

Lesson 10 – November 6
2 Peter 1-1-11

Being Useful

Rome

Our Living Hope

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Sept 4 | Living Hope | 1:1-12 |
| 2. | Sept 11 | Be Holy | 1:13-25 |
| 3. | Sept 18 | Building Our Faith | 2:1-10 |
| 4. | Sept 25 | Living as Strangers | 2:11-25 |
| 5. | Oct 2 | Living in Relationship | 3:1-12 |
| 6. | Oct 9 | Always Ready | 3:13-22 |
| 7. | Oct 16 | Equipped to Live | 4:1-11 |
| 8. | Oct 23 | When Ridiculed | 4:12-19 |
| 9. | Oct 30 | Alert Living | 5:1-14 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 10. | <i>Nov 6</i> | <i>Being Useful</i> | <i>2 Pet. 1:1-11</i> |
| 11. | Nov 13 | With Trust | 2 Pet. 1:12-21 |
| 12. | Nov 20 | On Guard | 2 Pet. 2:1-13, Jude |
| 13. | Nov 27 | With Anticipation | 2 Pet. 3:1-18 |



Peter's Last Farewell

- ★ 1. *LIVE* Your Eternal Life
2. Until the Morning Star Rises
3. False Prophets—Dog Vomit
4. Look for the New Heaven

Lesson Author's Theme

God's power shapes character as believers grow in their faith.

2 Peter 1

1-2 Salutation – Equal Privilege to All in Christ

**3-4 Stand on God's Complete Provision –
Everything Required for Godly Life**

5-9 Cultivate Your Character – Seven Traits Increasing

10-11 Live with Assurance – Entry to Kingdom Supplied



Real Richness is when
you are so expensive
that no one can buy your
character.

www.inspirational-picture-quotes.com

“Associate with men of good quality
if you esteem your own reputation;
for it is better to be alone than in bad company.”

- George Washington



Key Verse 2 Peter 1:3

**For His divine power has given us
everything required for life and godliness,
through the knowledge of Him who called us
by His own glory and goodness.**



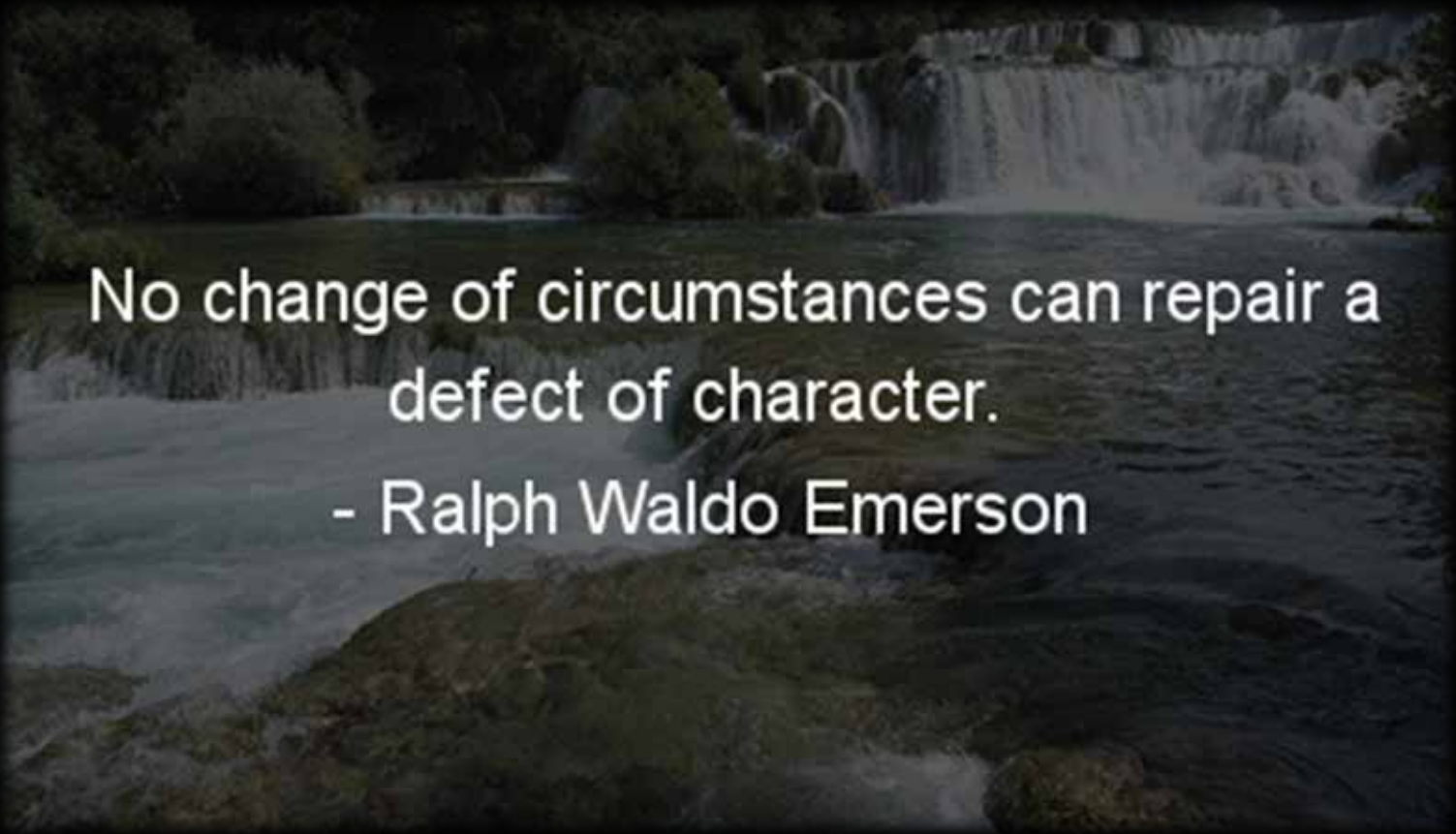
Alternate Title

Peter's Last Farewell

Part One

***LIVE* Your Eternal Life**





No change of circumstances can repair a
defect of character.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

¹ Simeon Peter, a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ: To those who have obtained a faith of equal privilege with ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. ² May grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Note 2 Peter 3:1, “this is now the second letter I've written you; in both, I awaken your pure understanding with a reminder.”

Peter sent this, too, to Asia Minor and Galatia ... and FROM ROME

See “**Simeon**” – Greek transliteration of the Hebrew for “**Simeon**”

“Simeon” means “hearing” or “little hyena”—1 of 12 sons of Jacob

Its alternate in Greek is Simon, and “Simon” means “flat-nosed”

SIMON was a very common name, used of 9 people in the N.T.

2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

¹ Simeon Peter, a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ: To those who have obtained a faith of equal privilege with ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. ² May grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

As your Quarterly noted, “Simeon” is used only one other time in the N.T. in Acts 15:14

That leads to another question ... perhaps not necessary

ALL don't agree on the Apostle Peter's authorship for reasons you might *very well APPRECIATE in FAVOR of Peter's authorship*

Reasons FOR & AGAINST Peter's authorship go back 1,600 years!

