

HOW TO ESCAPE THE ROTTENESS OF THIS WORLD
II PETER 1:1-4

Introduction:

- A. This is the second letter of Peter to the "Scattered Strangers."
 - 1. They have been driven from Jerusalem.
 - 2. They are a suffering people.

- B. They are God's witnessing servants.
 - 1. They are saved people. I Peter 1:8,9.
 - 2. they are a baptized people.
 - 3. They are a covenant people.
 - 4. They are a commissioned people.

I. THE SALUTATION. V1

- A. Simon Peter. "a slave and a messenger"
 - 1. doulous =

- B. "to them that have obtained like precious faith."
 - 1. "those who have been allotted a faith of equal privilege."
 - 2. "a prize of equal value."
 - 3. No hierarchy system in Christianity.
 - a. "It shall not be so." Jesus.

- C. "through the righteousness of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ."
 - 1. in the righteousness of our God and Saviour.
 - 2. Christians possess the righteousness of God.
 - 3. It is obtained by faith in Jesus.

II. THE INVOCATION. V2

- A. "Grace and peace be multiplied to you."

1. grace = an affectionate pleasing nature, a pleasing work, beauty of speech, God's towards us.
2. peace = a state of health or well-being, end of strife, or absence of strife.
3. multiplied = to make full; to increase.

B. "through the knowledge of our God, and of Jesus our Lord."

1. How shall grace and peace be multiplied?
2. "gain a fuller knowledge of God.

a. knowledge = is a gnosis with epi, upon or above
gnosis = the knowledge or understanding of a thing. the insight which manifests itself through understanding of the subjects with which it meets and in the conduct determined thereby.
epignosis = clear and exact knowledge, a knowledge that has more power, more influence on the knower. Participation with the object known.

3. These characteristics.
 - a. full = complete.
 - b. personal = you know it.
 - c. precise = to the very letter, degrees.
 - d. correct = without any error.
4. Such a knowledge of God and Jesus will produce "Grace and Peace."

III THE CREDITATION. V3,4

A. "According as his divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness."

1. "for His divine power has given us everything that is necessary to live a life of piety.
2. power = dunamis = power, not capability, but power in action, it is what God possesses to carry forth His will, to accomplish His purpose.
3. all things = every requisite, everything, every needful thing.

4. pertaining to life and godliness.

a. zoe = life.

b. godliness = eusebeia = relates to real, true, vital, and spiritual relationship with God: opposite of threskeia = religion = While threskia relates to the outward acts of religious observances or ceremonies, which can be performed by the flesh, our English word "religion" was never used in the sense of true godliness. It always meant the outward forms of worship.

5. How are we to receive this true godliness?

a. "through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue"

b. "through our coming to know Him, who by His glory and excellence called us unto Himself."

c. know = epignosis = intimate knowing.

d. God calls us by:

1. glory = doxa = all that God is for us for our good, the appearance of glory attracting our gaze, splendor, brightness, the manifestation of Himself in Jesus. What attracts us to God? Jesus! Jesus said, "and I, if I be lifted up, I will draw (attract) all men unto me."

2. virtue = areta = superiority in every respect, thus spoken of God. That which gives man his worth, his efficiency, his moral excellence; the purity of Jesus Christ. "Pilate" = "I find no fault in Him."

e. God calls us to be like Him, it is not the threat of hell, but the excellency and power of Jesus.

IV. THE ACCEPTATION. U4

A. "through this power and splendor" He has given us His promises, great beyond all price, that through them you might participate in the divine nature, now that you have fled from the corruption in the world resulting, from human passions.

1. promises = verb = to announce concerning one's self, announce intentions, engage, hold out.

- a. This is the noun form, God is not making promises, God has made a promise!
 2. great = megas = of physical magnitude; also of the number, of the measure, cost of things.
 3. Standing on the Promises (song)
- B. "that through them ye might participate in the divine nature."
1. It is through His promises that we partake of His nature.
 - a. partake = a sharer in common.
 - b. Divine = What is God's , What proceeds from Him.
 - c. nature = the essence, inborn quality, natural source, a genus, a King.
- C. "now that you have fled from the corruption in the world, resulting from human passion."
1. escaped = to flee away from.
 2. corruption = a spoiling throughout, being brought into a worse state.
 3. lust = the inward passion to sin.
- D. These people were no longer worldlings, they are now, by nature, "strangers and pilgrims."