

Message: God's Grace and Peace Come through Knowing Christ, Part 3

Text: 2 Peter 1:1-11

Introduction

- A. Today we pick up where we left off at the end of August in these opening verses of 2 Peter where we see the Lord protecting us, His people from false teachings and false teachers by enabling us through His God-granted faith to discern and desire a true, informational, convictional, experiential knowledge of Christ, through which God multiplies grace and peace to us.

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, 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;**

- B. It is beyond our natural capacity to know God in this way - informationally, perhaps yes, but convictionally and experientially, no. We don't have the internal resources, the moral, spiritual strength and capacity of heart to love living life in the image of Christ, to have His grace and peace to us multiplied in the knowledge of Him.

- C. But God, as He has promised, in His righteousness provides for us all that we need to know Him by way of information, conviction, experience, all that we need for life and godliness.

2 Peter 1:3 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. ⁴ For by these **He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.**

- D. And so through Peter the Lord calls us to **diligently increase** (spare no effort to increase) in this knowledge of Him, producing by faith in Him an array of godly virtues through His promised divine power. We saw 3 weeks ago that when by faith we produce moral excellence according to knowledge, we grow in the experiential knowledge of Christ.

2 Peter 1:5 Now for this very reason also, **applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence,** and in *your* moral excellence, **knowledge,** ⁶ and in *your* knowledge, **self-control,** and in *your* self-control, **perseverance,** and in *your* perseverance, **godliness,** ⁷ and in *your* godliness, **brotherly kindness,** and in *your* brotherly kindness, **love.**

2 Peter 3:18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- E. Today we see in verse 6 the Lord calling us to grow in our experience of what it is like be like Jesus in matters of self-control. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit never lives out of His divine character. He perfectly practices self-control. We, unfortunately, do not. We therefore, must spare no effort to grow in the image of Christ's self-control.

I. Self-control requires knowledge of God's character and will for us.

2 Peter 1:6 **and in your knowledge, self-control,** and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness,

- A. To practice self-control, we must first have an informational and convictional knowledge of what Christlike self-control looks like. We must know what the Bible says about godly self-control, and be convinced that what the Bible describes and commands is absolutely true and most desirable for us.
- B. Definition of self-control - a general way of life, where a person refrains from all that God prohibits, and practices moderation in all earthly pleasures that God allows. It is a God-empowered, God-directed self-mastery of one's physical and mental desires, a self-mastery of one's body, heart, and mind.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, **but not all things are profitable**. All things are lawful for me, **but I will not be mastered by anything**.

1. A self-controlled person does not practice self-control in a select number of things, but “in all things,” and does so for the sake of inheriting the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 9:25 Everyone who competes in the games **exercises self-control in all things**. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;²⁷ but **I discipline my body and make it my slave**, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

2. I.e., self-control does not describe a person who refrains from abusing alcohol but not drugs. The qualification of an elder is not that he exercises self-control in a select few areas of life, but in all of life. If I am even tempered in the church an community, but a continuously raging lion in my home, am I to be considered “self-controlled”?

Titus 1:7 For **the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward**, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, **self-controlled**,

3. The risen Lord commands us through His apostles to provide no areas of life where passions and desires of the flesh take control of us, have mastery over us.

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts**.

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

- C. What are specific areas of life where Christ-like self-control is to be exercised with all diligence, with all out effort?

1. Sexual appetites - this is often in the forefront when self-control is spoken of. Sexual gratification outside the covenant relationship of marriage between one man and one woman is forbidden by our Lord. He practiced such self-control as a single man, as do all who put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh. A lack of self-control in sexual matters has been a continual drum beat devastating the church ...

1 Corinthians 7:8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.⁹ But if they do not have **self-control**, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn.

- a. ... earlier this summer Tullian Tchividjian resigned as senior pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church after admitting to an extramarital affair. In August the South Florida Presbytery of the PCA deposed him, ruling him unfit for Christian ministry. Later in August he petitioned for a divorce from his wife Kim.
- b. ... Ligioneer Ministries has suspended R.C. Sproul Jr. for a year due to his admission that he visited the adultery matchmaking web site Ashley Madison, which was recently hacked.

2. Moderation in bodily appetites for food, sleep, recreation, spending, obtaining wealth - we can too easily become a recreation junkie, food junkie, sports junkie, video game junkie, Facebook/Snapchat junkie, cell phone junkie, etc.

- a. food, beverage alcohol

Proverbs 25:16 Have you found honey? **Eat only what you need**, that you not have it in excess and vomit it.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and **whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise**.

b. sleep

Proverbs 6:9 How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? ¹⁰ "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest"-- ¹¹ Your poverty will come in like a vagabond And your need like an armed man.

c. material possessions

Proverbs 23:4 **Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it.** ⁵ When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For *wealth* certainly makes itself wings Like an eagle that flies *toward* the heavens.

Matthew 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

3. Control of one's temper, emotions

Proverbs 25:28 *Like* a city that is broken into *and* without walls **is a man who has no control over his spirit.**

4. Control of one's ego.

Proverbs 27:2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

Matthew 23:12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful, **but not all things are profitable.** All things are lawful, **but not all things edify.**

5. Control of the tongue

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many ways. **If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.** ... ⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison.

II. The call to self-control is an element of the call of gospel of Christ.

A. It is the lost who live with no Christ-like self-control.

2 Peter 2:9 the Lord knows how ... to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially **those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires** ¹⁷ These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸ For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, ¹⁹ promising them freedom while **they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.**

B. When Christ's apostle Paul preached the gospel to the lost, notice that he spoke of self-control.

Acts 24:24 But some days later **Felix** arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and **sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.** ²⁵ But as he was discussing righteousness, **self-control** and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."

1. When we call people to faith in Christ, we call them to a faith that repents from serving self and the corrupt passions of the one's flesh, a faith that produces self-control in the image of Christ, according to His will.
2. Faith without self-control is useless, dead.

James 2:26 For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

- C. But a God-granted, Spirit generated faith in Christ produces a growing self-control in all things, rendering us neither useless or unfruitful.

2 Peter 1:8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. The power to practice self-control by faith in Christ is a gracious provision of God's indwelling Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, **self-control**; against such things there is no law.²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

2 Peter 1:3 **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.⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, **so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.**

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, **so that always having all sufficiency in everything**, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Conclusion

- A. It is by granting us a faith that produces virtues after His own image that Christ, our Good Shepherd, protects us from being drawn away from Him by seductive temptations, corrupt desires fanned by false teachers.

2 Peter 2:7 and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men⁸ (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds),⁹ **then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation**

- B. So brothers and sisters, as Christ was diligent, spared no effort to fulfill God's purpose for Him coming to earth - to glorify God by laying down His life for us, let us also be diligent, sparing no effort to fulfill our purpose in glorifying God by becoming conformed to the image of His Son, including being conformed to His self-control in all things, being mastered by nothing of this world, submitting to the mastery of Christ our Lord. So ...

2 Peter 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, **in your faith supply ...⁶ ... self-control**,

[Rob's 9/20/15 power point message]

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