

A Beautiful Life

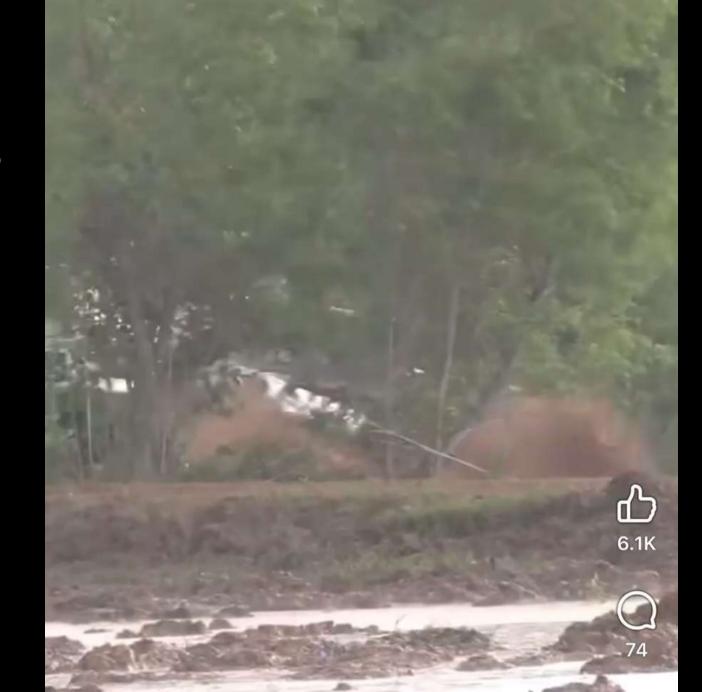
glory and goodness.



2 Peter's
3 chapters in
3 Weeks

Gonna tread some

DEEP Water





- 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 -

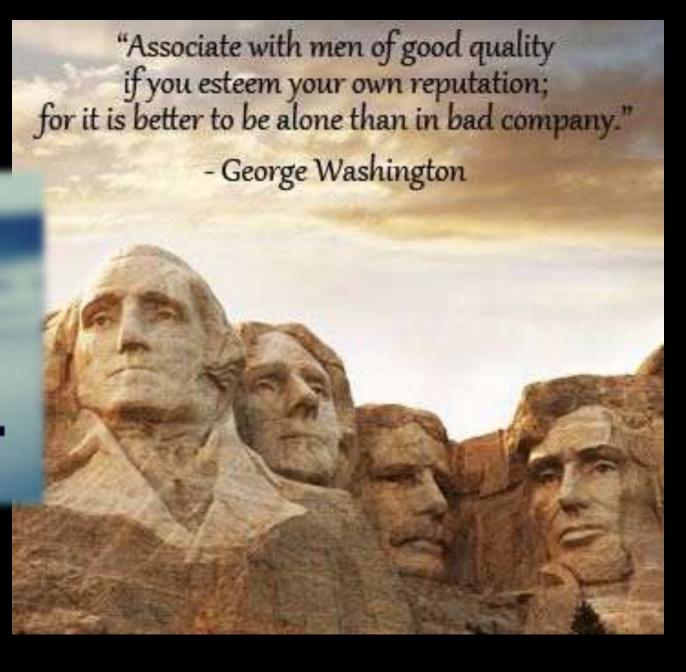
Your Entry to Kingdom WELL Supplied



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

character.