Yet, for about 1,800 years, Peter as author was held by most

2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

New Testament CANON (*Reed/Rule*) of 27 books

A.D. 393-419 – Church Councils in Hippo and Carthage, N. Africa, affirm 27 books

325 Emperor Constantine legalizes Christianity

Moves capitol of Empire from Rome to Constantinople in Asia Minor—Turkey
Byzantine Empire continues AFTER Rome

476 Rome Falls (*some say from within*)
Barbarians from north harassing for a century

Roman soldier Flavius Odoacer (O-dah-WAY-sir) leads revolt, takes Romulus Augustulus
Odoacer becomes First King of Italy

Dark Ages in Europe c. 500-1400

Map of Roman Republic & Empire 510 B.C. to A.D. 530

Republic

Empire

Eastern/Byzantine Empire

Western Empire

- 510

2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

325 Constantine legalizes Christianity

Moves capitol to Constantinople

Byzantine Empire continues AFTER Rome

Hagia Sophia Cathedral – “Holy Wisdom”
... built in A.D. 537

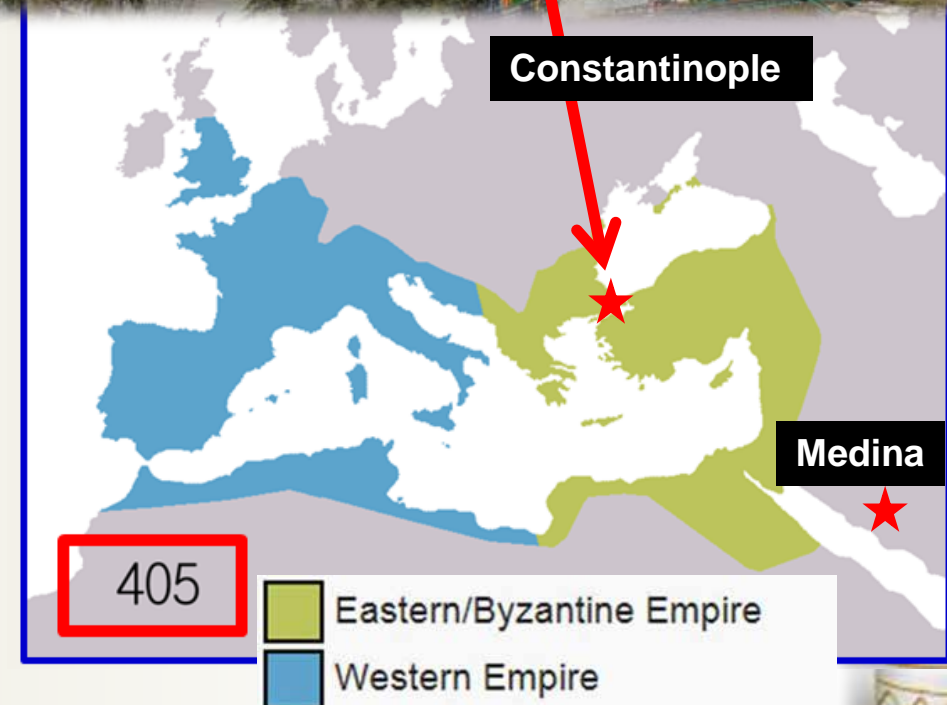
Orthodox Cathedral and seat of
the Patriarch of Constantinople

622 – Muhammad led to Medina—ISLAM

1453 Constantinople falls to Ottoman Turks
Hagia Sophia converted to a mosque

Dark Ages 500-1400 come to an **END**
some say after 1,000 yrs “without a bath”

Enlightenment and, of course, in 1517,
the Protestant Reformation



2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

New Testament CANON (*Reed/Rule*) of 27 books

A.D. 393-419 – Church Councils in Hippo and Carthage, N. Africa

they first to affirm 27 books

476 Rome falls

1442 – Church Council of Florence, Italy

They re-affirm 27 books

1517 – Protestant Reformation ...

1545-1563 – Church Council of Trent, Italy

They re-affirm 27 books again ...

Second Vatican Council 1962-65

Council of Trent was Counter Reformation

Reformation grew quickly from 1517



Council of Trent, Santa Maria Maggiore Church in Trent, Italy; artist unknown, c. late 1600s

2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

ALL that hullabaloo to say this ... 2 Peter was CONFIRMED as Inspired Scripture for 2,000 years (with or w/out Peter)!!

Furthermore, though some scholars doubted, **for 1,800 years, most believed Peter authored 2 Peter**

Yet, come the 18-1900s, scholarship found devoted men who spent oodles of time with manuscripts ... Greek, Hebrew, more

Like Adolf Deissmann (1866-1937) see his masterpiece

Light from the Ancient Near East (1927)

He was nominated 2x Nobel Peace Prize



Adolf Deissmann



2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

Let me show just a tad more ... you'll be impressed ...

After this—I side with most of the church for 1,800 years

I'll trust the **church of centuries**

believing that Peter wrote 2 Peter

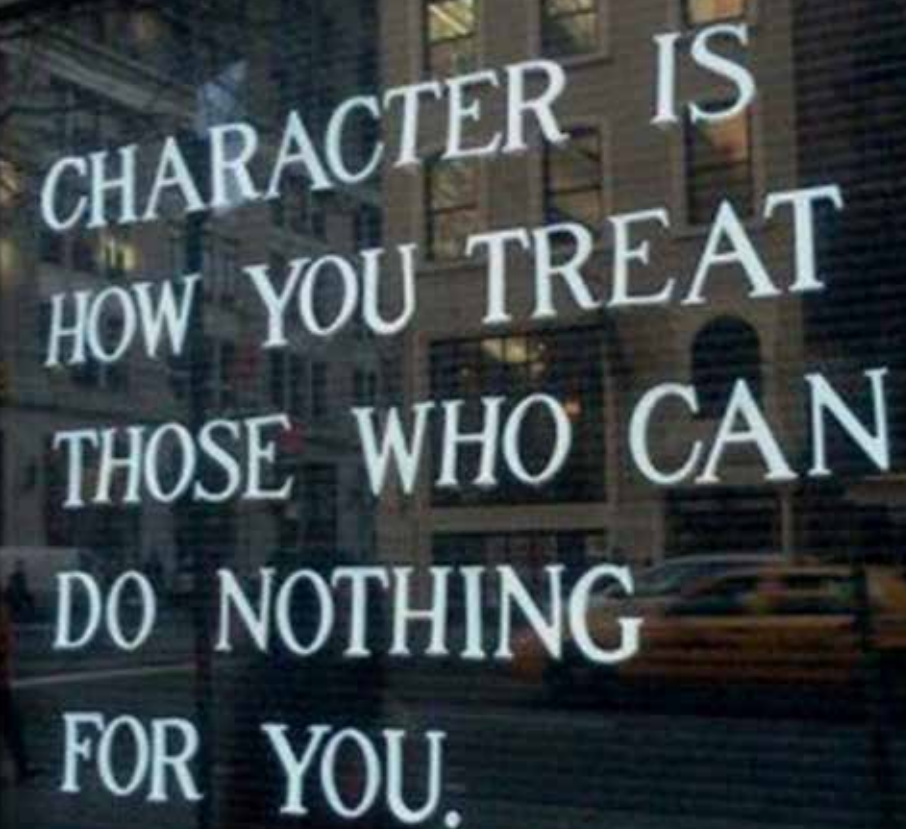
Using a Christian Greek scholar to help

Here is a bit more “behind the scenes”
of your quarterly's belief in Peter's authorship too

LIGHT FROM THE ANCIENT EAST

*The New Testament Illustrated by Recently
Discovered Texts of the Graeco-
Roman World*



A photograph of a window at night, with a city street and buildings visible in the reflection. The window has a quote written on it in white, serif, all-caps font. The quote is: "CHARACTER IS HOW YOU TREAT THOSE WHO CAN DO NOTHING FOR YOU." The text is arranged in six lines, following the curve of the window frame.

CHARACTER IS
HOW YOU TREAT
THOSE WHO CAN
DO NOTHING
FOR YOU.

2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

So for 1,800 years most believed that Peter was the author
regardless, it is SCRIPTURE ...

Behind your New Testament is a
semi-load of research!

After the Dark Ages, the Enlightenment,
the Reformation, during the Industrial Age ...

Literary discoveries of these scholars revealed many treasures

Show the REMARKABLE nature of 2 Peter ... *God's Work, I believe!*

One discovery is this: from 200 B.C. to A.D. 100 ... there was a
“genre” of Jewish literature called “Farewell” or “Last Words”

Several believe 2 Peter is in this genre



2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

Character & Style of 2 Peter: **NOT** normal CORRESPONDENCE

It is special ... often HIGH LANGUAGE (we will look shortly) and

2 Peter 1:13-15 lend it well to the “Farewell” genre

In splendid words, Peter carefully tells us he’s

GOING HOME soon

¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory
as long as I live in the tent of this body,

¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as
our Lord Jesus Christ has **MADE CLEAR TO ME.**

¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after
my departure you will always be
able to remember these things.



