NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

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2 PETER 1 VS 1-4

" KNOWING AND GROWING "

INTRO : IF ANYBODY IN THE EARLY CHURCH KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ALERT, IT WAS THE APOSTLE PETER. HE HAD THE TENDDENCY TO IN HIS EARLY YEARS TO FEEL OVERCONFIDENT WHEN DANGER WAS NEAR AND TO OVERLOOK THE MASTER'S WARNINGS. HE RUSHED AHEAD WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE WAITED; HE SLEPT WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE PRAYED ; HE TALKED WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE LISTEN. HE WAS COURAGES BUT HE WAS CARELESS. BUT HE LEARNED HIS LESSON , AND HE WANTED TO HELP LEARN TOO.

COMPARISON BETWEEN HIS FIRST EPISTLE AND SECOND EPISTLE

1ST PETER EMPHASIZES – **THE GRACE OF GOD** I PETER 5 VS 12

2ND PETER EMPHASIZES **– THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD - ** THE WORD ***KNOW*** OR ***KNOWLEDGE*** IS USED AT LEAST 13 TIMES IN THIS SHORT EPISTLE.

WHAT DOES KNOW OR KNOWLEDGE MEAN

1. WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN **– A MERE INTELLECTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF SOME TRUTH**

2. WHAT IT DOES MEAN – **A LIVING PARTICIPATION IN THE TRUTH**

EXAMPLE : **JOHN 17 VS 3** …. " THIS IS LIFE ETERNAL, THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW THEE, THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST, WHOM THOU HAS SENT

WITH THIS IN MIND PETER OPENS HIS LETTER WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. BEFORE HE DESCRIBED THE COUNTERFIETS (FALSE TEACHERS) HE DESCRIBES THE TRUE BELIEVERS. ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO DETECT FALSEHOOD IS TO :

UNDERSTAND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRUTH - SO PETER MAKES THREE IMPORTANT AFFIRMATIONS ABOUT THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE :

I. **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BEGINS WITH FAITH** - PETER CALLED IT " LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH. " IT MEANS THAT OUR STANDING WITH THE LORD TODAY IS THE SAME AS THAT OF THE APOSTLES CENTURIES AGO. THEY HAD NO SPECIAL ADVANTAGE OVER US SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE PRIVILEDGED TO:

A. **WALK WITH CHRIST**

B. **SEE HIM WITH THEIR OWN EYES**

C. **SHARE IN HIS MIRACLES**

NOTE : IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SEE THE LORD WITH OUR HUMAN EYES IN ORDER TO LOVE HIM , TRUST HIM , AND SHARE HIS GLORY **(I PETER 1 VS 8)** IN THE VERY BEGINNING OF THIS LETTER PETER REVEALS TO US THAT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BEGINS WITH FAITH IN THE :

1. **IN A PERSON** - (VS 1-2)… AT THE VERY OUTSET OF THE LETTER WE FIND PETER AFFIRMING THE ***DIETY*** – (**GODNESS, DEVINE CHARACTER , SUPREME BEING, NATURE OF GODS CHARACTER**) OF JESUS CHRIST. ***"GOD "*** AND ***" OUR SAVIOUR "*** ARE NOT TWO DIFFERENT PERSONS; THEY DESCRIBE ONE PERSON, JESUS CHRIST. ***(TITUS 2 VS 10 AND 3 VS 4).***HE CONTINUES TO REMIND US THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAVIOUR BY REPEATING THIS TITLE IN ***(2 PETER 1 VS 11; 2 VS 20; 3 VS 2, 18)***

SAVIOUR IS – **ONE WHO BRINGS SALVATION**

SALVATION MEANS – **DELIVERANCE** IN THEIR VOCABULARY , IT MEANT DELIVERANCE FROM TROUBLE , PARTICULARY DELIVERANCE FROM THE ENEMY . IT ALSO CARRIED THE IDEAL OF HEALTH AND SAFTEY. A ***PHYSICIAN*** WAS LOOKED ON AS A SAVIOR BECAUSE HE HELPED THE BODY FROM PAIN AND LIMITATIONS. A VICTORIOUS ***GENERAL*** WAS SAVIOR BECAUSE HE DELIVERED THE PEOPLE FROM DEFEAT. EVEN A WISE ***OFFICIAL*** WAS A SAVIOR BECAUSE HE KEPT THE NATION IN ORDER AND DELIVERED IT FROM CONFUSION AND DECAY.

