

Everything We Need

2 Peter 1:3-11

Sunday January 2nd 2011 Morning Service

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Verse 3 is one of the most amazing assertions in Bible.

1. The Assertion: v3

1. **Certain** Certain because of who speaks: v3 'his divine power' : this is God's commitment. Certain because of what he says 'has given us everything we need for life & godliness'. Glorious past tense. This is what is already done.

2. **Comprehensive**: 'everything we need for life and godliness'. God has promised 'everything we need for life & godliness'. He is the perfect judge of that. We need to learn to trust God's judgement of what we need rather than demand what he hasn't given. 'For life & godliness': pretty comprehensive. Right where you are, in whatever sphere, there God has given you everything for you to be the person God wants you to be.

3. **Conditional**: 'through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory & goodness'. It is all 'through our knowledge of him'. The biggest issue in your life in 2011 is knowing God. This is how 'grace & peace' v2 will come to us in 2011. John 17:3 'This is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God & Jesus Christ whom you have sent'. All rests on God's character: on his call, his glory & goodness. Whole glorious assertion rests on your relationship with your God.

2. God's Part

1. **His Promises** v4 'Through these he has given us his very great & precious promises, so that through them you may participate..... The way we lay hold of God's sufficiency is by laying hold of God's promises. Where do we find them? In our Bibles. Peter commands us to go to the Bible: see 1:19, 3:2.

'If we confess our sins he is faithful & just to forgive us our sins & to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' 1 Jn.

'To all who received him, to those who believed in his name he have the right to become children of God' Jn 1.

'There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord' Rom 8.

'My grace is sufficient for you, my strength made perfect in weakness' 2 Cor 12.

'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you' Dt 31 & Heb 13.

'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me' Ps 23.

'I am the resurrection & the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die' Jn 11.

'Come to me all you who are weary & burdened and I will give you rest' Mt 11.

Great & precious proms. Not just decorative or theoretical: they are life changing.

2. His **Purpose**: what does God want in my life in 2011? What is your ambition? This is God's purpose for you v4: 'that you may participate in the divine nature'. To be like Him. Rom 8:29 'Those God foreknew he predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son that he might be the first born among many brothers'. What are you striving after? God wants you simply to be like him. All the rest is trivial in comparison. What matters is that I am like Jesus.

3. His **Power**: v4 'so that through them you may participate in the divine nature & escape the corruption that is in the world caused by evil desires'. Becoming like God is bitterly contested. Peter specifies the power of lusts ('evil desires') & 'corruption'. The evil desires are not someone else's problem: they are pride, selfishness, anger, envy, bitterness, sexual temptation, greed, malice, lies etc. The result is corruption that is the spoiling of our marriages, relationships, homes, work places & church. But God has promised the power of the Holy Spirit given to us so that we can 'escape' all this. Only God will keep us. And he can & will if we fuel our hearts & minds on his great & precious promises

3. Our Part

1. **Our Effort**: in v2-4 all emphasis is on God & his sufficiency. But the conclusion Peter draws in v5 is 'For this very reason, make every effort to add to yr faith goodness..'. A call to action.

2. **Our Growth**: We must be growing in likeness to Jesus. Here are the marks 'faith, goodness, knowledge, self control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness & love. From the starting point of faith, you should be advancing in all the rest. Yr faith in Christ has it grown? Do you need to lay hold of God about yr faith? Your goodness, is yr life & conversation wholesome & doing others good? If you're not sure: then get to it. Growing in self control. How many of us have just settled for feeling that's the way we are. We need to grow in self control. 'Be completely humble & gentle; be patient bearing with each other in love' Eph 4. Perseverance: we live in soc constantly moving on to the next attraction, next excitement: people treat churches & relationships like that. But God perseveres with us. We should be persevere-rs: in prayer, in love, in obedience, in commitments. Brotherly kindness. Only in NT in first century was this term ever used

outside family: constantly used in NT for church. And in love: the love of God, from God, for God, like God. May it be our cry: "Lord I want to grow like You!" Peter in v8-9 warns us what happens if we don't: we end up with sort of knowledge of Jesus that is 'ineffective & unproductive', not changing you at all.

3. **Our Future:** v10. What is all this about? Getting through this week or this year? No: getting ready for glory. People who are growing like God will end up with God forever. Peter says if you are growing in likeness of Jesus 'you will never fall' v10 & v11 you 'will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ'. Live for that Day then by living like Him now.

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