2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

Peter has learned a lot after his denial in A.D. 33

Learned a lot during his 15 years in Acts 1-12

ROME – 30 yrs later – writing near the end of his life ...

Rustic Fishman of Galilee, now writer of sublime letters

Peter – The Rock – a world traveler in Roman Babylon

Nero is Emperor ... an **insane oink-oink**

Nero plays a fiddle as Rome burns in A.D. 64

Blames Christians – **brutal, bloody persecution begins**

1 Peter is dated BEFORE Nero's insanity—c. 62-63

Most place Peter's death shortly after ... c. A.D. 67

Many believe 2 Peter was written BEFORE
the **destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 ...**

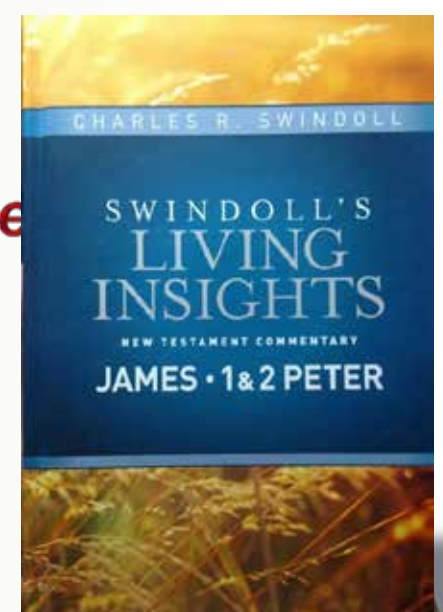
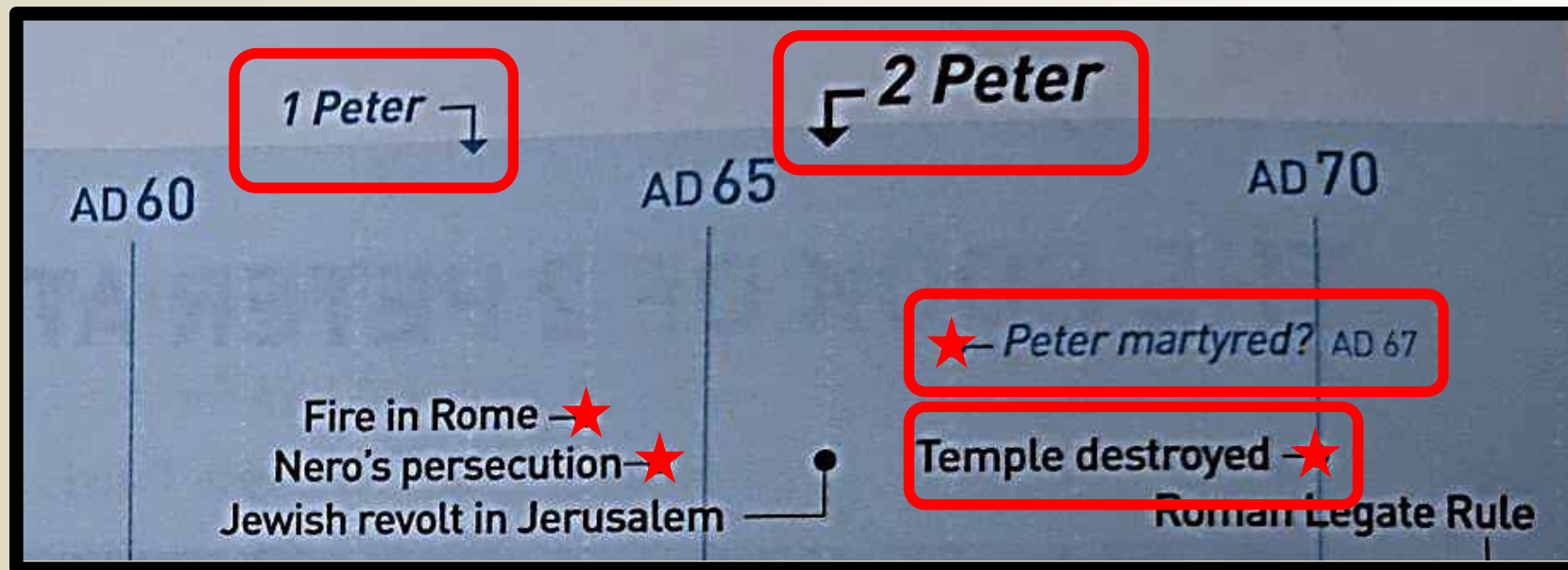


Bust of Nero
Capitoline Museum
Rome

1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

Charles Swindoll, *Living Insights Commentary on 1 Peter*

The fire in Rome is so tragic for so many ...



Bust of Nero
Capitoline Museum
Rome

Peter writes 1 Peter c. 62 and 2 Peter about c. 65-66 ...

Perhaps, Peter was crucified upside down in A.D. 67ish

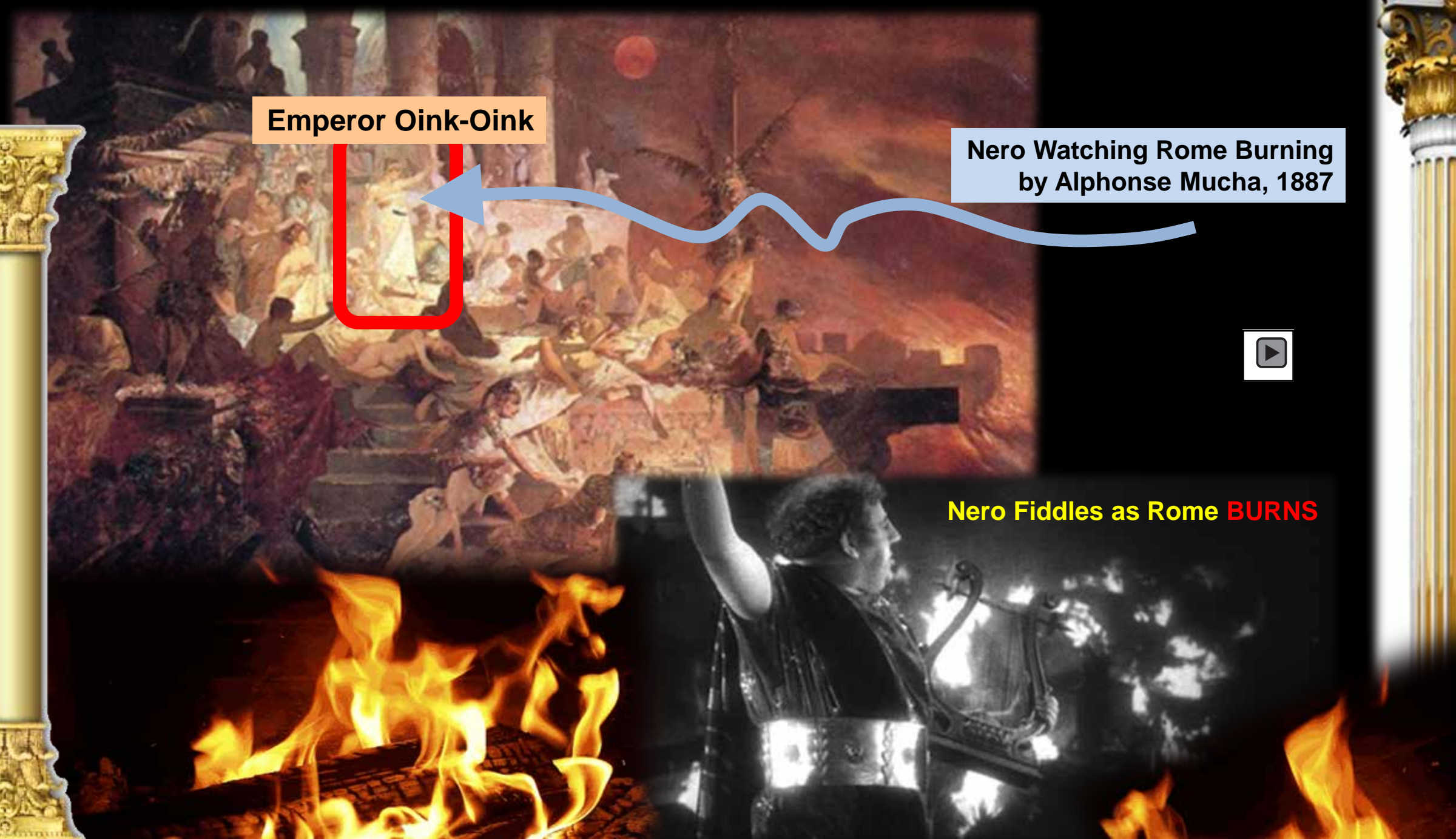
Jewish Temple in Jerusalem is destroyed in A.D. 70

