

“Never Be Satisfied”
II Peter 1:1–15
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II Peter 1:1–15 says [1] *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: [2] May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

[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. [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. [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. [9] For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. [10] Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. [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.

[12] Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. [13] I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, [14] since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. [15] And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

May the Holy Spirit who inspired and gave these words to us in the Bible, now give us understanding and insight into them as we have heard them and now attempt to preach them for His glory.

I want to start by telling you why I am doing this study which involves telling you about the title and what goes with the title. In my line of work I have run across people who would be positions of either elected or influential leadership and in many churches there are both. People would say ‘I’m not really sure we need this because I think we’re doing pretty good.’ I began to hear that enough where I thought it needed to be addressed. I wanted people to be able to have this available in the archives for their encouragement and instruction for all of us need to hear what this passage has to say. I think as we begin to examine it part by part in four or five points then we’ll be reminded that we must not ever be satisfied at any current level of sanctification either individually or corporately. That is what is behind the title of this study and that is the rest of the title of this study – never be satisfied at any current level of sanctification either individually or corporately.

Satisfaction with the status quo has come to be expected in the lives of multiple churches throughout our country which has led to the fact that churches in America, realistically, are not all but many anemically weak. Why is that? It is because there is very little understanding of the nature of God. Why is that? It is because there is very little understanding of the Bible.

Why is that? It is because there is very little knowledge that has come from studying the Bible. Why is that? It is obviously because the study of the Bible is not a common practice in so many of claimed Christians of even people in leadership of our churches throughout the nation. Why is that? This is because there is very little functional importance attributed to the Bible for the living of life.

Scripture is not only the inspired Word of God and completely accurate as given by the Holy Spirit but it is sufficient for the living of every part of life as a Christian. As I just said, there is very little functional importance attributed to the Bible consequently the demands and provisions of the Bible are not taken seriously. I don't mean never but I mean too much. Therefore individuals and churches are in considerably jeopardy in the day in which we live. That is the setting and the need behind choosing this title.

The first point of this study is there is ample provision that is talked about in this passage for our success in never being satisfied at any current level of sanctification. I will be going back through the passage in a teaching way to emphasize my points. II Peter 1:2 says [2] *May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.* There is a word in this verse that stands out to me very beneficially and invitingly and that is the word *multiplied*. If the Lord is giving us multiplication of grace and peace available to us then how can we that we will stay where we are?

See that grace and peace are multiplied to us then we see in II Peter 1:3a that [3a] *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...* These statements are mind boggling to read quickly through them. We need to let our mind and will be soaked and saturated by these strong, sharp truths. His Divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to a Godly life and this doesn't mean you get anything you want in life but we get what we need to live a Godly life which will make the rest of our life what the Lord wants it to be.

This Divine power comes through true knowledge as the rest of II Peter 1:3b says [3b] *through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence* (NAS). His glory is who He is and His excellence is the perfection of who He is and the quality that comes to us through Christ comes to us out of the perfection of His Godness. II Peter 1:4a says [4a] *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...* do you consider yourself having become a partaker of the Divine nature?

What does it mean to be a partaker of the Divine nature? When we are called by the Spirit, regenerated by the Spirit as we come to a saving faith in Christ we actually receive the Third Person of the Trinity into our very being. We not only receive Him spiritually but the Scripture tells us that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. In that sense we become literal partakers of the Divine nature. We are not little gods but the Third Person of the Trinity actually lives in us if we are a Christian. He is here not just to take up space in our lives but He's here to turn our lives increasingly into a Christ-centered, Spirit-filled, fruit-bearing life. What a powerful way to express what is available to us! So as grace and peace are multiplied to us and we become partakers of the Divine nature how can we back away from pursuing higher, stronger intimacy with Him which is what we call theologically, sanctification. Then it continues.

II Peter 1:4 says [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 (lust).* This is a reference to a particular part of what Jesus did on the cross where in that particular work He made provision for us not to be overcome by sin. We are cleansed not only from the guilt of our sin but we're delivered from

the power of sin in our life. That is described by the word redemption. Redemption is the ransoming work of Christ on the cross so that we are redeemed, delivered, liberated out from under the dominance, bondage and power of sin in our life so that now we can with confidence say in the words of Philippians 4:13, *[13] I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Will we always? No, because we still have that struggle with the old man but we can pursue, make progress and do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

The reality is that since we now are in the Lord and have taken advantage of His redemption, we don't have to sin any longer and we will because we won't be perfect in performance until we're glorified out of this life in the presence of God. So that is what it means when it says having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. That is setting up what the rest of this passage will be talking about. So we see a very strong declaration in II Peter 1:2–4. That means there has been ample provision that has been made for us for our success in not being satisfied with where we are in sanctification.

