

THE GLORY OF THE KINGDOM

2 Pet.1:1-11

Beloved of the Lord:

All believers will be equal in the Father's house and in the Father's family-1 John 3:1,2. But in the "everlasting kingdom" in which all will share, there will be degrees of honor and glory. This Peter reveals in our Scripture, for our place in the great and glorious Kingdom, depends on our present spiritual diligence. It is necessary to note that Peter describes two classes of true believers. Note them carefully -

1 - THOSE SPIRITUALLY DILIGENT - v5-7. Seven characteristics are named, marks of spiritual growth built on the foundation of FAITH - v1-4. Note them carefully:-

- a - "Add to your faith, VIRTUE" - meaning courage, for faith is to blossom into bravely following the Lord Jesus Christ!
- b - "Add to virtue, KNOWLEDGE" - Courage and zeal must be guided by the Word of God, through which we acquire spiritual knowledge - 2 Tim.2:15 and 2 Pet. 3:18.
- c - "And to knowledge, TEMPERANCE" - (self-control). We have tendencies to be puffed up when we acquire knowledge (1 Cor.8:1), 1 Cor. 9:27.
- d - "And to temperance, PATIENCE". This means cheerful and hopeful endurance in all trials and suffering as we serve the Lord.
- e - "To patience, GODLINESS" - The preceding marks of spiritual diligence produces this characteristic in us, Christ likeness!
- f - "To godliness, BROTHERLY AFFECTION" - There will be true "brotherly affection" as the result of the preceding characteristics, and a brotherly love accompanied by separation from evil, even when my brethren are mixed up with it. This will be according to the Word of God in 1 John 5:2.
- g - "To brotherly affection, CHARITY or LOVE" - This is the flow of DIVINE LOVE through the believer, not mere human love, but a love which impels one to deny self for the benefit of the one loved! See John 3:16 for example.

The result: "For if these things be IN YOU, and abound, they make you, that ye shall neither be barren (idle), nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" verse 8. God is more concerned by what He can do IN us than THRU us. He can do no more THRU us than what HE is able to do IN us!

2-THOSE UNSPIRITUAL BELIEVERS - "But he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins". These are true believers who do not go on in the things of God, for there is no standing still in the Christian life, we make progress or decline. Like Samson in Delilah's lap we can become blind spiritually, by being mixed up with the world!

3 - THE GLORY OF THE KINGDOM - To have a triumphant admission into it, God gives us a two-fold encouragement to be spiritually diligent:

(a) - "Ye shall never fall" - v10. A present steadfastness, constantly adding, doing, following the Lord, is the way to keep from falling.

(b) - Assures of a future, triumphant admission in the glorious kingdom. verse 11. The compensation is ETERNAL not like man's, temporal. Your place and my place in the glory of the "Everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ" will be determined by the measure of our faithfulness to Christ while here on earth. The honors won for cleaving to Christ and His truth, will be eternal there. So if the crown is to WORN there, it must be WON here! - "If we suffer, we shall also reign with HIM"-2 Tim.2:12

Beloved, let us seek to have an "abundant admission" into "The glory of the KINGDOM"!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