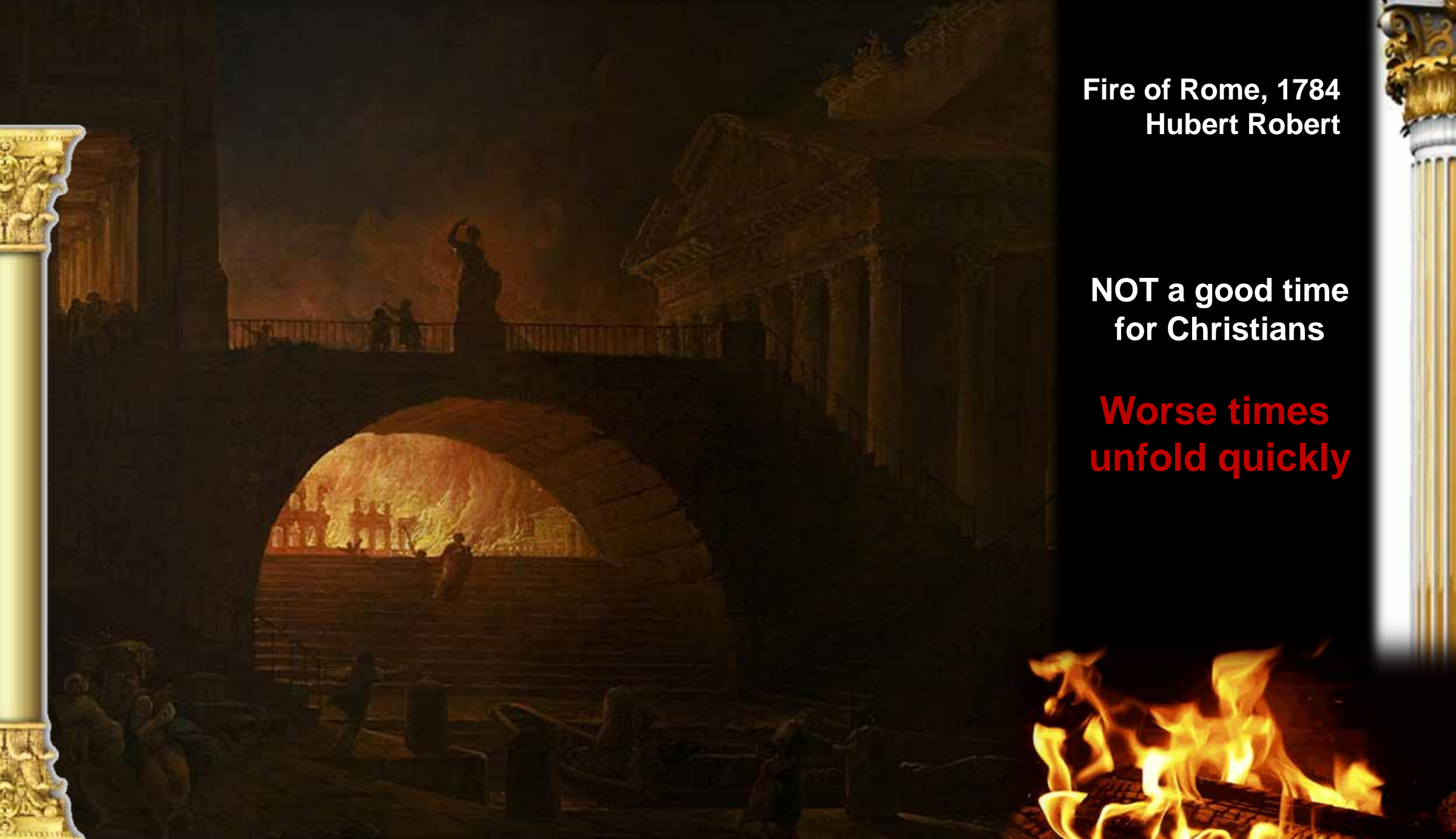
Emperor Oink-Oink

Nero Watching Rome Burning
by Alphonse Mucha, 1887



Nero Fiddles as Rome **BURNS**





Fire of Rome, 1784
Hubert Robert

**NOT a good time
for Christians**

**Worse times
unfold quickly**

Swindoll divides 2 Peter

Themes:

1. Exhortation
2. Denunciation
3. Anticipation

Warnings:

1. Be Pure
2. Be Aware
3. Be Diligent

Promises:

1. Not Stumble
2. Lord Rescues
3. Look for Heaven

Perspective:

1. Look Within
2. Look Back
3. Look Ahead

SECTION	EXHORTATION TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY	DENUNCIATION OF FALSE TEACHERS	ANTICIPATION OF CHRIST'S RETURN
PASSAGE	1:1-21	2:1-22	3:1-18
THEMES	Moral Corruption <i>Question:</i> How can I grow in grace and escape defilement?	Doctrinal Compromise <i>Question:</i> What should I expect from false teachers?	Prophetic Questions <i>Question:</i> What sort of people ought we to be in light of Christ's coming?
	<i>Warning:</i> Be pure! (1:2-4)	<i>Warning:</i> Be aware! (2:1-3)	<i>Warning:</i> Be diligent! (3:14)
	<i>Reminder:</i> 1:12-14	<i>Reminder:</i> 2:21-22	<i>Reminder:</i> 3:1-2
	<i>Promise:</i> You will never stumble (1:10)	<i>Promise:</i> The Lord will rescue you (2:9)	<i>Promise:</i> Look for a new heavens and earth (3:13)
	<i>Perspective:</i> Looking within	<i>Perspective:</i> Looking back	<i>Perspective:</i> Looking ahead

1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

Swindoll outlined better than anyone I've seen the
exquisite nature of 2 Peter's beauty ... and sublimity

Swindoll reflects what scholars of Greek literature **SEE**

Prof. Richard Bauckham, *Word Biblical Comm. 2 Peter* (Word, 1983),
Manchester University, England ... outstanding analysis

- ✓ 2 Peter highest incidents of *hapax legomena* of any N.T. book
that's a \$20 word meaning "appears only once"
- ✓ 57 words in 2 Peter are NOT found elsewhere in N.T.—
i.e., 19% of 2 Peter's 1099 words are NOT found elsewhere in the N.T.
- ✓ 25 words in 2 Peter are seen in the LXX *ONLY in quotes from LXX*
- ✓ 32 words in 2 Peter are not in the LXX
 - ✓ 15 of those are in Hellenistic Jewish writers of the period
- ✓ 17 words in 2 Peter appear in the Apostolic Fathers
- ✓ 13 words have NOT yet been found ANYWHERE outside 2 Peter

1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

Prof. Richard Bauckham noted several scholars:

- ✓ Several see penchant for rare, poetic, “grandiose”
- ✓ Pairs of synonyms and near synonyms for effect
- ✓ Some scholars see “ambitious literary effect”
- ✓ One mocks saying, its “high-sounding words” try to *imitate* Greek rhetoricians
- ✓ One said, “striving after pompous phrase”
- ✓ Another, “artificial piece of rhetoric”
- ✓ Another, “Baboo Greek,” like a ludicrous piece of Indian English
- ✓ One said it was “Asiatic” high-sounding, verbose Greek coming into fashion in 1st century

2 Peter

1 = 21 vv

2 = 22 vv

3 = 18 vv

mere 61 vv

1099 words

6.5x < Romans

16.7x < Acts

.8% of N.T.