www.inspirational-picture-quotes.com



Key Verse 2 Peter 1:3

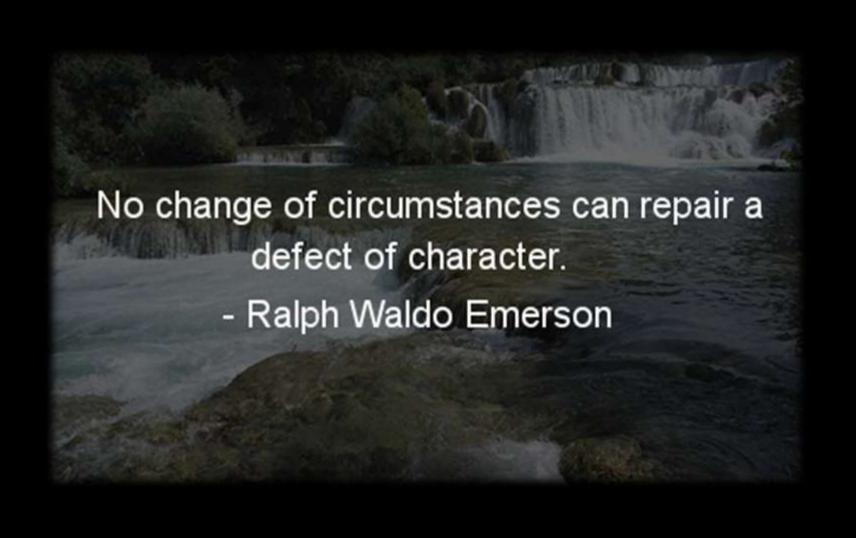
For His DIVINE POWER has given us everything required for life and godliness, through the

KNOWLEDGE OF HIM

who called us by His own glory and goodness.







A Beautiful Life

William M. Golden (1878-1934) wrote this song & music in 1918

* Hymnary.org & Hymntime.com said he wrote this while serving an 8-year sentence in state prison

Originally titled:

Each Day I'll Do a Golden Deed

Jim Reeves sings a rendition of the 1st & 5th stanza





2 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

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

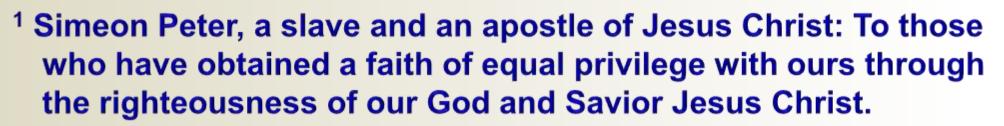
Note 2 Peter 3:1, "this is now the SECOND letter I've written you; in both, I awaken your pure understanding with a reminder."

Peter sent this, too, to Asia Minor and Galatia—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—9x in N.T.



² May grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

"Simeon" is used only one other time in the N.T. in Acts 15:14

That leads to another question that's 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

New Testament CANON (Reed/Rule) of 27 books

325 Emperor Constantine legalizes Christianity

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

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)
overthrow Emperor Romulus Augustulus
last emperor of Western Roman Empire

Odoacer becomes First King of Italy

Dark Ages in Europe c. 500-1400



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

Orthodox Cathedral, seat of the Patriarch of Constantinople & seat of EASTERN Roman / Byzantine Empire 330 to 1453

622 – Muhammad led to Medina—ISLAM

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

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

1500s Enlightenment and, of course,

1517 - Protestant Reformation



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

first to affirm 27 N.T. books

476 Rome falls

1442 - Church Council of Florence, Italy

Church re-affirm 27 books

1517 - Protestant Reformation - Martin Luther

1545-1563 – Church Council of Trent, Italy

Church re-affirms 27 books

Council of Trent a Counter Reformation

Reformation grew quickly from 1517

1534 King Henry VIII left RCC & crowned SELF Head of Anglican Church

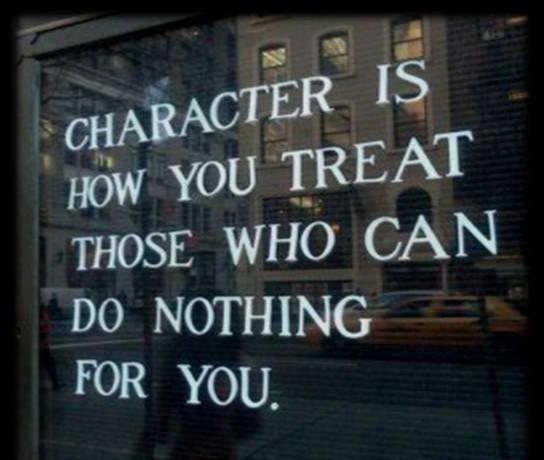
Reformation source of Methodist, Baptist, FREE Churches TODAY

1519 Ulrich Zwingli in Switzerland, 1540 John Calvin in Geneva, 1631 Roger Williams in Rhode Island

While in the 1800s a few scholars doubted Peter's authorship,

BEST of the church 2,000 years believed PETER the Author



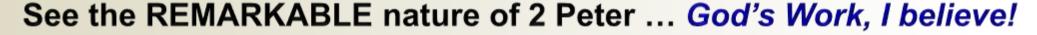


So for 1,800 years WHILE most believed that Peter was the author regardless, it is SCRIPTURE ...

