

## 2 Peter Chapter 1B

Years ago, Sharon and I received one of those invitations to a timeshare or vacation presentation offering two free airline tickets just for listening to their schpeal.

- I said to Sharon, “Wouldn’t it be great, if we could give Luke and Miranda two airline tickets for their honeymoon.” It took a while but, she reluctantly agreed and we went to the presentation.
- Of course, we had no intention of purchasing a timeshare or vacation plan we just wanted two free airline tickets.
- Well we spent the day being accosted and intimidated by high-pressure salesmen, but we endured to the end.
- And eventually we went home, triumphant with vouchers for 2 airline tickets in our hands.
- Later, we read the small print on the voucher, and we found out that you needed to book a hotel through the timeshare company in order to use the “Free” airline tickets. And of course the prices of those hotel rooms were inflated to cover the cost of the airfare. I realize, I should have known better.
- What’s that old saying, “There is no such thing as a free lunch?” When it comes to free offers:
- There is always a catch, always an angle, something in the fine print that steals the joy and spoils the expectation of the free gift that is held before you.
- So we become skeptical even cynical whenever someone offers a “Free Gift.”

BUT friends, when it comes to the gift of eternal life that is promised in the Word of God, there is no need for cynicism or skepticism because the price of our salvation has been paid in full on the cross of Calvary.

Romans 6:23 **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

IN Paul’s letter to the Romans, he masterfully lays out a full and complete presentation of the Gospel. Clearly describing the sinful depravity of every human being, Jew and Gentile alike are wholly given over to sin. And just before your face hits the ground in hopeless desperation, Paul interjects that glorious Biblical word, “BUT”

Romans 3:21 **But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,**

Paul tells us that Justification (*our restoration to a right relationship with God*) comes as a free gift of God’s abundant grace through Jesus Christ

- Throughout the first 11 chapters in the book of Romans Paul brilliantly expounds on that grace, holding the sacrifice of Christ out as the only means by which sinful man can be reconciled to God who is holy.
- When you arrive at ch 11 Paul becomes so overwhelmed with Grace and Mercy of God that HE “Lifts Off” and soars into the heavens in joyful Doxology.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

- As the creator, He is the immediate cause of all things, and He graciously sustains all things by the Word of His power, and He is the ultimate reason why all things exist.
- TO think that God in his Glory, His Majesty and Power would care enough for man who is rebellious and completely corrupt, to rescue him, deliver him from destruction and endow him with the gift of perfect righteousness.
- This revelation of the glory of God in Salvation arouses a response of worship of gratitude and adoration in the hearts of those he has given eyes to see.

It is my hope, that our study in verses 3 and 4 this morning would elicit in you a doxology of Praise and Thanksgiving to God who powerfully grants us everything that we need for life and godliness in Christ Jesus.

Verses 3 and 4 of 2 Peter 1 speak of the absolute sufficiency of this great salvation that God has provided for his people through Jesus Christ.

1. Powerful Provision – His power is the source of our salvation.
2. Privileged Procurement – We obtain this gift of life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us.
3. Precious Promises – By these precious promises we are being transformed into the likeness of Christ.

The source of our New Life and Godliness is God’s Divine Power

2 Peter 1: 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,

- The transforming effects of the gospel on the human heart are accomplished, for the glory of God, by the power of God. “His Divine Power”
- Through the Gospel God the Holy Spirit brings the conviction of sin and the gift of repentance that cleanses even the most filthy of sinners.
- Through the Gospel, the Holy Spirit powerfully imparts New Life, New Birth to those for whom Christ died.

- Through the Gospel He opens the eyes of the blind that they may see the glories of Christ, the Son of God, and His Eternal Kingdom.
- This powerful work of God is described for us in the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 36: 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

- God has ordained that the proclamation of the Gospel would be the means of grace by which He powerfully imparts new life to dead sinners.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- If you are a believer this morning, it is because God cleansed you from your uncleanness, it is because He gave you a new heart and He put His Spirit within you.
- And He gives you the ability to walk in His statutes and obey his rules.

Here in 2 Peter 1:3, Peter tells us that everything pertaining to life and THE godliness that is intrinsically linked to that life has been granted to us BY the Power of God.