1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

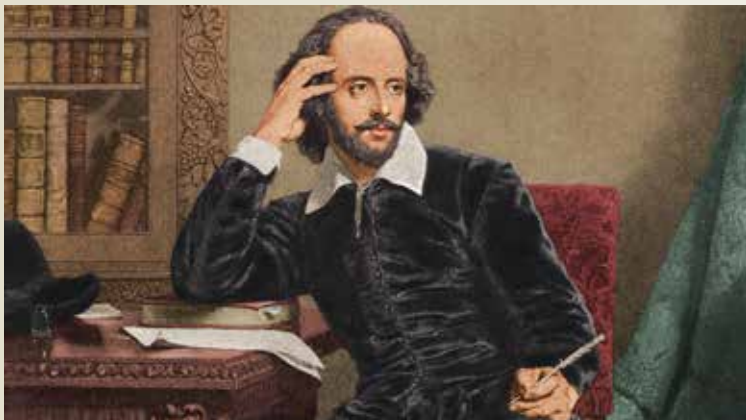
Prof. Bauckham says what might seem “bombastic and pompous” to us ... must be *judged by the age of 1st century*

Even if long, complicated sentences appear “tortuously obscure,” they are in their own way effective:

as in 2 Peter **1:3-4 ... 2:4-10 ... 3:5-6**

Some say 2 Peter compares to the Baroque English that arose in Italy in 1600s and spread throughout Europe ...

Think of Shakespeare in a stylized language crafted for theater that does NOT normally flow from common speech



To be or not to be ...

1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

Some – 2 Peter written by church leaders in Rome to Asia Minor

Some believe church leaders in Rome attached “Peter” to the letter ... to give the letter apostolic authority

The Church of Rome helped churches everywhere

Catholic Church grew from Rome

St. Peter's Basilica began in 1506,
finished in Nov. 1626

Finished as Reformation raced

I trust the “**CHURCH**” consensus
even through the Dark Ages

The Apostle Peter wrote 2 Peter





***"Even if I knew
that tomorrow
the world would
go to pieces, I
would still plant
my apple tree."***

Martin Luther

2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

Peter wrote with an educated scribe and the Holy Spirit
Church Councils validated 2 Peter several times,
so (w/ or w/out Peter) it is **Inspired Scripture**

I believe God helped Peter give his **LAST FAREWELL**
in a fine, uniquely exquisite and sublime letter ...

**¹ Simeon Peter, a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ:
To those who have obtained a faith of equal privilege
with ours through the righteousness of our God and
Savior Jesus Christ. ² May grace and peace be
multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of
Jesus our Lord.**

Notice: Equal Privilege ... Equal Status ...

ALL Christians are EQUAL before God in Christ



2 Peter 1:3-4 Stand on God's Complete Provision

So then, here is the first **EQUISITELY** fine long sentence, 3-4, that gives us our **SUBLIME** standing with God, our Creator ...

³ For His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. ⁴ By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires.

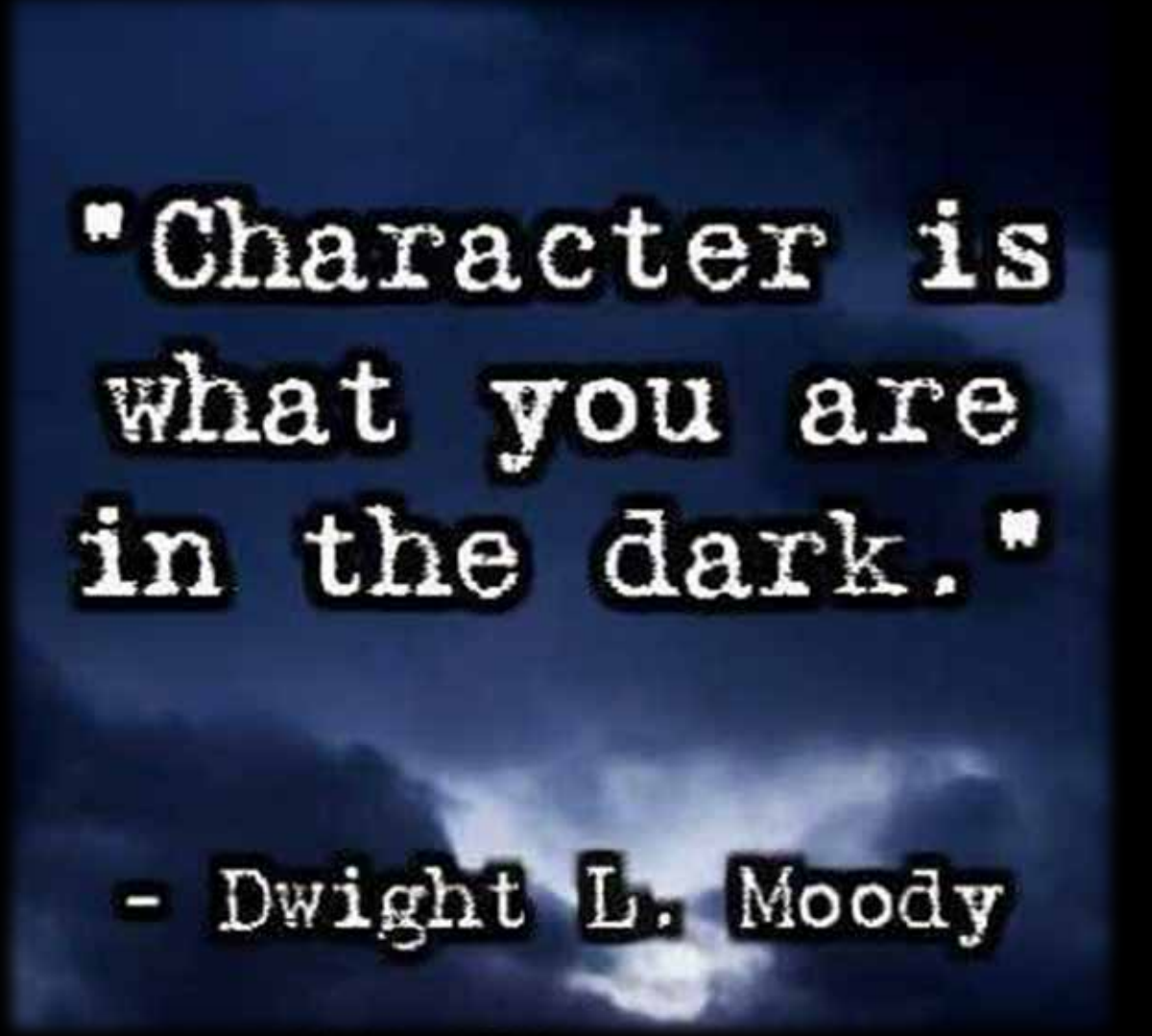
EVERYTHING? ... confident? ... YES?

When the Temple curtain was torn, we have access to God ...

each with equal status ... **to go, to pray, to seek, to HEAR**

James 1 notes clearly, if you lack “wisdom”—**ASK!!**

Our battle is in the **Spiritual Realm . . .**



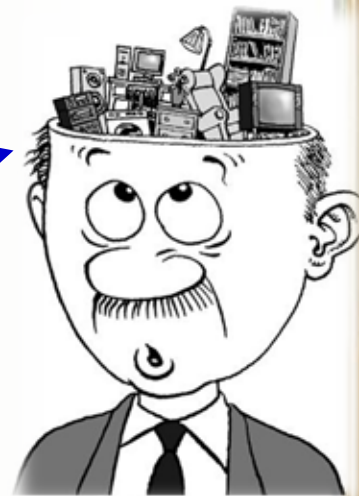
"Character is
what you are
in the dark."

