

**Refuge City Church — April 11, 2021**  
**“Vigilant Life” (2 Peter 1:1-11)**

**Introduction**

**2 Peter 1:1-2**, “Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”

- Written by Peter to the same general audience as 1 Peter; Jewish and Gentile Christians living in Asia Minor; modern day Turkey.
- Written around A.D. 65-68; with some espousing Peter’s death around the same time.
- **Overall:** the importance of the *truth* of the gospel to combat the idea of false teachers.
  - As we talked about on Good Friday and Easter, how vital is our connection to Jesus and His Word?!
- 1 Peter ended with the charge to “stand firm” in God’s grace.
- 2 Peter ends with the charge to “grow” in God’s grace.
  - **1 Peter 2:2**, “...long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—”
  - **Ephesians 4:15**, “...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,”
  - If we stay connected to the vine, we will grow... He is our life-giving source.
  - Yet too many treat that connection like social media.
    - You’re connected, taking in information, but are choosing not to do anything with it, speak to it, or share it.
    - Jesus is not your source of self-gratification.
- Our growth in knowledge of God will allow us to see very clearly false teaching in and out of the church.
  - **EXAMPLE:** “The meaning of Easter is more transcendent than the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whether you are Christian or not, through a commitment to helping others we are able to save ourselves.” [Congressman/Reverend’ Raphael Warnock]
  - **John 17:3**, “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”
- So we need to confirm & affirm our calling in Christ. Be aware of false teachers and false gospels. The day of the Lord is drawing near. Be ready. Be vigilant. Be at peace.

**2 Peter 1:3-4**, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

- In order to spot the lies, we need to know the truth!
  - This starts with a reminder of who we are, because of who God is, and what Jesus did for us... We are saved by His grace alone, through faith.
- When we put our faith in Jesus, we are given all we need to live as we should according to God's Word.
  - **Acts 2:38-39, 40b**, "And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."... "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."
  - We are promised the Holy Spirit, and He does multiple things for us.
    1. He keeps us accountable to who we represent as witnesses to the grace of God.
    2. He frees us from the weight of the law.
    3. He teaches us the way of righteousness.
- **CLARIFICATION:** It's HIS power and HIS decision to grant us what He wills.
  - There's nothing in scripture that claims He grants divine power, and then walks away from us to use however we wish.
  - He is still in sovereign control over all things, at all times.
- Want to live a good life in godliness, it is imperative we KNOW the One true God.
  - This type of knowledge goes deeper than knowing and/or believing He exists.
    - **James 2:19**, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!"
  - True knowledge of God is intimate, exact, complete, and thorough.
  - This knowledge comes by His Word. [**Romans 10:17**, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."]
    - **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
- What God promises, He fulfills.
  - Jesus, Salvation, Forgiveness, Grace, Mercy, an Inheritance in the everlasting, the fact that Jesus is coming again...just to name a few.
- **QUESTION:** What does the world promise you?
  - **Galatians 5:16, 19-21**, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh... Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." [the wages of sin is death]
  - **Galatians 6:8**, "For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."
    - **[Verse 4]** Corruption: moral decay/decomposition
  - The whole purpose of the law and sin is to illuminate us to our need of salvation. Watch the world's continued spiral into moral decay. We can not fix ourselves! We can not save ourselves! ["for apart from me you can do nothing." - Jesus]

**2 Peter 1:5-7**, “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.”

- What do you expect to happen when you plant a seed in the ground?
- What do you expect to happen when you put gas in your car? [Explain further]
  - **Philippians 2:12**, “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,”
- With effort, diligence, eagerness, and care, we are to supply our faith with:
  - **Virtue** = moral excellence
  - **Knowledge** = reflect on what you know regarding the full scope of God’s Word. Learn more!
  - **Self Control** = control your desires & passions; don’t slow them down...STOP them!
    - **Proverbs 16:32**, “Mightier is he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”
    - **Proverbs 25:28**, “A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.”
  - **Perseverance** = patient endurance in holiness
    - When we focus on what’s tempting us, we’ve set ourselves up for failure.
  - **Godliness** = “I’m going to do all I can to please God. In all I am, I want to reflect Him.”
  - **Kindness** = consider others more important than yourself, and then PROVE IT by your actions!
  - **Love** = God-like love for ALL people.

**2 Peter 1:8-11**, “For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

- **Faith — Love** [notice the progression?]
  - Starts with the internal: Virtue & Knowledge
  - Moves to the external: Self-control, Perseverance, and Godliness
  - From you to affect others: Kindness & Love
  - How are you getting from faith to love?
  - God’s given you the power and the keys. Steer properly. Stay in your ‘holy’ lane. Avoid the dangers, and drive defensively through hazardous conditions.
- **[Verse 8]** Who wants to be defined as “lazy” and “useless”?
  - How many drive while keeping your eyes closed? It would be stupid to do so!!
  - Not only would that endanger you and your safety, but others as well.

- **James 2:20, 26**, “Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”
- Have you forgotten what Jesus did for you? What His sacrifice means to you?
- Finish this statement: Practice makes \_\_\_\_\_.
- You have to take an active part in all God has called you to do!

## **Response/Prayer**

- Allow me to leave you with these words from Gregory of Nyssa, regarding a virtuous/holy life.
  - A.D. 331-396. Lived and served the church in Cappadocia; the very region Peter wrote his letters to 300 years earlier.

“Certainly whoever pursues true virtue participates in nothing other than God, because he is himself absolute virtue. Since, then, those who know what is good by nature desire participation in it, and since this good has no limit, the participant’s desire itself necessarily has no stopping place but stretches out with the limitless...”

This is true perfection: not to avoid a wicked life because like slaves we servilely fear punishment, not to do good because we hope for rewards, as if cashing in on the virtuous life by some business-like arrangement. On the contrary, disregarding all those things for which we hope and which have been reserved by promise, we regard falling from God’s friendship as the only thing dreadful and we consider becoming God’s friend the only thing worthy of honor and desire. This, as I have said, is the perfection of life. As your understanding is lifted up to what is magnificent and divine, whatever you may find (and I know full well you will find many things) will most certainly be for the common benefit in Christ Jesus. Amen.”

- **Philippians 3:12-14**, “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”