

A low-angle photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins, featuring several tall, fluted columns and a fragment of an entablature against a cloudy sky. The image has a blue overlay at the top and bottom containing text.

Certainty in a Sufficient Salvation

2 Peter 1:8-11

An Exposition through 2 Peter: Established in the Truth

The truth of God's Word posits **one** definitive, absolute resolution that addresses the **core** of our human dilemma.

The Bible teaches us that at the core of your nature is your **heart**—the real you, the center of what makes you, you.

And the most important reality about your heart is that it drives what God made you to be—a **worshiper**, and thus, what He made you to do—**worship**. The most critical aspect of who you are is that you are a worshiper.

And so all of life is about how you think and live **in relation to** the only Person who deserves your worship—God.

All people are made in God's image, and all people live and move and have their being in God (Genesis 1:26-27; Acts 17:28), so that all that we say, think, and do comes from our hearts **in relationship to God**—either from **redeemed** hearts that worship Him, or from **unredeemed** hearts that do not worship Him.

We reveal what we **want most** by what we worship in any given moment, and we **act like** what we worship in any given moment.

The world thinks about all of this **very** differently, so they don't define or understand your struggles and problems as **spiritual** matters of your **heart**.

They miss **the** issue: Where are you directing your heart of worship? What does your **life reveal** about your **heart's devotion?**

Peter **is** addressing our hearts as he speaks of

- how God **saved** us to be His worshipers (faith in Christ and the righteousness of Christ)
- how He **sustains** us in relationship with Him as His worshipers (grace, peace, and promises in Christ)
- how He **sanctifies** us as His worshipers (the virtues of Christ)

As Jesus' worshipers, Peter instructs us in how to **walk in that worship** so that we **become increasingly like** the Lord Jesus who is worthy of our love and adoration.

We can glean four ways these biblical virtues of discipleship promote certainty and confidence in our walk with God.

I. **Certainty in a Useful and Fruitful Life (2 Peter 1:8)**

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“In these short verses [3-8] Peter has summarized his ideas on Christian discipleship. This is how to keep from falling [stumbling, v.10]. And this is how to remain effective for Christ in this world as well as in the next. We know this because he goes on to write:

*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. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.
(1:8, 9)*

May we all apply these words to our heart and life! This is the road map. Live out verses 3-8 and find your way home.” *(David Helm)*

I. Certainty in a Useful and Fruitful Life (2 Peter 1:8)

God's design roots **fruitful** growth "*in the true knowledge **of** our Lord Jesus Christ.*" The root brings the fruit.

These Christlike virtues **overflowing** in your life offer you assurance of being rooted and grounded in a true knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Knowing Him **is** the difference in your salvation and your sanctification.

I. **Certainty in a Useful and Fruitful Life (2 Peter 1:8)**

“...I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...” (Philippians 3:8, 10)

I. Certainty in a Useful and Fruitful Life (2 Peter 1:8)

Absolutely nothing in the entirety of the wisdom arsenal of man contributes a single needful thing to God's wisdom arsenal in our fight against sin or death, nor does it contribute to our certainty about and conformity to Christ.

II. Certainty in Contrast with Your Former Life (2 Peter 1:9)

III. Certainty from God's Calling and Choice of You (2 Peter 1:10)

IV. Certainty from Your Pursuit of Holiness (2 Peter 1:11)

IV. Certainty in Contrast with Your Former Life (2 Peter 1:9)

There was an entire movement threatening to **blend** their brand of wisdom with the truth of God:

Gnosticism (*gnosis*) = **knowledge**; the same word Peter is using to refer to the **true** knowledge (*epignosis*) of God

Syncretism = the blending of differing views and beliefs

IV. Certainty in Contrast with Your Former Life (2 Peter 1:9)

Our beliefs and practices for Christian living come “*through the **true knowledge** (epignosis) of Him who **called** us by His own glory and excellence.*” (2 Peter 1:3)

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Our theology—what we can know, believe, and understand of God and His ways **from Scripture**—matters.

IV. Certainty in Contrast with Your Former Life (2 Peter 1:9)

Peter's emphasis on our **calling** and **election** reflects on **God's work** in our salvation; His work is **monergistic**—this means your salvation is **not a combined effort** between you and God.

God acts on you, and you are **passive** in your spiritual rebirth.

IV. Certainty in Contrast with Your Former Life (2 Peter 1:9)

And now, **after** God saves you and you are truly born-again, your relationship with God becomes **synergistic**, it **is** a combined effort as you are filled with (surrender to/obey) the Holy Spirit living in you.

This is **not** works salvation, **but** salvation working.

IV. Certainty in Contrast with Your Former Life (2 Peter 1:9)

This is God's work of **sanctifying** you in His Word (John 17:17; Ephesians 4:18), **where you are working out what God is working in you.**

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure”
(Philippians 2:12-13)

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