- Friends, this speaks of the sufficiency of God's work in salvation. He didn't merely raise us to new life and say, go ahead see if you can work it out on your own.
- No, we were raised together with Christ, filled with His Spirit, empowered by God to live a new life of godliness.
- Commenting on verse 3, John MacArthur writes:

Mac – “The great power that gave Christians spiritual life will sustain that life in all its fullness. Without asking for more, believers already have every spiritual resource needed to persevere in holy living. Life and godliness define the realm of sanctification as living life here on the earth to the glory of God.”

*(SLOW DOWN AND MAKE THIS VERY CLEAR)*

Friends since God has provided everything that is necessary for life, for every stage of life, for every blessing and trial in life, for every temptation and victory in life, we can be confident that true Believers will inevitably persevere to the end.

- **Nothing can separate them from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord**
- Along with the provision of life, God has granted everything that is necessary for godliness. The Scripture clearly states that every blood bought believer will be transformed into the image of Christ.

Paul speaks of our transformation in Colossians 3:10 (WE) **have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**

- And again in 2 Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 3:18 *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

With God it is never a question of sufficiency. For those who are in Christ, the grace that is powerful to save is equally powerful to sustain our lives and to produce the ever-increasing fruit of true godliness.

2 Corinthians 9: 8 *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

- Friends, if you are struggling with doubt, frustrated even depressed from the ongoing battle with your flesh, this morning I encourage you to “*Lift your eyes*”

Psalms 121:1 *I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? 2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.*

- The Lord is faithful! He will complete the good work he began in you.
- Now to the question, HOW does one procure this powerful provision?

## 2. Privileged Procurement -

2 Peter 1: 3 *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,*

- His Divine Power flows TO US THROUGH the knowledge of HIM who called us. Peter seems to reserve this particular word for knowledge (EPIGNOSIS) to speak of the fundamental saving knowledge of God gained at conversion.

This word does not describe a superficial awareness of the fact that a man named Jesus lived 2000 years ago. He died and rose again and claimed to be God’s Son.

- This is not merely the factual information about Jesus that comes through the History Channel.
- EPIGNOSIS speaks of the deep and intimate knowledge of Christ that God provides through the revelation of His Holy Word.
- The word is used in the book of Genesis telling us that *Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch.*

All that we need for life and godliness comes to us through the (deep and intimate) knowledge of HIM who called us to his own glory and excellence.

- Peter speaks of God as “*Calling*” us TO or BY his own glory and excellence.
- What can we know about this “*Calling*?”

When God calls people in this powerful way, he calls them “*out of darkness into his marvelous light*” (1 Peter 2:9); he calls them “*into the fellowship of his Son*” (1 Cor. 1:9)

He calls them “**into his own kingdom and glory**” (1 Thess. 2:12) He calls them “**to be saints**” (Rom. 1:7) He calls them to “**eternal life**” (1 Tim. 6:12).

This divine call should be viewed as a powerful “summons” from the King of the universe.

- Call – KALEO – This word describes a personal summons an invitation to partake in the blessings of redemption.
- The CALL of God comes as the Seed of His Word enters the Soil of your heart! Remember that God has designed Seeds in such a way that they contain everything that is necessary for life.

We understand from Scripture that this Divine Call actually contains the power to bring about the desired response. I would go so far as to say that the power of God’s call guarantees the desired response in the life of the recipient.

Once again we go to the book of Romans to support this idea:

Romans 8: 30 **Those whom he (God) predestined he (God) also called, and those whom he called he (God) also justified, and those whom he justified he (God) also glorified.**

- In this “Golden Chain” describing the sovereignty of God in salvation, each progressive link is dependent upon the preceding link to assure the completion of the next step.
- Those individuals whom God predestined, (*Chose before the foundation of the world* Ephesians 1:4) They are the same individuals He Called. The effectiveness of that Call brought about Justification (*it removed their sins and provided the assurance of a right standing with God*) and those whom he justified he also glorified. (*the final work of God in salvation is our glorification*)
- This is the putting off of this body of flesh and putting on the eternal body and dwelling forever with the Lord. (*Prophetic past Tense expressing certainty*)

This effective Call of God comes through the knowledge of HIM who called us BY his own glory and excellence.

