

GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES

2 PETER 1

Text: 2 Peter 1:4

2 Peter 1:4

⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Introduction:

Peter points us here to the precious promises. This word is found only here and later in this same letter (3:13)

2 Peter 3:13

¹³Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

The emphasis is on the actual things promised rather than on the act of promising. Peter would have us concentrate on all the amazing promises that God has made to us.

These promises are not like those made by men, so many of which end up broken. These promises are

backed by the integrity of God Himself. There is a promise for every need. Literally there are thousands of them in the word of God.

The Word exceeding draws our attention to the dimension, the measure, the degree and the intensity of God's promises.

No doubt Peter had some of these precious promises in mind as he wrote because his death was soon approaching.

Notice:

Peter is speaking to Christians. The Christian life begins with faith. Peter called it "like precious faith."

1. THIS FAITH IS IN A PERSON (VS. 1-2)

2 Peter 1:1-2

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

That person is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the Saviour.

Peter reminded his reads that Jesus Christ is the Saviour by repeating this title.

2 Peter 1:11

¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 2:20

²⁰ For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

2 Peter 3:2

² That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

2 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

A Saviour is one who brings salvation.

2. THIS FAITH INVOLVES GOD’S POWER (VS. 3)

2 Peter 1:3

³According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

The Christian life begins with faith in the person of Jesus Christ, but when you know Jesus Christ personally you also experience God’s power, and this power produces “life and godliness.”

God gives us everything we need for life and godliness.

We are complete in Him.

Colossians 2:10

¹⁰And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

The false teachers of that day claimed they had a special doctrine that would add something to their lives.

Today there are those that say that are things that must be added to salvation.

Just as a normal baby is born with all the “equipment” it needs for life and only needs to grow, so the Christian has all that is needed and only needs to grow.

3. THIS FAITH INVOLVES GOD’S PROMISES (VS. 4)

2 Peter 1:4

⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

God had not only given us all that we need for life and godliness but He has also given us His Word to enable us to develop this life and godliness.

These promises are great because come from a great God and they lead to a great life.

They are precious because their value is beyond calculation.

Peter used this word often in this letter.

1 Peter 1:7

⁷That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:19

¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 Peter 2:4

⁴ To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

1 Peter 2:6-7

⁶ 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. ⁷ 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,

2 Peter 1:1

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Peter 1:4

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Close:

It's these promises that we rest in as we see these perilous times grow worse and worse.