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

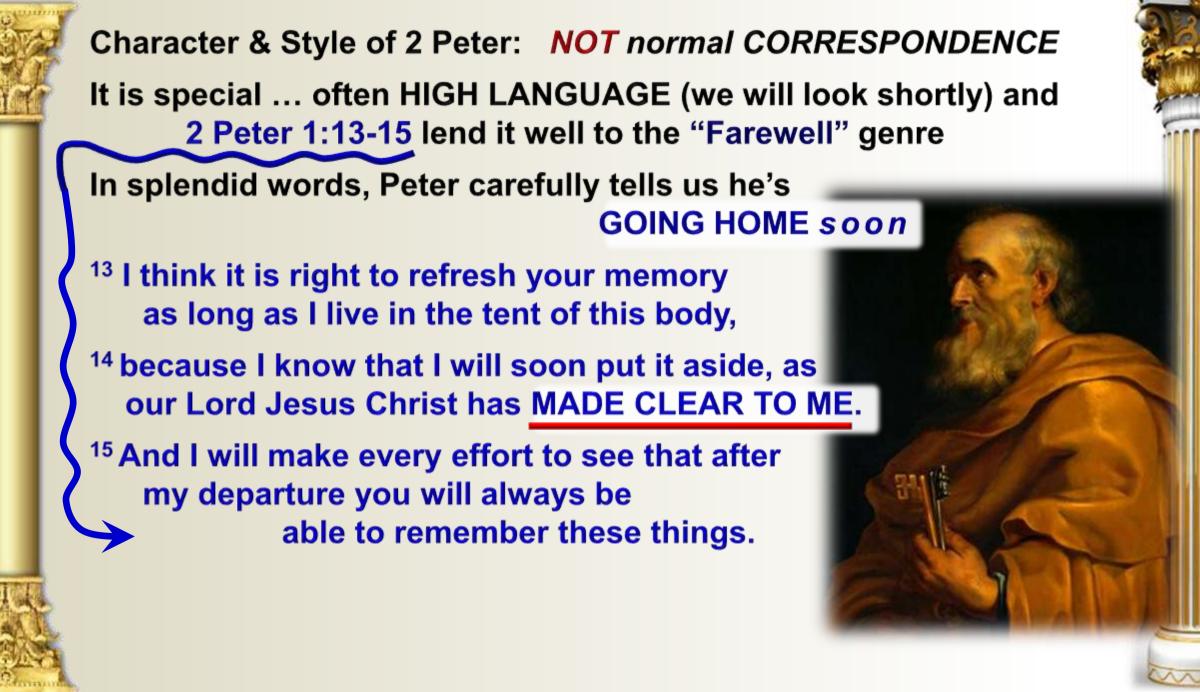
After the Dark Ages, the Enlightenment, the Reformation, during the Industrial Age ...

Literary discoveries by these scholars revealed many treasures



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



A Beautiful Life

William M. Golden (1878-1934) Jim Reeves sings a rendition 1st & 5th stanza

My life on earth is but a span, and so I'll do the best I can







ROME – 30 yrs after Christ, writing near the end of his life Rustic Fishman of Galilee, now writer of sublime letters

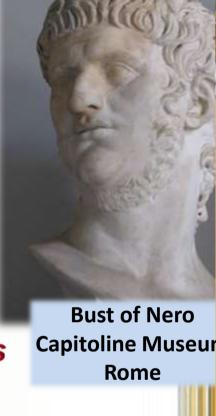
Peter - The Rock - a world traveler in Roman Babylon

