

Date: October 8, 2009

Reading: 2 Peter

Why do you believe what you believe? Is your faith based on substance or wishful thinking?

Peter clearly states in this letter that what he wrote about and followed was not based on fables. He was an eyewitness of the majesty of Christ, culminated as it was in his presence on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured. Peter not only saw Jesus' face shine like the sun and His clothes white as light (Matthew 17:3), but he also heard the voice of God from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Peter asserts that this testimony confirms the words of the prophets. He goes on to say that the prophets did not reveal their own will, but the will of God as delivered by the Holy Spirit. Peter's desire for his readers was that they would listen to his reminders and be established in the truth (1:12-13). This would be based on diligent attention to supplying characteristics like moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love to their faith (1:5-7).

"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure..."

Enjoy the reading,

Tim

**Date:** March 31, 2010  
**Reading:** 2 Peter

In the first chapter of his *first* epistle, the apostle Peter encouraged his readers to pursue holiness rather than conforming themselves to their former lusts. They were to be obedient children, holy like the Father on whom they called (vs. 14-16).

In the first chapter of his *second* epistle, Peter instructed his readers to be diligent in adding certain things to their faith (vs. 5-7). Note that the beginning of verse 5 refers back to the previous verses (“But also for this very reason...”) to suggest the cause for these additions.

Peter’s salutation to his readers (grace and peace) was a typical one for letters of his time. Observe, however, that the apostle’s wish for his readers was that the grace and peace in their lives might be “multiplied” in (through) their knowledge of God and of Jesus.

Peter affirmed that “all things that pertain to life and godliness” had been given to us. By His divine power, everything that we need with regard to our spiritual life and our piety or reverence toward God has been supplied (vs. 3). Although many religious people have introduced additional “revelations” after the close of the New Testament, the apostle’s statement indicates that God made everything that man needs for spiritual life available in his (the apostle Peter’s) time. The apostles were “guided into all truth” (John 16:13).

“These things” (that pertain to life and godliness) included great and precious promises (vs. 4). The Hebrew writer spoke of the “better promises” upon which of the New Covenant was established (Hebrews 8:6; note that the Hebrew writer went on to talk about the forgiveness of sins available under the New Covenant). Although Peter didn’t specifically identify these promises, certainly God’s promises to forgive sins and to guard His children from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3) would have to be included in this number.

It is through these “great and precious promises” that we can be partakers of the divine nature, i.e., we can be holy even as God is holy. Through these promises we can be “sharers” in the holy nature and character of our Father, having escaped the corruption of the world (we have been “cleansed from our old sins” – vs. 9b).

In light of such “great and precious promises” involving the possibility of sharing in the divine nature, we should dedicate ourselves to adding virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love to our faith (vs. 5-7).

May grace and peace be multiplied to each of us also as we realize the fulfillment of those great and precious promises!

God bless the reader,

Allen