The second point is capitalizing or taking advantage of Christ's ample provision requires diligence. Don't let someone tell you that the imperatives of the New Testament are not to be adhered to. There is an incorrect teaching that has been around now for a few years and it goes on to say that you do need to pay attention to the indicatives of the New Testament. What does that mean? The indicatives are the passages that tell us what Jesus did and they indicate the benefits that come to us in Christ but they are also given from the mouth of Christ while He lives here and from the mouth of Christ through those Apostles that He used to write the New Testament that are imperatives that He expects us to consider and to respond to with obedience, delight and worshipful consistency. This matter of diligence is a necessary New Testament part. We don't work for anything here or get paid for anything except for the fact that sanctification is intensified. Our relationship with the Lord is strengthened.

Now let's look at II Peter 1:5–7 which says *[5] For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue (moral excellence), and virtue (moral excellence) with knowledge, [6] and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness (perseverance), and steadfastness (perseverance) with godliness, [7] and godliness with brotherly affection (kindness), and brotherly affection (kindness) with love.* I like the term moral excellence because of the society in which we live today for there is a lack of adherence to moral excellence today in our culture. There is a tearing down, throwing away and a burying as much as possible with anything that has to do with the Scripture's teaching of morality and conduct of ourselves not only in matters of sexual morality but in other areas where morality is the describing word in the context.

One might say 'I believe in the Lord, in Christ' but is there any virtue in your life that shows that? If not your need in sanctification is to pursue it consciously, intentionally and on purpose. To this we add knowledge and that is the knowledge that brings about change in the way you think. It brings about change in your appetites, attitudes and conduct. From knowledge we add self-control and to self-control we add perseverance in which we add godliness. To godliness we add kindness and to kindness we add love. Here He is taking us through these steps of sanctification and He winds up with love.

Love is not the goal we're pursuing that we end up with that we don't take advantage of in the meantime. Love is to be a part of our relationship with the Lord from the moment we are converted and it is to be observable in us from that point on. We are talking about love for Him that shows itself in a worshipful, thankful life, love for each other in the body of Christ, and then love for the lost. All of this is involved in a passage in Revelation 2. This is a letter sent to the

church at Ephesus where Jesus Himself through the Apostle John is giving them instruction. He presents a commendable list but there will be a sense in which he will wash that list out. It will become insignificant to what he is calling on them to change.

Revelation 2:2–5 says [2] *I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; [3] and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. [4] But I have this against you, that you have left your first love (love for God, for God's people, and for the lost). [5] Therefore remember from where you have fallen (from that love), and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand (the ministry of the local church) out of its place—unless you repent.*

So He commends them for things but these things could be found in almost any semi-serious, evangelical or mildly reformed church anywhere in the world but those things could be present without any on fire love for the Lord and a compassionately love for the people in the body of Christ and the lost. This love thing is right at the heart and core, a nerve center, of your relationship with the Lord and how you live that out. So we come to the peak of this in II Peter 1:5–7 which again says [5] *For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue (moral excellence), and virtue (moral excellence) with knowledge, [6] and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness (perseverance), and steadfastness (perseverance) with godliness, [7] and godliness with brotherly affection (kindness), and brotherly affection (kindness) with love.*

If you are not in love with the Lord, God's people and for the welfare of the lost, what do you do? You will open the door for serious complications and problems in your life and that is graphically seen by this warning that Jesus gave to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:5. So this is part of the point in the title to never be satisfied and this brings me to the third point.

The third point is Christ requires increasing evidence that we're diligently capitalizing on His ample provision. II Peter 1:8 says [8] *For if these qualities are yours and **are increasing**, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the (true) knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Here's a point of application. What is the evidence in your life that you have become a partaker of the Divine nature and that you are experiencing increasing ambition, pursuit and practice of intimacy with Christ? In other words, to what degree have you become satisfied?

You are most vulnerable to say you're doing pretty good after a spiritual high where you kind of live on that for a while. I'm not advocating fear and paranoia here but I am advocating that there is never a coasting point. Never be satisfied. When you are coasting you are going downhill. You don't coast uphill unless you have enough momentum that will take you a little up the hill but you're still coasting you'll eventually coast back down.

The fourth point is there are dangerous consequences for any who ignore the instructions given up to this point. II Peter 1:9–11 says [9] *For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. [10] Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. [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.* This can be a somewhat confusing passage so let me try by God's grace and His Spirit try to take come confusion out of it.

