALVATION IS A LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH THAT WE SHARE WITH EVERY OTHER BELIEVER!

II. OUR SALVATION IS A LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH THAT BROUGHT US INTO A PRECIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TRIUNE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE!

A. By Faith In CHRIST We Have A Relationship With GOD THE HEAVENLY FATHER!

Think about the fact that we who were previously at **ENMITY WITH GOD**, have been **RECONCILED TO GOD** and now have a **RELATIONSHIP** with **GOD OUR LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER!**

*John 1:12–13– “12 But as many as received him, **to them gave he power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: 13 **Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**”*

*2 Corinthians 5:18–19 – “18 And all things are of God, **who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ...**” 19 “**To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;...**”*

*Romans 5:10–“For if, **when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**”*

*Colossians 1:21–“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, **yet now hath he reconciled.**”*

*Galatians 4:6–“And because ye are sons, **God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.**”*

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Romans 8:15–“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”

B. We Have A Relationship With GOD THE SON (JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR!)

1 Peter 2:4-7–“To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and **precious**, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, **acceptable to God by Jesus Christ**. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, **precious**: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. **Unto you therefore which believe he is precious**: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,”

“Precious”– “a valuable or something highly esteemed.”

1. That Which Is PRECIOUS Is RARE!
(*Colossians 1:15-22*)

JESUS CHRIST is not one of many.
HE is absolutely **ONE OF A KIND** unique!
HE is the **ONE** and only **GOD-MAN**!
HE is the only **ONE** of **HIS KIND**!

Hebrews 10:12–“**But this** man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;”

1 Timothy 2:5–“For there is **one God, and one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”

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2. That Which Is PRECIOUS Has INTRINSIC VALUE! (i.e. *intrinsic = inherent; essential; belonging naturally.*)
JESUS CHRIST is PRECIOUS because of **WHO HE IS! HE** is the **ETERNAL GOD INCARNATE!**

Colossians 2:9–“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

3. That Which Is PRECIOUS Is USEFUL!
JESUS CHRIST is the answer to the greatest needs of all mankind.
HIS LIFE GIVES LIFE to those who **TRUST HIM!**
HIS DEATH gives **REDEMPTION** from **DEATH, HELL,** and **THE GRAVE** to all who **TRUST HIM!**
HIS RESURRECTION JUSTIFIES us and gives us a **SURE HOPE** and **EXPECTATION** that the grave is not the end for us!
The **ANTICIPATION** of **HIS RETURN** delights our hearts.

C. We Have A Relationship With GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT!

John 14:16–“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;”

The word “**another**” means “**another of the same kind.**”

Conclusion

And we’ve just scratched the surface! As **BELIEVERS** we are in possession of this **LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH!** We have **ALL** of this and so much more!