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Equipped for Godliness

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **May 12, 2013**

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2 Peter 1:3-14

Introduction: The time of this letter by Peter is around **A.D. 65**. Since Jesus had foretold of his death in John 21:18-19, he knew, as he said in verse 15 of this letter, his time of leaving his body was close. It was **A.D. 29** when Jesus spoke of Peter's death. So, he's been ministering for about **36 years**. (Source: *The Reese Chronological Bible*)

Of great importance here is his love for Christians and his wisdom from God to help them, and us of today, be aware of the need for us all to **grow up**. We see here, as in all of the letters written that make up the New Testament, that ministry takes place in TWO areas. **One, to evangelize (make babies)**. And **two, to care for, grow up the babies, and equip** them for ministry. (Matthew 28:19-20, Ephesians 4:11-16, Acts 20:28-32)

2 Peter 1:1, *Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious **faith** with us through the **righteousness** of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ...*

Thought 1. First, we should not forget that since we have obeyed God by believing on Jesus as our Savior, we gained access into grace by faith, Rom. 5:2. So now, the righteousness we have is OF God, and therefore is not as the filthy rags spoken of in Isaiah 64:6.

Isaiah 64:5-6, Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in **thy ways**: behold, thou art wroth; for we have **sinned**: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved. But we are **all** as an UNCLEAN thing, and all **OUR** **righteousnesses** are **AS** **filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf...

Romans 10:3-4, For they being ignorant of **God's righteousness**, and going about to establish their **OWN** **righteousness**, have not submitted themselves unto the **righteousness** of God. For Christ is the **end (goal)** of the law **for righteousness** to every one that **believeth**.

Acts 10:15, And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God **hath** **CLEANSED**, that call not thou **common (unclean [filthy])**.

Thought 2. This also means our spirit no longer has any of the filth of the flesh (old nature)! We're now clean by the washing (baptism) of the Holy Spirit!

2 Peter 1:2, *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the **knowledge** of God, and of Jesus our Lord...*

Thought 1. When talking about grace, I've learned to call attention to God's words to Paul when he answered his prayer about the thorn in the flesh: a messenger of Satan, sent to get Paul into pride because of all the revelations he'd been given. God told him his grace is sufficient. (2 Cor. 12:6-10) It is sufficient, but, it needs be multiplied in our lives in order to solve all the problems with which we are faced. And as Peter knew and said, grace and PEACE are multiplied as we learn more about God our Father and Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 11:29, (*Jesus said*) Take my yoke upon you, and **LEARN** of **me**; for I am meek and **lowly (HUMBLE)** in heart: and ye shall find **rest** (PEACE) unto your souls.

2 Peter 1:3, *According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things** that pertain unto **LIFE** and godliness, through the **knowledge** of him that hath called us to glory and virtue...*

Romans 8:22-28, For we know that the whole **creation** groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by **hope**: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with **patience** wait for it. Likewise the **Spirit** also **HELPETH** our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh **intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we **know** that **ALL things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Thought 1. Reading from verse 22 to verse 28 causes us to understand the things to which verse 28 is referring are only God's things, which pertain unto life and godliness. He mentions **hope**, **patience**, and the **Spirit**. On the other hand, Satan's things pertain (belong) to death and ungodliness. More proof of this is found in John 10:10.

John 10:10, The **thief** cometh not, but for to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

When a person is bitten by a poisonous snake, the venom works for one purpose! To kill that person! Therefore, to "work for the good" of people, God has blessed us with his wisdom to develop medicine to counteract the effects of poison, called an antidote! God's power has given us Jesus, angels, and everything else that pertains to life and godliness to "work together for our good" to help us fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

So, as children of the Most High God, we have benefits about which we need to learn in order to have faith for, and receive them. And learning multiplies grace and peace!

NOTE: His divine power ... Zerr thought that inasmuch as salvation is the subject matter here, "Divine power refers to the **gospel**, for Rom. 1:16 declares that the gospel is the **power** of God unto salvation"; and this is certainly true. (*Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/*)

2 Peter 1:4, *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious **promises** that by these ye might be **partakers** of the **divine** (pertaining to the true God) **NATURE**, having **escaped** the corruption that is in the world through **lust**.*

Thought 1. Being born of the Spirit, we received a new nature: God's! This birth, not being filled by the Spirit, gives us the ability to live right! (1 John 5:4) And we can do so as we are taught by the Holy Spirit (John 14:26), and grow in wisdom as did Jesus. (Luke 2:52)

1 John 4:17, Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: **because AS he (God) IS, SO are WE in this world.**

Thought 2. Since Jesus has been resurrected: the firstborn from the spiritually dead, he is again just like God in form, a God. This makes him first in ALL things! (Col. 1:18) And next, we were born from the dead! John is teaching us that the way God IS, and also Jesus IS right now, SO are we in this world; right now! In our spirit, we're just like them! God and Jesus have only ONE nature, so like them, we do not have TWO natures, we have only ONE nature! Today, the father of a child is proven by DNA. The spiritual DNA in us proves we have only Jehovah (Yahweh) as our Father! Satan's DNA is gone!!!

