

## **THE CHRISTIAN GRACES (II PETER 1:5-7)**

### I. Introduction

- A. American Standard – “Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in your virtue knowledge; and in your knowledge self-control; and in your self-control patience; and in your patience godliness; and in your godliness brotherly kindness; and in your brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle or unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (vss. 5-8)
- B. “Add”
  - 1. ASV = “adding on your part” (continuous action; shows personal responsibility)
  - 2. Lipscomb = “...’bringing in by the side of.’ The term indicates the comparative unimportance of man’s participation in his salvation by suggesting that his part is merely contributory, ‘brought in by the side of what God does,’ and yet is absolutely essential, since God’s part is done only on condition that man complies with His... All children of God are thus exhorted to hasten to bring in their part, though small and insignificant compared with what God does for us, in order that they may avail themselves of the blessings which the Father has made available to them.”
  - 3. put hand in hand
  - 4. shows OUR responsibility!
- C. Why we want to add these
  - 1. we have been called to glory and virtue (vs. 3); NKJV says “BY glory and virtue”
  - 2. because of God’s promises (vs. 4)
    - a. “exceeding great” (only use of this in the Bible)
    - b. “precious”
      - i. “dear” in Acts 20:24
      - ii. costly
      - iv. Thayer = “of great price, held in honor”
  - 3. because of the results (vs. 8 and the end of verse 10)
  - 4. because of the consequences of not doing this (vs. 9)
- D. How are these obtained?
  - 1. “giving all diligence” (vs. 5)
    - a. Vine = “it signifies to hasten to do a thing, to exert oneself, endeavor, give diligence”
    - b. Lipscomb = “hasten”
    - c. same word used in II Timothy 2:15
  - 2. “give diligence to make your calling and election sure” (vs. 10)
    - a. ASV = “give the more diligence”
    - b. NKJV = “be even more diligent”
- E. “In” preceding each of these items, rather than “to” is more accurate, suggesting that they feed off each other rather than the idea that “to” might suggest that you get one and then move on to the next

- II. Faith
  - A. Hebrews 11:1
  - B. Hebrews 11:6
  
- III. Virtue
  - A. Vine = “moral goodness”
  - B. “Praises” in I Peter 2:9
  - C. Lipscomb = “the manliness and the determination to do that which is right”
  - D. Virtue feeds off of faith
    - 1. the more we build our faith, the more Christ-like we become, since faith comes from God’s Word (Romans 10:17)
    - 2. the more we build our faith, the more determined we are to go to heaven
    - 3. the more we build our faith, the more courageous we become in teaching and defending the truth
    - 4. Clarke = indicates the “courage to enable you to profess this faith before men”
  
- IV. Knowledge
  - A. Thayer = “moral wisdom, such as is seen in right living”
  - B. Vine = “primarily a seeking to know, an enquiry, investigation”
  - C. Verb form = “signifies to be taking in knowledge, to come to know, recognize, understand” (Vine)
  - D. Knowledge feeds off of virtue
    - 1. we must have the proper mindset to gain knowledge
    - 2. Alexander Graham Bell was not the first to know that electricity makes noise, but he was the first to know how this could be used to transmit voices
    - 3. the virtuous mindset, determination to do right and good, seeks to know God’s will and is open to it
    - 4. some people never come to the knowledge of the truth
      - a. II Timothy 3:1-8 (especially verse 8)
      - b. the reason is because their minds are not set
      - c. they may start to develop faith through the study of God’s Word, but if they don’t develop virtue, they won’t gain knowledge
    - 5. some Christians never grow in knowledge because they have not grown in virtue which, in turn, has not developed because they have not built their faith
  
- V. Temperance
  - A. ASV = “self-control”
  - B. NKJV = “self-control”
  - C. Vine = “it follows knowledge, suggesting that what is learned requires to be put into practice”
  - D. Greek word is literally, “one who holds himself in”
  - E. Temperance feeds off of knowledge
    - 1. the more we know of matters such as the brevity of this life and the things of it and the certainty of eternity, the more we are able to control our passions and desires
    - 2. Ecclesiastes should be read to remind us of the temporal nature of things of this life (see especially Eccl. 2:1-10)
  - F. Summary of half of the list = When we go to God’s Word to build our faith, we

develop virtue which opens our minds for greater knowledge of spiritual truths which helps us prioritize and control ourselves from falling in love with things of this world so that we can strive toward the heavenly reward.