- ✓ 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

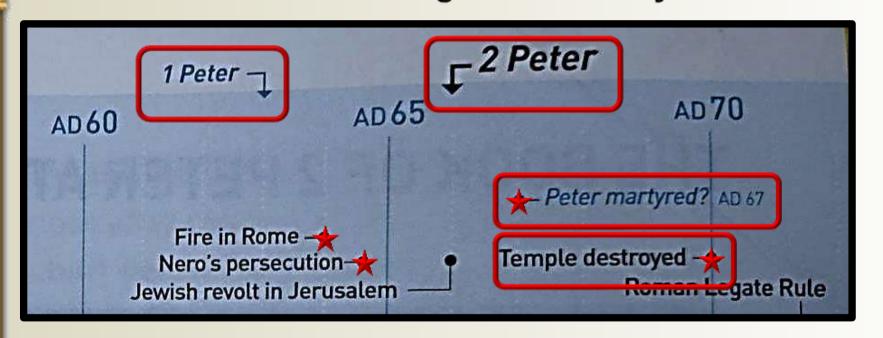
Most place Peter's death shortly after ... c. A.D. 67

Most believe 2 Peter was written BEFORE the

destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70



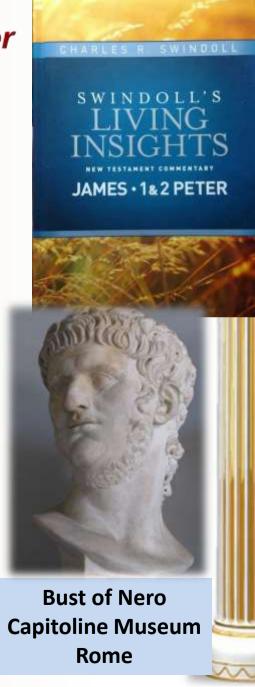
Charles Swindoll, Living Insights Commentary on 1 Peter The fire in Rome is so tragic for so many ...