AS WE LOOK AT THESE EXAMPLES WE SEE WHY " SAVIOUR IS APPLIED TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HE IS INDEED THE :

1. GREAT PHYSICIAN – **HE HEALS THE HEART FROM THE SICKNESS OF SIN**

2. VICTORIOUS CONQUEROR – **HE HAS DEFETED OUR ENEMIES**

A. **SIN**

B. **DEATH**

C. **SATAN**

D. **HELL**

3. WISE OFFICIAL – **KEPT THE NATION IN ORDER AND DELIVERED IT FROM CONFUSION AND DECAY**

HOW DID HE BECOME OUR SAVIOR ? - **GIVING HIS LIFE ON THE CROSS AND DYING FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD**

THREE SPIRITUAL COMMODITIES OUR SAVIOR HAS THAT NO ELSE DOES

1. **RIGTHEOUSNESS**- HIS BECOMES YOURS AND YOU ARE GIVEN A RIGHT STANDING BEFORE GOD ***(2 COR 5 VS 21)*** YOU COULD NEVER EARN THIS IT IS A GIFT OF GOD TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE ***(TITUS 3 VS 5)*** " NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE , BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US. "

2. **GRACE** – GODS FAVOR TO THE UNDESERVING, GOD IN HIS MERCY DOES NOT GIVE US WHAT WE DESERVED ; GOD IN HIS GRACE GIVES US WHAT WE DON'T DESERVE. ***(I PETER 5 VS 10)*** OUR GOD IS THE GOD OF ALL GRACE. AND HE CHANNELS THAT GRACE TO US THROUGH JESUS CHRIST ***(JOHN 1 VS 16)***

3. **PEACE** – THIS IS THE RESULT

A. **PEACE WITH GOD** – (ROM 5 VS 1)

B. **PEACE OF GOD** – (PHIL 4 VS 6-7)

II. INVOLVES GOD'S POWER – THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BEGINS WITJ SAVING FAITH, FAITH IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST. BUT WHEN YOU KNOW JESUS CHRIST PERSONALLY, YOU ALSO EXPERIENCE GOD'S POWER, AND THIS POWER PRODUCES :

A. **LIFE**

B. **GODLINESS**

THE UNSAVED SINNER ID DEAD ***(EPHESIANS 2 VS 1-3)*** AND ONLY CHRIST CAN RAISE HIM FROM THE DEAD ***(JOHN 5 VS 24)***WHEN JESUS RAISED LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD HE SAID "LOOSE HIM AND LET HIM GO " ***(JOHN 11 VS 44)*** GET RID OF THE GRAVE CLOTHES !

NOTE : WHEN YOU ARE BORN INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST, YOU ARE BORN COMPLETE. GOD GIVES YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS. NOTHING HAS TO BE ADDED!

FALSE TEACHERS CLAIM : FALSE TEACHERS CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD S SPECIAL DOCTRINE THAT WOULD ADD SOMETHING TO THE LIVES OF PETERS READERS, BUT PETER KNEW THAT THERE WAS NOTHINGCOULD BE ADDED

EXAMPLE : JUST AS A NORMAL BABY IS BORN WITH ALL THE EQUIPMENT HE NEEDS FOR LIFE AND ONLY NEEDS TO GROW , SO THE CHRISTIAN HAS ALL THAT IS NEEDED AND ONLY NEEDS TO GROW . GOD HAS TO CALL BACK ANY OF HIS MODELS BECAUSE SOMETHING IS LACKING OR FAULTY.

JUST AS A BABY HAS A DEFINITE GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT DETERMINES HOW HE WILL GROW , SO THE BELEIVER IS GENETICALLY STRUCTURED TO EXPERIENCE " GLORY AND VIRTUE. " ONE DAY HE WILL BE LIKE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ***(ROM 8 VS 29; I JOHN 3 VS 2).*** WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL GLORY . ***(I PETER 5 VS 10),*** AND WE SHALL SHARE THE GLORY WHEN JESUS CHRIST RETURNS AND TAKES HIS PEOPLE TO HEAVEN.

BUT WE ARE ALSO CALLED TO " VIRTUE " WE HAVE BEEN SAVED SO THAT WE MIGHT " SHOW FORTH THE PRAISES (VIRTUE OF HIM WHO HATH CALLED US OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT (I PETER 2 VS 9). WE SHOULD NOT WAIT UNTIL WE GET TO HEAVEN TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST ! IN OUR CHARACTER AND CONDUCT WE SHOULD REVEAL HIS BEAUTY AND GRACE TODAY.