

There Is No Excuse

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 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, 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. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, [you will be] neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2Pe 1:2-11 NKJV)

There is no excuse for not living a godly life if you are a believer. This passage clearly teaches that those who have an intimate knowledge of Christ have been given all things that pertain to life and godliness. Believers have been given great and precious promises, and because of these promises, they may be partakers of the divine nature.

The very first step on this road to godliness is repentance. The one who has the knowledge of Christ has escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. There is a new focus to the believer's life. He no longer lusts for the corruption of the world, but seeks a new kingdom of righteousness in his inner man. There must be a change of mind and direction otherwise; he has not escaped the corruption. Having escaped that corruption he now has the promise that he can indeed partake in the divine nature. However, that promise is not without conditions.

Believers must be diligent in their walk. A series of character qualities are listed as objectives. Faith cannot stand alone and be true faith. Therefore, the apostle by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit exhorts believers to add virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love to their faith. The fruit of this diligence is an intimate relationship with Christ, and the assurance that you will never stumble.

There is no middle ground on which to stand. If you lack those character qualities listed above, then you are either shortsighted or blind. Therefore, the Scriptures exhort believers to make sure they are really saved. The assurance of that salvation is right in the same text. Don't run to some point of time in the past and look for a stake you drove in the ground. Don't think back to a past commitment and conclude you were justified back then so you must be justified now. The passage says if you do these things, the list of character qualities, an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Understand, salvation is not by works. The list of character qualities are to be added to faith. Salvation is by grace through faith not of works lest any man should boast (Eph 2.8-9). However, faith understands that God has given all things that pertain to life and godliness. Therefore, assurance comes from seizing by faith those promises through the diligent obedience.

Looking back to a point in time for assurance of salvation may be misleading. The Scriptures clearly teach that many will have false conversions. For example: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:" (Mt 7:21-24 NKJV)

Notice those who have false conversions offer up proofs of salvation not contained in the subject passage. These men and women did not do the will of the Father. Only those who do the will of the Father will go into heaven. Jesus says whoever hears these sayings of mine and DOES them will be a wise man. The sayings Jesus was referring to were like unto the list of qualities in the subject passage—holiness!

Eternity is nearer now than it was yesterday. Do not wait one moment to repent of any unprofitable thoughts and cling by faith to God's promises. You may partake of the divine nature. Start laying hold of the kingdom by faithfully weeding out the distractions of the world and adding the qualities that God desires for you: virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. If these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you do these things, you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the Lord find you doing His will today!