

UNDERSTANDING and APPLICATION

A. Resolve to recognize God's **Provision**. (v. 1-3)

1. We share a common faith, based on Christ's righteousness. (v. 1)
2. God's provision is not just physical...but grace (for life) and peace (with/of God). (v. 2)
3. God's also provides the necessary power and direction for godliness. (v. 3)
4. God has provides all of the information and insight we need to know Him. (v. 3)

God's provision for our faith through His righteousness is basis to live for His glory.

B. Resolve to live for God's **Glory**. (v. 3-4)

1. God's glory and virtue is the source and the goal of our life's pursuit. (v. 3)
2. God's glory is wrapped up in His person...and we inherit His divine nature. (v. 4)
3. God's glory is granted to us in His promises...and reflected in our redemption. (v. 4)

God's glory is our objective, reached in living out the character He develops in us.

C. Resolve to diligently pursue godly **Character**. (v. 5-7) [**provide lavishly**]

1. **Faith** – is always the beginning of our relationship...and the consistency of progress.
2. **Virtue** / moral excellence – Christ's divine nature in us, displaying His holiness.
3. **Knowledge** (gnosis) – growing understanding and practical experience
4. **Self-control** – passions and pleasures are not allowed to master our life
5. **Perseverance** (Patience) – circumstances and pressures are not allowed to master us
6. **Godliness** (Right worship) – God in His rightful place reminds us of our place.
7. **Brotherly kindness** (Philadelphia) – as affection for God grows, also for His family
8. **Love** (Agape) – As we grow to become more like Christ, we can love more like Christ.

Godly character begins with faith, compounding with interest as we actively invest.

D. Resolve to trust in God's **Blessing**. (v. 8-11)

1. Fruitfulness and Effectiveness – purpose and productivity grow. (v. 8)
2. Perspective of salvation and life – living for eternity, remembering former status (v. 9)
3. Stability in our redemption - not stumbling / falling into despair of doubt. (v. 10)
4. Joy in our confidence & expectation of seeing and enjoying Christ. (v. 11) [1 Cor 3:15]

God's greatest blessing is enjoyed in purpose, perspective, security and expectation.

APPLICATION

- (1) The great theme of 2 Peter is '**KNOWING**' God. He desires for us to live in and grow in knowing Him, which begins with knowing Him through SAVING FAITH...then grows through a relationship of sanctification (becoming more like Him) as we surrender to His Word in us - working out of us - to be conformed into the image of His glorious Son.
- (2) Pursuing God's glory and character is a compounding process, but it is not without opposition. Satan will fight us through persecution, false teaching, and a culture that says, "You cannot fully trust God's way." But you can make progress by persistence and perseverance in knowing and following our God who **transforms** us, finding Him faithful. You cannot be passive. "**We cannot coast, even for one day.**" (Patterson)
- (3) Recognizing God's provision, living for His glory, pursuing godly character, and maintaining a perspective of His eternal Kingdom will put us on the path of God's will, which engages His divine power. **Change** - we try. **Transformation** – God does.

Knowing God and pursuing Christ's character...for His glory is the highest aspiration you could have in 2017.

RESPONSE

If you are a follower of Christ, **would you resolve to pursue something bigger than yourself...allowing God to transform your life...focusing on glorifying Him...and pointing others to Jesus Christ?**

If you are not yet a follower of Christ, there is no resolution you could make that would have any significant, lasting impact on your life. However, there is one decision you could make TODAY that would make your totally new...giving you NEW life for now and eternity. **Would you consider beginning 2017 by placing your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, through repentance (turning from following your own way) and faith (turning to Jesus Christ), asking Him to forgive your sins and make you a part of His forever faith family?**

When we look at the New Testament and the model of Jesus Christ, there were no private followers and secret decisions. He called people to step out and follow Him. But He was right there to encourage and walk with them. So if you are making a decision for Christ today, I would ask you to walk down here (in this supportive environment) to share your decision with one of our encouragers who would love to pray with you as you are obedient to God this morning. **Won't you come right now?**

TEXT

NASB

- 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;
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.
- 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;
- 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

A New Year's Transformation

First Baptist Church Peachtree City

January 1, 2017

2 Peter 1:1-11

INTRODUCTION

Today, I would invite you to turn in your copy of the Scriptures to 2 Peter Chapter One. Peter's first Epistle was written to encourage believers to remain faithful amidst *persecution*. His second was written to exhort believers to remain grounded in Truth amid *false teaching*. Both of these letters would seem to be perfectly applicable in our culture for the New Year.

One discouraging thing in my own life at New Year's has been making resolutions, only to fail, usually in the first month. A Neilson's survey reveals last year's top rated resolutions:

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| (1) Stay fit and healthy | (6) Get organized |
| (2) Lose weight | (7) DO NOT MAKE ANY RESOLUTIONS (16%) |
| (3) Enjoy life to the fullest | (8) Learn something new / new hobby |
| (4) Spend less, save more | (9) Travel more |
| (5) Spend more time with family & friends | (10) Read more |

None of these are inherently bad. But in the face of our culture today, we need more than attempts to **resolve** ourselves to personal victories through our own strength. What if we could resolve to **focus on** and **join in** on what we know God says He is already at work, desiring to do in our lives...so we can experience a New Year's **transformation** that lasts?

Let's PRAY and then we will READ God's Word together.

TEXT

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* (*epignosis*) of God and of Jesus our Lord; **3** seeing that His divine power (*dunamis*) has granted to us everything pertaining to life (*zoe*) 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. **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*. **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. **9** For he who lacks these *qualities* is *blind or short-sighted*, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brethren, be all the more *diligent* to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never *stumble*; **11** for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be *abundantly supplied* to you.

Salvation is by God's grace through faith. We cannot earn it, nor secure it. That is God's work. But being more like Christ does not happen on 'auto-pilot'. We are to actively engage in the process through obedience to His Word and to the Holy Spirit, to transform us as we grow in faith and godly virtue. **Do you desire to know Him and engage with Him in 2017?**