- Dwight L. Moody

2 Peter 1:3-4 Stand on God's Complete Provision

³ For His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. ⁴ By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires.

- ✓ One of those RARE words used here is for “knowledge”
- ✓ The **normal** Greek word is *gnosis* as we use for “knowledge,” the accumulation of facts, ideas, etc.—*noggin knowin’*
- ✓ Origin of “Gnosticism,” heresy to develop in A.D. 100s
- ✓ The **rarer** term is *epi-gnosis*: refers to “Christian knowledge” KNOWING Christ—as in “born-again knowledge”



2 Peter 1:3-4 Stand on God's Complete Provision

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epi-gnosis, “Christian knowledge” or “born-again knowledge”

1 John 2:27, “anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you—remain IN HIM.”

In Greek, many see verses 3-4 as ONE sentence ... and so—LOOK!

“**Promises**” that we “**share in the DIVINE NATURE.**”

2 Peter 1:3-4 Stand on God's Complete Provision

³ For His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. ⁴ By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires.

How exquisitely beautiful is this in English ... sublime ...

Touching not just the eternal ... but UNITING us with God, Himself!

“born-again knowledge” of God in our hearts—our Living Hope

Throughout the N.T. based upon the O.T., Jesus has given us so many “very great and precious promises”

Character is like a
tree and
reputation like a
shadow. The
shadow is what we
think of it; the
tree is the real
thing.



2 Peter 1:3-4 Stand on God's Complete Provision

“very great and precious promises ... share in Divine Nature”

We were made in the Image of God ... therefore, splendidly ...

Gloriously ... no “high-minded” language is **HIGH ENOUGH**

Stupendously glorious above all that we can DREAM of ...

IN CHRIST and for ETERNITY
we share God's ETERNAL LIFE

We shall be made like HIM ... He is IN us ... we IN Him ...

Peter goes on—only, solely through this “born-again knowledge”
will we be able to reach, achieve vs. 4 and **escape**

“the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires.”

Not merely “how”—Peter tells of much more ...read vs. 4 again

2 Peter 1:3-4 Stand on God's Complete Provision

4 By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires.

No imperative or command here ... look, see, behold ...

- ✓ What Christian does NOT want to escape the corruption?
- ✓ What Christian does NOT want to escape evil desires?

“In Christ” we have a NEW insight here ... “Divine Nature”

Talk about “overcoming the world” ... here it is ...

“born-again knowledge” of God in our hearts—**our Living Hope**

Oh, 1 John explains this so eloquently:

2 Peter 1:3-4 Stand on God's Complete Provision

4 By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires.

Oh, 1 John explains this so eloquently ...

in many ways 1 John is THE commentary on 2 Peter 1:3-4:

- ✓ 1:2, The life appeared ... we proclaim to you the eternal life ...**
- ✓ 1:7, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light ...**
- ✓ 2:10, who loves their brother and sister LIVES IN THE LIGHT, and there is NOTHING in them to make them stumble.**
- ✓ 2:5-6, ... in Him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.**

2 Peter 1:3-4 Stand on God's Complete Provision

4 ...escaping the corruption in the world because of evil desires.

Oh, 1 John ... eloquent commentary on 2 Peter 1:3-4:

- ✓ 4:16, So we ... rely on the love God has for us. **GOD IS LOVE.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.
- ✓ 5:5, Who is it that **overcomes the world?** Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.
- ✓ 5:12, Whoever has the Son has life...
- ✓ 5:20, We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding—[read, “*born-again knowledge*”]—so that we may know him who is true. And we are **IN Him** who is true by being in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Sharing the Divine Nature ... Our Living Hope ... Heaven to Come

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

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

⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted, and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins.

STUPENDOUS verses!

Yes, for this VERY REASON?? ... what REASON?

Made in the Image of God and Sharing in His Eternal Life!

Ahh ... need a **BETTER** reason to SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH

If you NEED a better reason, you better check your heart!

Our Character

*is defined by what we do when
we think no one is looking.*

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

Verses 5-7 give a what appears to be an ascending hierarchy in the list on “how to supplement” your living IN CHRIST ...

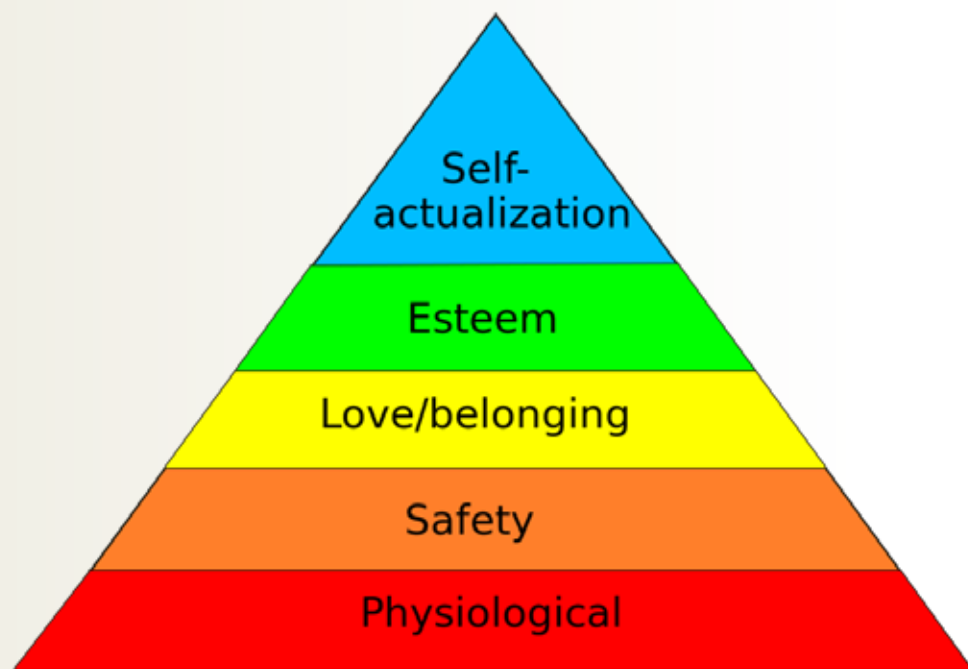
Recall 4th lesson, Sept 25, 2:11-25 and our ditto on the **ψυχή / SOUL / PSYCHE**: vital breath, breath of life; seat will

What DRIVES humans?

Abraham Maslow (1908-70)
gave us a **Hierarchy of Needs**

- ✓ First, physical
- ✓ Then, safety
- ✓ Love, esteem ... etc.

Similar to Maslow, there are
DOZENS of major formulations



2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

Verses 5-7 give a what appears to be an ascending or hierarchical list on “how to supplement” your **living IN CHRIST** ...

supplement your **FAITH**

- ✚ with **Goodness**
- ✚ with **Knowledge**
- ✚ with **Self-control**
- ✚ with **Endurance**
- ✚ with **Godliness**
- ✚ with **Brotherly Affection**
- ✚ with **LOVE**

Do NOT read into this a pure hierarchy or matrix

Certainly do NOT read into this a CLOSED list ...

DO MOST CERTAINLY
see that

ALL is done in

LOVE

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

“Supplement” **FAITH** in your living **IN CHRIST** ...

- ✠ with **Goodness**
- ✠ with **Knowledge**
- ✠ with **Self-control**
- ✠ with **Endurance**
- ✠ with **Godliness**
- ✠ with **Brotherly Affection**
- ✠ with **LOVE**

Notice what is between

FAITH and **LOVE** ... *good character traits*

Think of Peter talking with his
Greek writer, wanting to be
complete and not TOO long

Character Traits ...

Character = Sum of Virtues

Good Character = these & more

- ✓ A Character = take one out
- ✓ Low Character = take two out
- ✓ Bad Character = take three out

A rectangular image showing a sunset over the ocean. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with the sun visible as a bright, hazy orb on the horizon. The ocean below has dark, rolling waves with white foam from the surf. The entire image is set against a black background.

Weakness of attitude becomes
weakness of character.