Here He is talking about evidence. He wants us to look for evidence that we belong to the Lord. If we are stagnate and declining in sanctification it doesn't mean we don't belong to

the Lord but it means we need to be refreshed, renewed and come back to a level of vigor that demonstrates to us that we are ambitious in our love for Christ. There are several passages in the New Testament that give us ways to examine ourselves to see whether or not we can say with confidence that we are serious about our relationship with the Lord but I won't be going over them in this study. Notice though, I didn't say this would prove you have a relationship with the Lord but they give us insight to examine the health of our relationship with the Lord.

I love the teaching about justification and the reason is that when justification actually takes place in our life we are no longer even indictable for anything that would separate us from the love of God. That is pointed out to us with strong clarity in Romans 8:33 that says *[33] Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies.* Anyone can bring a charge but the point is that you can't make it stick and the only answer is that it is God who justifies – end of story. It's done but He doesn't quit there. Romans 8:34 says *[34] who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.* Even the Holy Spirit takes our prayers and interprets them into the presence of the Father and the Son. So we have two thirds of the Trinity praying for us.

Yet at the same time He still gives us this warning in II Peter 1:10. What's the warning? It is to not fall out of love to and for God. Don't ever be benignly, damagingly satisfied with where you are at. At any current level of sanctification either individually or corporately as a church never be satisfied. I can tell you from experience that not every church or everyone recognizes this. On an individual basis do you recognize this? Do you know the Gospel?

I want to give you a slightly different take on the Gospel that won't change the content of it at all but just a different way to look at it. What happened in the Garden of Eden? When Adam and Eve ate of the fruit that they were told not to eat something drastic took place. They lost love for God. They didn't care about God. They were scared of Him. They didn't want to have anything to do with Him. They ran and hid. They lost loving, worshipful preoccupation with Him and what went into its place? It was an absorbing preoccupation with themselves and that's you and me. It would be shocking if we knew the percentage of any 24 hour day that we spend thinking of preoccupation of ourselves. That's what happened in the Garden of Eden. That is what it is meant that they died spiritually, lost love for God and didn't want anything to do with Him. We are born into that same condition.

So the Gospel is that Jesus gives us a preoccupation with Him that is improved and intensified through sanctification once we take advantage of this justification where He satisfied the justification of the Father on our behalf, delivered us out from the power, bondage and dominance of sin and now we have all the equipment we need to pursue sanctification in worshipful, loving, thankful, enjoyment of Him. Never be satisfied at any current level of sanctification individually or corporately.

If you haven't come to Christ come now. Pray this very simple prayer; 'God, I know that I'm a sinner and that I can't do anything about that myself. I ask that You forgive me of my sins that I may belong to You and I want You to run my life from this point on.' And then never be satisfied at any plateaued level of individual or corporate sanctification. May God give us the appetite for restudying this passage and reminding ourselves of these magnificent and strong things that are dealt with in this II Peter 1 passage and may He give us the grace to take advantage of His multiplied grace and peace to us. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Our Father in heaven may You grant Your direction as we go out into the world and that we will go with pursuit in our mind, pursuing You, closeness with You, intimacy with You, love for You, enjoyment of You and representing You well in the conduct of our life and in the words of our lips in both the explanation of the Gospel and the living out of the Gospel for we ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Power Point

Ok, why this title?

“...brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.” 1 Thessalonians 4:1

The Current Condition:

Satisfaction with the status quo is quite common in churches in the US, so much so that there is a recognizable lack of appetite for pursuing church revitalization, and, in some cases, even personal sanctification.

What is the reason for this?

Because, there is very little understanding of God,

Because, there is very little understanding of the Bible,

Because, there is very little knowledge of the Bible,

Because, there is very little study of the Bible,

Because, There is very little functional importance attributed to the Bible, consequently:

The demands, and provisions of the Bible are not taken seriously!!

Therefore, individuals and churches are in Jeopardy!

God has given ample instruction, and has made ample provision for His people to never be satisfied with the status quo (vs. 2– 4)

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord...”

“...seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”

“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature,

We don't have this shocking privilege of “becoming partakers of the divine nature” so as to be passively satisfied with the status quo, but, rather, for increasing in sanctification through the diligent use of the Means of Grace!

“... having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust” refers to the benefit of redemption.

Capitalizing on Christ's ample provision requires diligence (vs. 5–7).

“...applying all diligence,
“...in your faith supply moral excellence,
“...and in your moral excellence, knowledge,
“...and in your knowledge, self-control,
“...and in your self-control, perseverance,
“...and in your perseverance, godliness,
“...and in your godliness, brotherly kindness,
“...and in your brotherly kindness, love.”

Lack of love opens you to spiritual danger. Rev. 2:2-5

Christ requires ever increasing evidence that we are diligently capitalizing on His ample provision. (vs. 8)

“ . . . if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

What is the evidence that you have become a partaker of The Divine Nature?

There are dangerous consequences for any who ignore this instruction. (vs. 9–12)