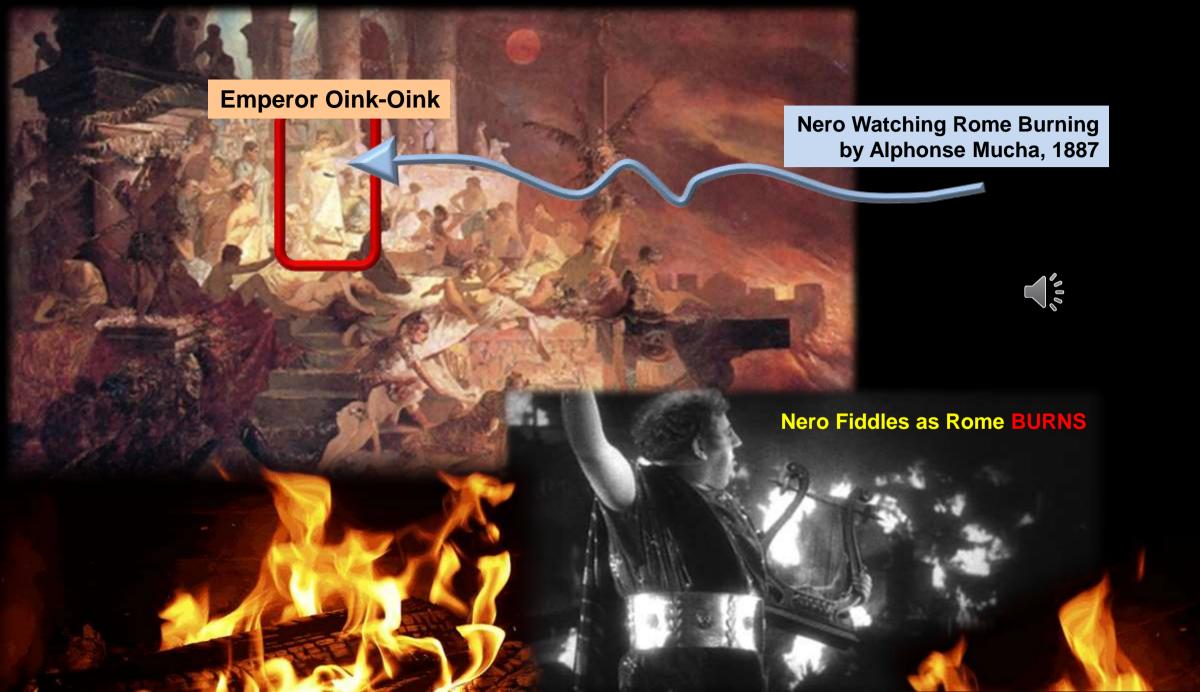


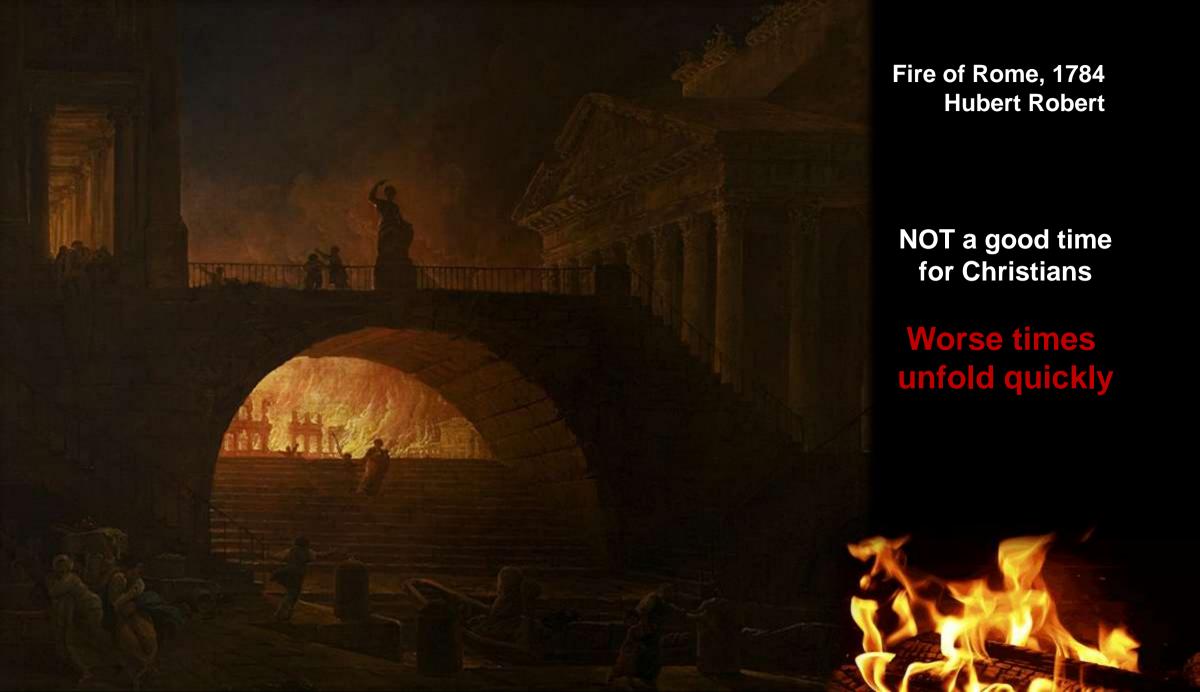
Peter writes 1 Peter c. 62 and 2 Peter about c. 65-66 ...

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

Jewish Temple is destroyed in A.D. 70









Themes:

- 1. Exhortation
- 2. Denunciation
- 3. Anticipation

Warnings:

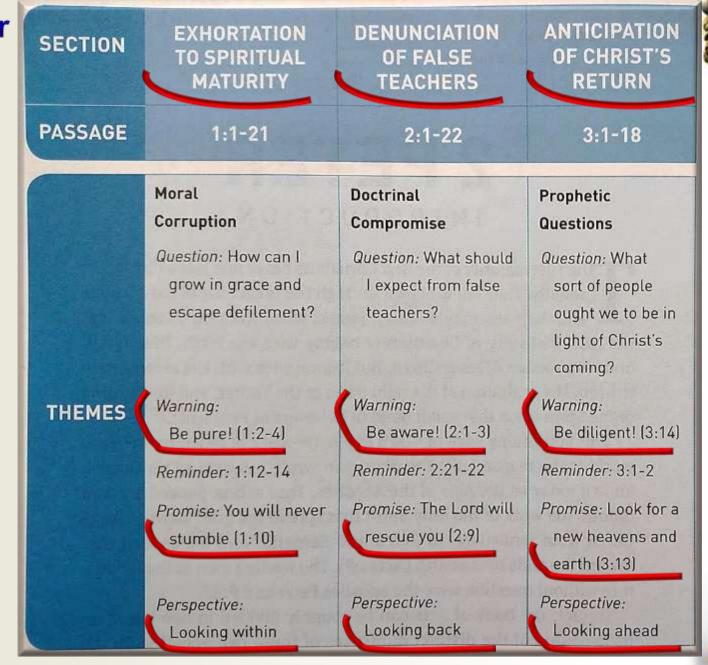
- 1. Be Pure
- 2. Be Aware
- 3. Be Diligent

Promises:

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

Perspective:

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



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 of c. A.D. 50-325
- √ 13 words have NOT yet been found ANYWHERE outside 2 Peter



- ✓ 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.