Albert Einstein

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

St. Paul's 20 Virtues

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Love | 8. Forgiveness | 15. Hope |
| 2. Compassion | 9. Gratitude | 16. Goodness |
| 3. Kindness | 10. Wisdom | 17. Faithfulness |
| 4. Humility | 11. Peace | 18. Self-Control |
| 5. Gentleness | 12. Righteousness | 19. Purity |
| 6. Patience | 13. Joy | 20. Understanding |
| 7. Tolerance | 14. Endurance | |

Taken from Col. 3:12-17; Phil. 2:2-3; Eph. 4:2-3, 32; Gal. 5:22-23; Rom. 14:17, 15:4-5; 1 Cor. 13, and 2 Cor. 6:4-10; and *charted* by Glen H. Stassen and David P. Gushee, *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context* (InterVarsity, 2003): 50.

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

Plato's List from the *Republic* (427-347 BC)

Wisdom

Self-Restraint (or Temperance)

Courage

Justice

Aristotle added to Plato these in his
Nicomachean Ethics (384-322 BC)

Generosity

Truthfulness

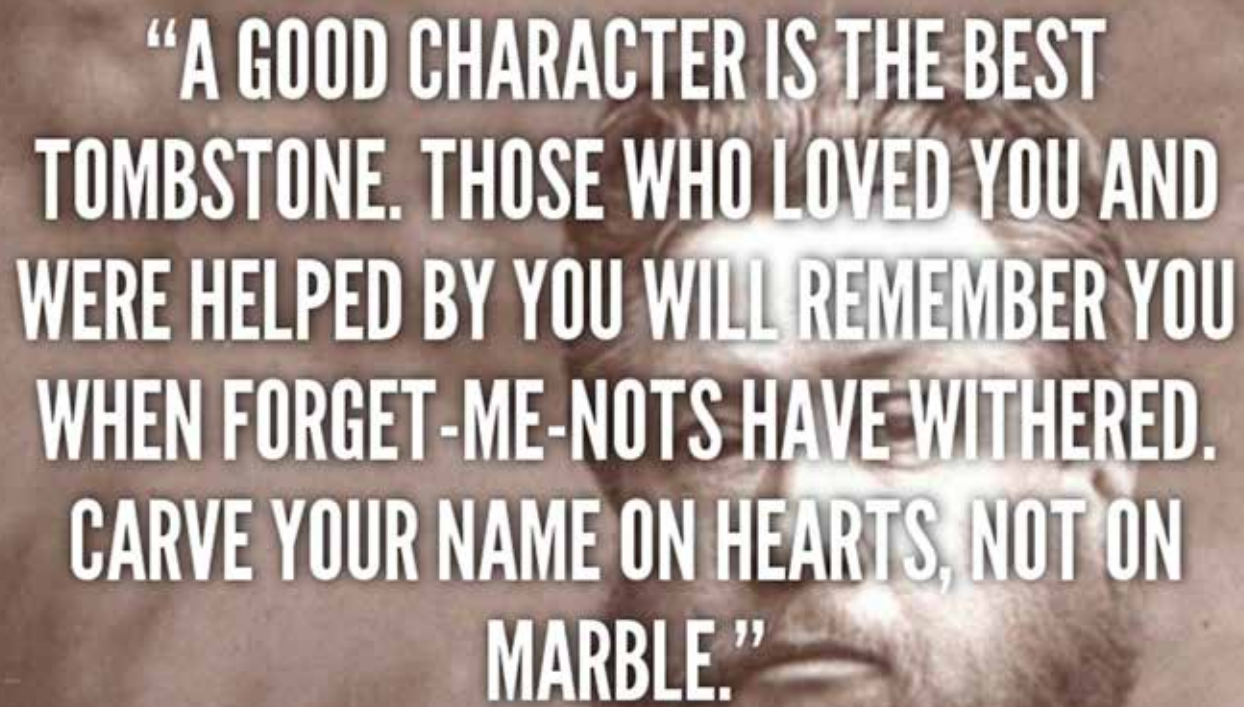
Wit

Magnificence

Friendliness

Greatness of soul

Remember, Hellenism is the spread of Greek culture
after Alexander the Great, 365-323 B.C.

A sepia-toned portrait of Charles Spurgeon, a man with a full beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and a bow tie. The portrait is the background for the quote.

**“A GOOD CHARACTER IS THE BEST
TOMBSTONE. THOSE WHO LOVED YOU AND
WERE HELPED BY YOU WILL REMEMBER YOU
WHEN FORGET-ME-NOTS HAVE WITHERED.
CARVE YOUR NAME ON HEARTS, NOT ON
MARBLE.”**

CHARLES SPURGEON

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

Greek Stoic and Hellenistic Philosophers detailed a lot of these

Example from Hellenistic Judaism in the Wisdom of Solomon
included in the Catholic Canon and in the LXX (c. 200 B.C.), 6:17-20:

First step toward Wisdom is an earnest desire for discipline;
then, care for discipline is love of her;
love means the keeping of her laws;
to observe her laws is the basis for incorruptibility;
and incorruptibility makes one close to God;
thus the desire for Wisdom leads to a kingdom.

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

An example from the Mishna Tractate Sota, c. A.D. 90

**Zeal leads to cleanliness
and cleanliness leads to purity,
and purity leads to self-restraint,
and self-restraint leads to sanctity,
and sanctity leads to humility,
and humility leads to the fear of sin,
and the fear of sin leads to piety,
and piety leads to the Holy Spirit,
and the Holy Spirit leads to the resurrection of the dead.**

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

Ethical Lists ... every organization has one **Character Counts** program, since 1987 endorsed by 100,000 high-ranking public executives, U.S. presidents, congress persons.

In schools across country their **Six Traits** are a veritable industry for “doing good”

1. Trustworthiness
2. Respect
3. Responsibility
4. Fairness
5. Caring
6. Citizenship

see www.CharacterCounts.org

U.S. Navy Core Values

Honor

Courage

Commitment



2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

For my book

Character Counts—

Freemasonry Is a National Treasure
and a Source of Our Founders'
Constitutional Original Intent

I wrote a paper,

“Character—Sum of Virtues”

details 31 LISTS of character traits from
31 separate organizations ...

See the paper here

www.PreciousHeart.net/fm/Character.pdf



“Character—Sum of Virtues”—31 LISTS of traits of 31 orgs

- ★ **1. Character Counts’ 6 Pillars for Ethical Decisions**
- 2. Keirsey’s Four Major Personality Types
- 3. Jackson’s Six Dimensions of Personality
- 4. Paul’s Spiritual Gifts
- ★ **5. St. Paul’s 20 Virtues**
- 6. Jesus’ Beatitudes
- 7. Aquinas’ 7 Heavenly Virtues
- 8. Freemasonry’s 4 Cardinal Virtues, 3 Tenets, & 3 Values
- 9. Bennett’s Ten Virtues
- 10. Bill Gothard’s 49 Virtues
- 11. Bill Bright’s 8 Virtues of Love
- ★ **12. U.S. Navy Core Values**
- 13. Farley’s 5-D Model of Heroism & Greatness
- 14. New Zealand’s 8 Cornerstone Values
- 15. Erikson’s 8 Stages of Life
- 16. Maslow’s 16 Points of Self-Actualization
- 17. Peterson & Seligman’s 6 Character Strengths & 24 Virtues—*astounding work!***
- 18. Leo Buscaglia’s 10 Most Essential Words
- ★ **19. Plato’s and Aristotle’s List of Virtues**
- 20. Norman’s Big Five Tradition
- 21. Mark Rutland’s 9 Traits Needed to Succeed
- 22. Character Education 9 Character Virtues
- 23. Ben Franklin’s 13 Virtues
- 24. Boy Scouts of America 12 Character Traits
- 25. Character Building.com 12 Virtues
- 26. Covey’s 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
- ★ **27. Kounzes & Posner’s 10 Leader Commitments**
- 28. Kounzes & Posner’s Top Virtues Chosen
- 29. CEP’s 11 Principles of Effective Character Ed.
- 30. E-Harmony Match-Making’s 29 Dimensions
- 31. Freemasonry’s 200+ Character Traits

See paper, “Character—Sum of Virtues” here
www.PreciousHeart.net/fm/Character.pdf



Adversity
does not
build
character,
it reveals it.