- His magnificent glory and His moral excellence served as powerful magnets drawing us to Christ
- I suppose you could liken the effective call of God to the captivating love that is illustrated for us in the Song of Solomon, the love that exists between the Bride and the Bridegroom.
- It may have been a while but do you remember that powerful attraction when you first fell in love?

S.O.S 2:3 **As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.**  
4 **He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.**

## 5 Sustain me with raisins; refresh me with apples, for I am sick with love.

When God calls people to himself, he reveals the beauty and majesty of His many perfections to them. These divine attributes of love and mercy, goodness and purity become more and more attractive, irresistibly drawing the sinner to Christ.

One of the main themes in Peter's writing begins to emerge here as we move from verse 3 to verse 4.

- Those who have received the gift of faith, having been given all things pertaining to life and Godliness through the knowledge of Him who called them, BY his great and precious promises will be transformed into the image of Christ as they reflect on his glory and excellence and so escape the corruption of *the World*.
- That brings us to our final point:

Precious Promises – By these precious promises we are being transformed into the likeness of Christ.

2 Peter 1: 4 **by which** (*By his own glory and excellence*) **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.**

Because God is a God of great glory and excellence, the promises that He provides to His people are described as very great and precious promises.

- And it is through these promises that believers become partakers of the divine nature. (What does that mean?)

First let me tell you what it does not mean – It does not mean that you will become a God. That's a Mormons deception. They teach that Faithful Mormons will literally become gods, ruling over their own universe. That is NOT what Peter is saying.

Peter tells us that through God's great and precious promises believers become partakers of the divine nature.

- This term "**Partakers**" is the word (Koinonoi) it speaks of sharing something in common with God. Believers share in fellowship together with God and participate in the divine nature as the Holy Spirit dwells in them.
- In Jesus prayer, recorded in John 17 he expresses the depth of this Koinonia and prays that we would share in the love of God.

John 17: 22 **The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,** 23 **I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.**

25 **O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.** 26 **I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."**

- The Love of God “In Them” makes them partakers of the divine nature!

Through the ongoing process of sanctification we grow in holiness and moral excellence after the image of God, and we bear the good fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. And these are the attributes of God who is the Spirit.

By the grace of God, through the indwelling Spirit, even now we can participate in the divine nature

By virtue of our union with Christ we **have escaped, the corruption of the world, which is caused by evil desires.**

- We are New creatures in Christ, **The Old is gone the new has come** (2 Cor. 5:17)
- “**Having escaped**” Speaks of a successful exodus from the corruption (the decaying nature) of this fallen world.

Like Moses and the People of Israel standing on the other side of the Red Sea,

- They were delivered from the bondage of slavery.
- Their enemies were all destroyed.
- God had a Land of Promise awaiting. They broke out in WORSHIP!

Exodus 15:1b **"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.**

- Although they were free from bondage, and God was in their midst leading them, providing for them, They weren't home yet!

When Peter says: **have escaped, the corruption of the world, which is caused by evil desires**

This is one of those already / not yet statements that we have found in other places throughout the New Testament.

- Believers have already escaped the world's corruption in that they have been set free from the power and the penalty of sin. They have received eternal life, they are new creatures in Christ, sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, adopted into the eternal family of God.
- BUT the full realization of their liberation awaits the final day when they shall be raised imperishable. BUT Remember from Romans 8:

Romans 8: 30 **Those whom he (God) predestined he (God) also called, and those whom he called he (God) also justified, and those whom he justified he (God) also glorified.**

NOW: As I stated when we began this study: The revelation of the Glory of God that comes by His Word arouses a response of worship in the hearts of those he has given eyes to see.

- Doctrine leads us naturally to Doxology!

After describing the Sovereign election of God the Father, the Justifying work of the Son and the Sealing of the Spirit, Paul “Lifts off!” in his letter to the Ephesians

Ephesians 3: 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Jude 1:24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Revelation 5: 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

14 And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. I'm going to bring Luke up front so we can depart with a doxology this morning, but as he comes forward let me ask:

Have you received God's gift of salvation?

- Has HE opened your eyes to see the beauty of His glory and excellence?
- Are you being drawn to Him this morning by the great love that He displayed in sending Jesus Christ to die in Your Place on the cross.
- God has promised:

Romans 10:9 if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