## VI. Patience

- A. NKJV = “perseverance”
- B. Interlinear Greek-English New Testament = “endurance”
- C. Different word than “longsuffering”
- D. Vine = “Patience perfects Christian character, James 1:4, and fellowship in the patience of Christ is therefore the condition upon which believers are to be admitted to reign with Him”
- E. Thayer = “to endure, bare bravely and calmly”
- F. Lipscomb = “suggests somewhat more than mere resignation to life’s difficulties. It includes the idea of positive resistance of evils and a steadfast bearing up under them. Self-control leads to and perfects patient endurance, because only those who discipline themselves are able to endure patiently the trials of life.”
- G. Clarke = “bearing all trials and difficulties with an even mind, enduring in all, and persevering through all”
- H. Related passages using the same Greek word
  - 1. Romans 2:12
  - 2. Romans 12:12
  - 3. James 1:12 (translated “endureth”)
  - 4. James 5:11 (translated, “endure,” literally, “the enduring ones”)
  - 5. James 5:11
    - a. the “patience” of Job
    - b. key phrase is “have seen the end of the Lord,” which not only reminds us that God will provide as He did for Job, but also that the scriptures really do provide all we need to live godly lives (II Peter 1:3; II Timothy 3:15-17; Romans 15:4)
  - 6. I Peter 2:20
  - 7. Luke 8:15
  - 8. Hebrews 12:2 (translated “endured”)
- I. Patience feeds off of temperance
  - 1. we learn to wait on things and on God, others and ourselves
  - 2. Psalm 27:14
  - 3. Psalm 46:10 (in context of conflict with the enemies of Israel, it offers reassurance that God will work in His way and in His time)

## VII. Godliness

- A. Interlinear Greek-English New Testament = “piety”
- B. Vine = “to be devout, denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him”
- C. Thayer = “reverence, respect”
- D. Related passages using the same Greek word
  - 1. I Timothy 4:7-8
  - 2. I Timothy 6:3,5,6,11
  - 3. II Peter 3:11
  - 4. II Timothy 3:5 (a “form” {shape} of Godliness; false godliness)
- E. Godliness feeds off of patience
  - 1. the more we endure the situations of this world, the more we realize our dependence upon God and the more we respect His power and

2. revere Him for His care for us  
II Corinthians 12:7-10

### VIII. Brotherly Kindness

- A. Greek word is Philadelphia
- B. Thayer = “the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren”
- C. Related passages using the same Greek word
  1. I Peter 1:22 (there translated “love of the brethren”)
  2. Romans 12:10, I Thessalonians 4:9 and Hebrews 13:1 (there translated “brotherly love”)
- D. Brotherly kindness feeds off of Godliness
  1. the more reverence and respect we have for God, the more we realize the need to love others and treat them the same way God treats us
  2. the more we realize what God has done, is doing and will do for us, even though we are weak, the more we want to do for those who are our spiritual family, even though they are weak
  3. Romans 12:10, especially the phrase, “in honor preferring one another”

### IX. Charity

- A. ASV = “love”
- B. NKJV = “love”
- C. “Agape”
- D. Not a repetition of the previous term
  1. this applies to our love for all mankind
  2. also applies to our brethren
- E. An apt term to sum up the Christian graces as it feeds off of brotherly kindness
  1. brotherly kindness is not always easy to show, but it is usually easier to show kindness and love toward someone who agrees with you and who treats you well
  2. when we learn to have brotherly kindness, we learn to have love even for those who mistreat us
  3. Matthew 5:43-47

### X. Conclusion

- A. Verses 8-11 serve as a reminder of the necessity of supplying these graces in our lives
- B. Lipscomb = “The list of graces may be analyzed as follows: (1) Those which are necessary to form the Christian character: virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience; (2) that which reveals the follower of Christ to be a servant of God (godliness), a member of the family of God (brotherly kindness), and well disposed toward all men (love). From this we learn that no grace can stand alone.
- C. How each of these tie in together: When we go to God’s Word to build our faith, we develop virtue which opens our minds for greater knowledge of spiritual truths which helps us prioritize and control ourselves from falling in love with things of this world so that we can strive toward the heavenly reward. As we strive toward heaven, we learn to endure with patience the trials that this world puts in our way and this causes us to carefully consider the reason for our faith and patience, God Himself and leads us to live more Godly lives. As a result, we develop a greater love for the souls of men and learn that the greatest task in life is that of serving God and growing in Him.