“Character—Sum of Virtues”—31 LISTS of traits of 31 orgs

one MODERN masterpiece is

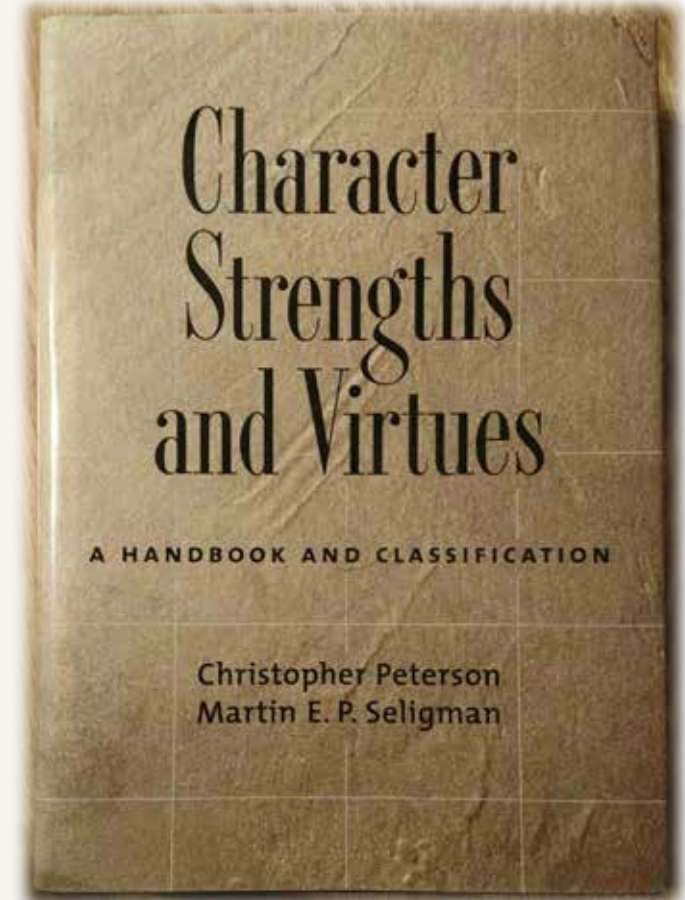
Peterson & Seligman's *Character Strengths and Virtues a Handbook and Classification*

(American Psychological Association /
Oxford University Press, 2004; 800p.)

They detail with CLINICAL data

- ✓ 6 Character Strengths
- ✓ within each “STRENGTH” are a selection of virtues ... 24 in all

Astounding work!



See paper, “Character—Sum of Virtues” here
www.PreciousHeart.net/fm/Character.pdf



Peterson & Seligman's 6 Character Strengths and 24 Virtues

1. Wisdom & Knowledge

Creativity
Curiosity
Open-mindedness
Love of Learning
Perspective

2. Courage

Bravery
Persistence
Integrity
Vitality

3. Humanity

Love
Kindness
Social Intelligence

4. Justice

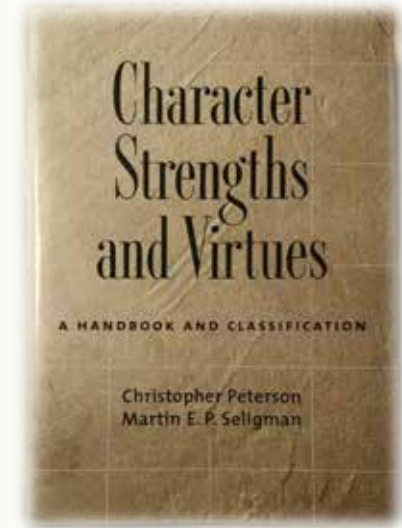
Citizenship ~ Fairness
Leadership

5. Temperance

Forgiveness & Mercy
Humility & Modesty
Prudence ~ Self-regulation

6. Transcendence

Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence
Gratitude ~ Hope ~ Humor
Spirituality



**Character Counts and
here's the CLINICAL proof**

See paper, "Character—Sum of Virtues" here
www.PreciousHeart.net/fm/Character.pdf



Decals for the Home

Wisdom

is knowing the right path to take...

Integrity

is taking it

Decals for the Home

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

“Supplement” **FAITH** in your living **IN CHRIST** ...

- ✠ with **Goodness**
- ✠ with **Knowledge**
- ✠ with **Self-control**
- ✠ with **Endurance**
- ✠ with **Godliness**
- ✠ with **Brotherly Affection**
- ✠ with **LOVE**

Between **FAITH** and **LOVE**

Peter chose **SIX** Character Traits

Peter **COULD** have chosen more

Peter did **NOT** exclude others

Character = Sum of Virtues

Clear ... Short ... Stupendous

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

⁵⁻⁷ For this very reason, make EVERY EFFORT to supplement your FAITH with Goodness > Knowledge > Self-control > Endurance > Godliness > Brotherly Affection > LOVE.

Behold ... the art and beauty and PETER's Last Farewell

Remember the TIME ... likely AFTER Nero burns Rome

Persecution is BLAZING against Christians ... *slaying Christians*

Remember, too, that Hellenism is widespread ... Greek is the language of the educated and sophisticated ...

Throughout the Roman Empire, Greeks are OFTEN used in the intellectual positions, as administrators, teachers, etc.

ROME—certainly had the best ... and I would wager that when Peter went to write his Last Farewell ... he found the BEST

2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

⁵⁻⁷ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness > knowledge > self-control > endurance > godliness > brotherly affection > LOVE.

ROME had the best of everything ... there were many Christians to persecute, to burn and ... throw to hungry Lions

When Peter set his mind to write his **LAST LETTER**

His Last Farewell to his dear Christian brothers and sisters in Asia Minor and Galatia ...

Peter found the best **CHRISTIAN** Greek Scholar who was HONORED to give his BEST for St. Peter—the Rock—one of the Chief Apostles!

When Paul or Peter called ... in Love and Example ... Christians came and helped



Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.



Helen Keller
American author
(1880-1968)



2 Peter 1:5-9 Cultivate Your Character

5-7 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your FAITH with Goodness > Knowledge > Self-control > Endurance > Godliness > Brotherly Affection > LOVE.

8 For if these [7] qualities are yours and are INCREASING, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted, and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins.

Promise from Peter ... that is, from God ... *through Peter*

A guarantee ... if you are WORKING on you character *IN LOVE*

Your “born-again knowledge” (*epi-gnosis*) will INCREASE

Your relationship with God in Christ WILL grow ...

2 Peter 1:10-11 Live with Assurance

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble. ¹¹ For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly supplied to you.

Could refer again to 1 John as a detailed explanation of
“confirm your calling”

Look at verse 11 ... stupendous words ...

not “high minded” – just HIGH ... revealed to us through Peter

Dear Farewell Letter indeed and heart ... from his heart to theirs

GOD REVEALED to Peter that his days were numbered ...

Then ... God REVEALED to Peter and us ... a stupendous promise

2 Peter 1:10-11 Live with Assurance

That stupendous promise is this ...

If we will **LIVE our Eternal Life** in equal status *before* **God**

If we grow in our **born-again knowledge** ...

as we participate in the Divine Nature

And add to our **FAITH** the six good virtues in **LOVE**

The stupendously sublime and beautiful promise is this:

2 Peter 1:11 **For in this way, ENTRY into the ETERNAL KINGDOM of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be RICHLY SUPPLIED to you.**

Our Road ... *as Peter saw HIS ROAD* ... no matter how *tough*

Our entry into the Eternal Kingdom will be **RICHLY** supplied!

We are Pilgrims after all ... yet ... yes ... richly supplied

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



Our Character

a most gentle project in

Faith . . . LOVE

in route to our Eternal Kingdom