

Gleanings of Grace

2 Peter 1

Lesson 22

In his first letter, Peter emphasized the grace of God as the recipients of the letter faced trials from sources without the body of Christ. In his second epistle, Peter's emphasis is on the knowledge of God as the recipients faced trials from sources within the body of Christ. Peter's desire for believers is that the grace and peace of God be multiplied in our lives. In this lesson, we learn that God's grace and peace are a fruit of knowing Jesus. May this lesson be a fresh reminder of all our Lord Jesus has accomplished for us.

OBSERVATION: Read 2 Peter 1

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit*.
Key Words: *God the Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, glory and stir/forms of the word remind*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used three times in 2 Peter 1. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The terms of conclusion *therefore* and *for this reason* are used twice in 2 Peter 1. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what it is based upon.

Background:

1. There is a sense of urgency in this second and last letter of Peter's. Using the following verses, what does Peter want the recipients of his letter to know about him and what is important to him?
 - 2 Peter 1:1
 - 2 Peter 1:12-13, 15; 3:1
 - 2 Peter 1:14
 - 2 Peter 1:16-18
- a. Considering these statements, why would you personally want to read Peter's letter?

Read 2 Peter 1:1-4 - Gifts of His Divine Power

1. The word knowledge, used in verse 2, is a key word in this letter. This is the first of many times that Peter will use this word in this letter. In what way does *the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ* affect your decision to choose godly characteristics for your life?
2. 2 Peter 1:3 is a powerful verse. What has been given to us through *His divine power*?
 - a. Comment on the words *all things* in this verse.
 - b. What does this mean to you in the sense of practical, everyday living?
3. God has *given* us *all* that we need for *life and godliness*. According to 2 Peter 1:4a, what else has been *given to us*?
 - a. What do the words *exceedingly great and precious* say to you about these promises?
4. According to 2 Peter 1:4b, why have believers been given these promises?
 - a. In what ways does the knowledge of His *exceedingly great and precious promises* affect your decision to choose godly characteristics for your life?

5. The final phrase of verse four provides hope for the believer. We have *escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*. Define the word *escaped*.

a. What changes have you seen in your life?

b. Describe the *corruption that is in the world*.

Read 2 Peter 1:5-11 – The Importance of Growing

1. In the first four verses of 2 Peter 1, we are reminded of all that has been given to us *through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord*. Now in verse 5, Peter exhorts us to respond to God's gracious provision. Each of our lives as believers began with *faith*. From verses 5-7 list the characteristics we are to add to our *faith*.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

a. Write a brief definition next to each characteristic.

2. 2 Peter 1:8 reveals benefits to those who possess the attributes of 2 Peter 1:5-7. What are they?

a. Consider the word *abound* in this verse. Not only are these things to be in our lives, they are to *abound* or be increasing in measure. These character qualities should be multiplying in us. In what way does this challenge you to do your part in this process?

3. According to 2 Peter 1:9, what is the problem of the one who *lacks these things*? Answer in your own words.
 - a. Using synonyms, define the word *shortsighted*.
 - 1.) In what ways might *shortsightedness* cause us to *lack* the things of verses 5-7?
 - b. What has the person who *lacks* the things of 2 Peter 1:5-7 forgotten?
 - 1.) What things contribute to your consistent awareness of having been *cleansed from your old sins*?
 - 2.) How does recognizing that you have been *cleansed from your old sins* motivate you to give diligence to add the qualities of 2 Peter 1:5-7 to your life?
4. We again read the word *diligent* in 2 Peter 1:10. What are we to be *diligent* to do?
 - a. Jesus is the One who has made our calling and election possible. However, what we do in response to that can give us great assurance that we are truly saved. According to 2 Peter 1:10, what can we do to make our *call and election sure* and prevent stumbling?
 - b. Walking in the things of 2 Peter 1:5-7 does not secure our salvation. However, it does give us assurance of our salvation. Why does walking in the things of verses 5-7 assure us that we belong to Jesus?
5. A genuine faith is demonstrated by inward and outward qualities that reflect the divine nature. A promise is given in 2 Peter 1:10 to those whose lives give evidence of character development. What is that promise?
 - a. Picture when a person stumbles physically. What parallels do you see?

- b. How would walking in these things keep us from stumbling (falling into sin)?
6. Consider the promise of 2 Peter 5:11. Rather than *lack*, God desires *abundance* for us. What does this speak to you about God's intentions for you?

Read 2 Peter 1:12-15 – The Importance of Reminding

1. What was Peter's great concern for these believers as expressed in 2 Peter 1:12-15?
 - a. We would think that their knowing (having been taught) these truths and being established (well grounded) in them, that there would be no need to persevere in reminding them of these things. Even though we know them and are established in the present truth, why do we need to be reminded?
2. Observe the word *tent* in 2 Peter 1:13,14. This was a common word for the physical body. First century Christians were very aware of the transitoriness of life. As long as Peter was in this *tent*, what did he want to do for these believers? 2 Peter 1:13 and 2 Peter 3:1
 - a. In what ways are our bodies like tents?

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21 – The Importance of Heeding God's Word

1. What did you learn from verse 16?
2. "A witness is the best evidence of fact." Now describe Peter's eyewitness account of the transfiguration of Christ from 2 Peter 1:17,18.
 - a. In what way do you think 2 Peter 1:16-18 would affect the reader's acceptance of Peter's letter to them?

3. Peter was an eyewitness to the Father's testimony of the Son. Jesus received honor and glory from God. God identified Jesus by saying, *This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* How does this Divine testimony give you added confidence in the message of the Gospel?
 - a. Notice and record the last two words of Matthew 17:5 spoken by the Father at the transfiguration of Christ.
 - 1.) How do these words speak to you today?
4. After using His glorious experience on the holy mount to provide evidence for the truth of his message, Peter now confirms the inspiration of the Scriptures. From 2 Peter 1:11, what does Peter say we have?
5. Using 2 Peter 1:20,21 explain what we *know*.
 - a. In what way does knowing that the Scriptures are inspired (God breathed) strengthen your faith?

REVIEW: Read 2 Peter 1

1. In what way have you come to a greater appreciation of the exceedingly great and precious promises of God?

*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;*
- Psalm 19:7,8

Observation Worksheet

2 Peter 1

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us 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, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. ⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ¹² For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³ Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, ¹⁴ knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. ¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. ¹⁶ For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.