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 ...



Some say 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

Church of Rome helped churches everywhere in Peter's time

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

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

A Beautiful Life

William M. Golden (1878-1934)
Jim Reeves sings a rendition 1st & 5th stanza

2 To be a child of God each day, My light must shine along the way;

I'll sing His praise while ages roll

And strive to help some troubled soul.



Peter wrote with an educated scribe and the Holy Spirit
Church Councils validated 2 Peter several times,
(w/ or w/out Peter) as GOD-Inspired Scripture

Yes, God inspired Peter to give his LAST FAREWELL in this finest 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



So here is the first EQUISITELY fine *lonning* sentence, vs 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.

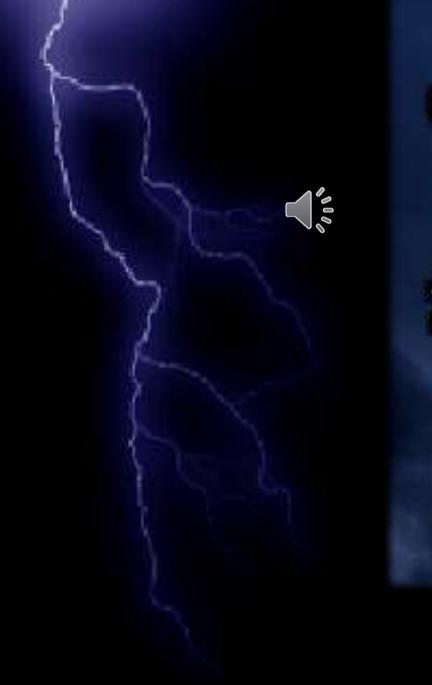
EVERYTHING? ... confident? ... YES?

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

A Beautiful Life

William M. Golden (1878-1934) Jim Reeves sings a rendition 1st & 5th stanza

3 The only life that will endure, ls one that's kind and good and pure;

And so for God I'll take my stand,

Each day I'll lend a helping hand.



- 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
- ✓ HERE is rarer term 2x is epi-gnosis: refers to "Christian knowledge" –other in Eph 4:13 "knowledge of the Son"
 - > KNOWING Christ—as in "born-again knowledge" used in 3 other variations in the N.T. 18x

for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. 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.

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.... his anointing teaches you about all things ... anointing is real ... remain IN HIM."

In Greek, many see 2 Peter 1:3-4 as ONE SENTENCE—SEE then! "Precious Promises" that we "share in the DIVINE NATURE."

^{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. 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 UNITES 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 many

"very great & 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.

A Beautiful Life

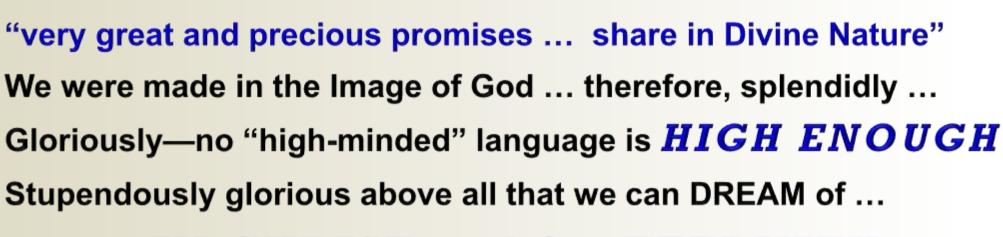
William M. Golden (1878-1934) Jim Reeves sings a rendition 1st & 5th stanza

4 I'll help some one in time of need, And journey on with rapid speed;

I'll help the sick and poor and weak,

And words of kindness to them speak.





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



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—called "DIVINE NATURE"

Talk about "overcoming the world" ... here it is ...

