

An Entrance into the Eternal Kingdom

Last week review

Mat 13:44-46 ESV "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then **in his joy he goes and sells all that he has** and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, **went and sold all that he had and bought it.**

This was contrasted to the young man who wanted to inherit eternal life, Jesus told him he lacked one thing...sell all he had and give to the poor and follow me - **Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**

How is it that a person's heart becomes captured by the Kingdom of God like this?

Mat 21:28-32 ESV "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 29 And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. 30 And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "**Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.** 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Read: 2 Pet 1:1-11

2Pe 1:11 ESV **For in this way** there will be richly provided for you **an entrance into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- Kingdom NOW, kingdom NOT YET
- **"For in this way"** begs the question **"in what way?"** is there an entrance or gateway

Peter is motivating the people to be aggressive in their growth in the LORD - there is SOOO much the LORD has done to jump start the process so to speak

1) He gives us HIS righteousness - that of our God and Savior Jesus Christ

2Pe 1:1-2 ESV Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained **a faith of equal standing** with ours **by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**

His is the only righteousness that has value - all our righteousness is as filthy rags

- 2Co 5:21 ESV For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become **the righteousness of God.**

2) He imparts so much to us simply as a result of our knowing Him

2 May grace and peace be **multiplied to you in [through] the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**

THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE of God and Jesus our LORD

- Faith is not static or stand-alone - there are so many other things he wants to add(multiply) to our lives
- How can we know Him? (prayer, time in His word, learning to abide in Him)
- Joh 17:3 ESV And this is eternal life, ***that they know you*** the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

3) He supports our growth with His divine power and great promises

3 His **divine power** has **granted to us all things** that pertain to **life** and **godliness**, ***through the knowledge of him*** who called us to his own **glory** and **excellence**, 4 by which **he has granted to us** his precious and very great **promises**, so that through them **you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped from the corruption that is in the world** because of sinful desire.

- NOTICE ***Divine Power*** to enable us to partake of the **Divine Nature**
- NOTICE **GRANTED** all things for **life and godliness**
- He has **GRANTED** precious promises so that we may partake of the **divine nature**
- **We fight so hard to ESCAPE** the corruption that is in the world but we must realize how much He is involved in the process - leading to an **ENTRANCE** to the eternal kingdom
- Here again, life and godliness ***THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM***
 - **How the knowledge of Him works - we read the Scripture, we see the glory of Christ we are changed into the same image -**

2Co 3:14-18 ESV But their minds [the Israelites] were hardened. For to this day, when ***they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted***, because ***only through Christ is it taken away***. 15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. 16 But ***when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed***. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, ***beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image*** from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

FOR THIS REASON - God does His part - Now let us put some skin in the game

5 For this very reason, ***make every effort*** to supplement your faith with **virtue**, and virtue with **knowledge**, 6 and knowledge with **self-control**, and self-control with **steadfastness**, and steadfastness with **godliness**, 7 and godliness with **brotherly affection**, and brotherly affection with **love**.

MAKE EVERY EFFORT

- **There is a pursuit of godliness...**(we want our life to reflect His glory and excellence, we want the divine nature of the LORD to be evident) -- **IT TAKES EFFORT ON YOUR PART**

But even that effort is simply a response to the work of God in you - it is a divine cooperative effort

- Php 2:12(b)-13 ESV ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 **for it is God who works in you**, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Peter is equipping us to grow in Christ by:

- Setting our hearts toward the end vision -- **an entrance to heaven**
- Helping us see the great call set before us -- to be **partakers of His divine nature**
- Helping us recognize His power, His promises -- that is the source of this work in me
- Telling us the secret is the knowledge of Jesus -- it is the fuel that sort of kick starts our hearts to say "YES I WILL PURSUE THIS -- I AM NOT SATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO -- I WANT MORE"

Knowing Christ was the “one thing” pursuit of the Apostle Paul

- Php 3:8-16 ESV Indeed, I count everything as loss because of **the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may **gain Christ** 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- 10 **that I may know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but **I press on to make it my own**, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. **But one thing I do**: forgetting what lies behind and **straining forward to what lies ahead**, 14 **I press on** toward the goal for the prize of **the upward call of God in Christ Jesus**. 15 Let those of us who are **mature think this way**, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only **let us hold true to what we have attained**.

If these qualities are yours and are increasing

8 For if these qualities are yours **and are increasing**, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- You will not be **Ineffective** = (inactive, unemployed, lazy or useless) - **you will be engaged**
- You will not be **Unfruitful** = (barren) - **there will be fruitfulness instead**

If you lack these qualities

9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

- NEARSIGHTED - blind and can't see where you are going
- FORGOTTEN - concerning the past - forgotten he was cleansed from his former sins

If you practice these qualities you will never fall

10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

Providing an entrance into the eternal kingdom

11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Summary

- True Christianity knows nothing of a life that remains unchanged
- Become dissatisfied with status quo - become a partaker of his divine nature
- Have confidence that God has provided every advantage for you to grow
- Make an Effort - add these things - prompted by His power and finally
- **Knowledge of Jesus** - spend time in the word and prayer - nothing will have as great an impact on you beginning to PRESS IN than getting to know Jesus better