Romans 6:6-7, Knowing this, that our **old man** IS crucified with **him**, that the **body** of sin might be **destroyed**, that henceforth we should NOT **serve** sin. For he that is **dead** IS freed from **sin**.

NOTE: Both aspects of the Christian's death to sin are visible in this. It is a precious kind of **knowledge** that enables the Christian to **do away** with the body of sin, which is the old man, and that knowledge is .the consciousness that we have already been endowed with a legal status of deadness to sin through our being "in Christ" and therefore legally crucified with him. For a soul to have any success at all in **living above sin**, there must first be achieved a state of **innocence**, providing a fresh start. This is accomplished in conversion to Christ, wherein all past transgressions are forgiven, and the soul is endowed with the absolute and perfect **righteousness** of Christ through the heavenly mechanics of his having been, through his conversion, inducted into Christ, being part of Christ, "in him." This is the purging from "his old sins," as Peter called them (**2 Peter 1:9**). What an electrifying challenge, what an incentive to holy living, what a joy to the soul, what a burst of heavenly sunlight in the soul that is instantly endowed with absolute perfection "in Christ"! If such a thing cannot inspire one to honor the holiness that is expected of him as a child of God himself, rest assured that nothing can. True righteousness of our own (though ever imperfect) is the goal God has for all Christians; and the powerful incentive to its attainment was presented by Paul in this verse.

Before leaving these verses where the dual aspect of the believer's death to sin is in view, there needs to be cited a solid scriptural proof that the personal aspect of death to sin is a **growth process** going on long after the believer has become a child of God. Paul wrote the Colossian church, composed of baptized believing Christians, of course, thus: **Put to death** therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ... Put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, etc. (Colossians 3:5-8). Thus the personal aspect of death to sin presents a constant challenge; but thank God it is indeed possible of achievement through the Christian's righteous legal status in the Lord. (Source: *Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/*)

Thought 3. Our "old man" (old nature) is dead (*separated from us*). So, as he said, we're FREE to serve the Lord, obey him, and do the good that we desire to do!

Titus 3:8, 14, This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to **maintain good works**.

...And let ours (our fellow Christians) also **learn** to **maintain good works** for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

2 Peter 1:5-7, And beside this, giving all **diligence (eagerness, earnestness)**, **ADD** to your **faith VIRTUE**; and to virtue **knowledge**; And to knowledge **TEMPERANCE**; and to temperance **PATIENCE**; and to patience **GODLINESS**; And to godliness brotherly **kindness**; and to brotherly kindness **CHARITY**.

Virtue defined 703, manliness (the qualities of a **MAN**), (**valor** [strength of mind in regard to danger; that quality which enables a man to encounter danger with firmness]), **i.e. excellence** (state of possessing good qualities in an eminent [high] degree; [1913 Webster]).

Thought 1. This is the same word translated **praises** in 1 Peter 2:9 when he said we "should **SHEW** forth the **praises** of him who hath called you out of darkness..."

Temperance defined, 1466 self-control (especially continence [the restraint which a person imposes upon his **desires** and passions {feelings}; self-command]).

Patience defined 5281, cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy (fixedness or firmness of mind; persevering resolution; steady, unshaken determination).

Godliness defined 2150, piety (piety in principle, is a compound of veneration or **reverence** of the Supreme Being and **love** of his character, or veneration accompanied with love; and piety in practice, is the exercise of these affections in obedience to his will and devotion to his service.); **holiness.**

Charity defined 26, agape ag-ah'-pay, love, affection or benevolence (the disposition [frame of mind] to do good; good will; kindness; charitableness; the love of mankind, accompanied with a desire to promote THEIR happiness.).

2 Peter 1:8, For IF these things be IN you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren (inactive, idle) nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTE: If we have these things, and abound in these things, it is evident to everyone that we are not barren nor unfruitful in our knowledge of Jesus. i. The words barren and unfruitful characterize the lives of many Christians, who lack these qualities because they **lack** in their **knowledge** of God - knowing Him in the fuller and deeper sense.

(Source: David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible classic.studylight.org/com/guz)

Colossians 1:9-11, For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness...

2 Peter 1:9, But he that lacketh these things is blind (destitute of intellectual light), and cannot SEE afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from (washing off) his old sins.

NOTE: explanatory of "blind." He closes his eyes (Greek) as unable to see **distant** objects (namely, heavenly things), and fixes his gaze on present and earthly things which alone he can see. Perhaps a degree of wilfulness in the blindness is implied in the Greek, "closing the eyes," which constitutes its culpability (blamableness); hating and rebelling against the light shining around him. (Source: Jamieson, Fausset, Brown Commentary classic.studylight.org/com/jfb)

2 Peter 1:10, Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence (labour) to make your calling and election sure (firm): for IF ye DO these things, ye shall NEVER fall...

Thought 1. He's saying **learn**, grow up, and faithfully **DO** what he said, and we'll **never** fall!

2 Peter 1:11-15, For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle (body), to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle (body), even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.