

2. A Sure Thing

Peter is writing as an apostle and an eyewitness of the glory and honour of the Lord Jesus. He is the “light in the dark place,” and the concrete expression of everything promised by the Spirit, through the prophets. And Peter will keep talking about Jesus to his dying breath.

But what exactly is it that he wants to embed so deeply in the hearts and minds of his hearers? To find out, we need to backtrack, **and re-read verses 1 to 11.**

g) What have Peter’s readers received already (v1,2)

What is the source of “grace and peace in abundance”?

h) What has the *divine power of Jesus* given us, according to verse 3 and 4 – and what does it produce?

As we saw in Titus over the past few weeks, our knowledge of Jesus leads to a change in our nature – and an *escape* from the corruption of evil desires! Funny, though – that change in nature doesn’t mean we can just sit back and relax and go with the flow. There’s effort required. List the additives Peter wants his readers to pursue...

Start with faith

Add some **g**_____

And some **k**_____

And some **s**_____

And some **p**_____

And some **g**_____

And some **b**_____

And top it off with **l**_____

i) If you're growing more and more in these qualities, what will the result be? (v8)

According to verse 9, what is the other option?

Did you notice? It's quite possible to be unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our faith and our knowledge are meant to lead to productivity. Our faith and knowledge are meant to lead – in a very practical way – to acts of goodness... to self control... to perseverance... to acts of brotherly kindness... to genuine love.

Ask yourself the tough question. How productive are **you** in these areas? What is your knowledge of Jesus actually producing? **What's the point of being cleansed from your past sins if you're not going to do anything with your new beginning?**

j) What additional benefit does Peter promise for those who are applying themselves to pursuing growth in these areas?

Growing in godliness is a bit like riding a bike. The best way to make sure you don't fall off is to keep on going forwards! Peter says, the best way to be sure of your future destination is to keep going, and keep growing – eagerly keep adding goodness and godliness and love and knowledge and kindness to your faith. If you're not keen to do that, why come to Jesus in the first place?

k) How can we encourage one another to grow in these areas?

Putting it together...

We are certainly not saved *by* our goodness. Look through the passage again, and see what (and who) we are saved *by*. But it's good to be reminded what we have been saved *from*. And if we've been saved *from* certain ways of living, it's important that we show it! Peter is going to emphasise these things with his dying breath – so that his readers can live confident lives, knowing exactly where they're heading. Make sure you're doing the same!

Upcoming MPC Events

- **AGM** – Our Annual General Meeting is on next Tuesday night, 28 February, starting at 7.30pm. One of the most important things we'll be doing is appointing a new Committee of Management. Our Committee manages the property and finances of our church family – a very important role as we continue to grow. Pray for willing, godly and capable volunteers. (We urgently need people with financial expertise!)
- **Consider Christ Sunday** – John Chapman will give a clear message on what it means to be a follower of Jesus on Sunday April 2nd. Who can you invite along?
- **Church Photo Directory** – Our new 2006 MPC Photo Directory is available this Sunday. Black and white copies are free, and the colour version is \$4.
- **Working Bee** – Can you help out on Saturday, 11 March? It's lots of fun – and a great way to be part of maintaining the facilities we all enjoy.

Your Growth Group Project...

Working together on your Growth Group Project is a great way to put your faith into action! Glenn and Kathy Wright's group are supporting the Vineys and Brad and Jo Fletcher as they study at Moore College this year. Another group is planning to contact Ian and Meg Hazeltons in Africa and Paul and Helen Douglas in China every month. What's your group planning?