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

Oh, Apostle John in his letter, 1 John, explains this so eloquently:

- 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.
- 1 John 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.

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

Eloquently, 1 John is a 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 in Heaven to Come





- 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.
- 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 & 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 1:5-7 give 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





"Supplement" FAITH in your living IN CHRIST

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

Notice what is between FAITH and LOVE

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

FAITH and LOVE ... good character traits







Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character.

Albert Einstein

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.





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

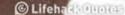
Friendliness Greatness of soul

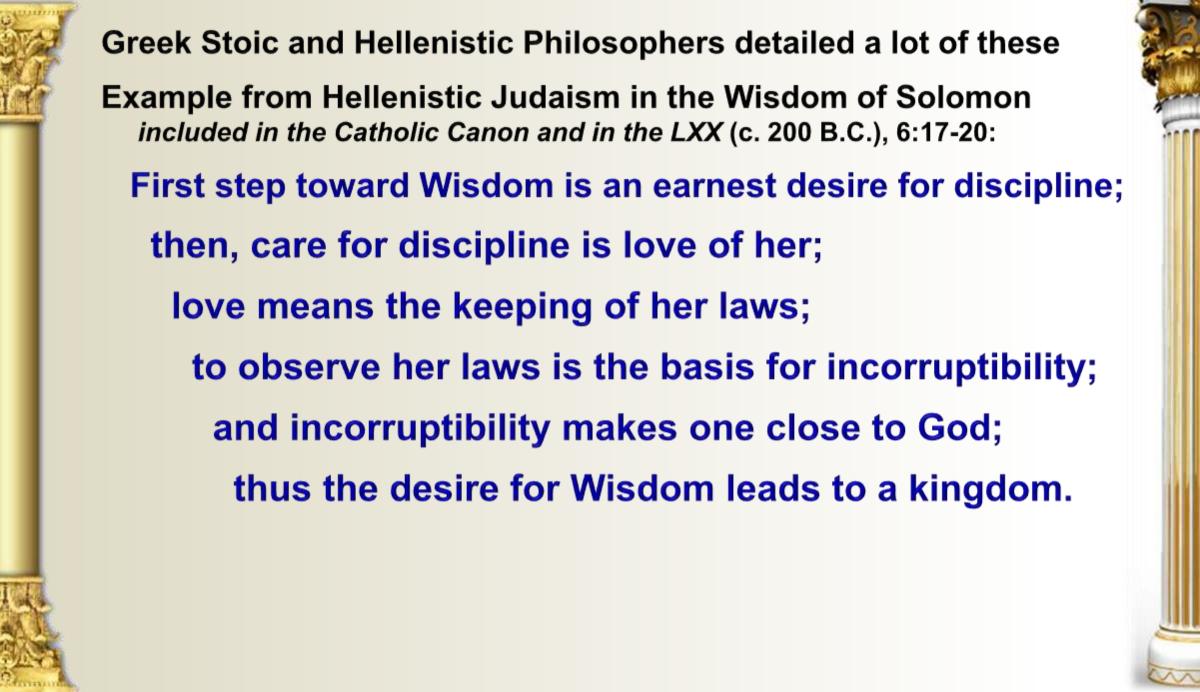
Remember, Hellenism is the spread of Greek culture after Alexander the Great, 365-323 B.C.



"A 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





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.



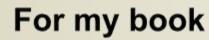
Character/Virtue Lists - every decent organization has one Character Counts program, since 1987 endorsed by 100,000 high-

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





Character Counts—

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

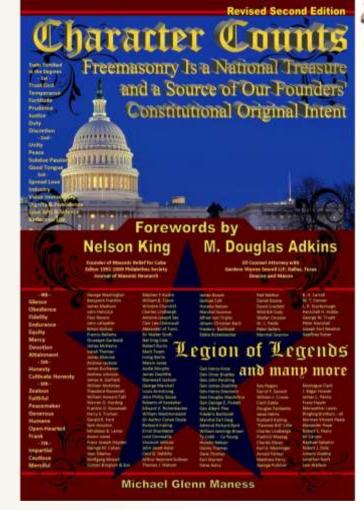
I wrote a paper & compiled several lists,

"Character—Sum of Virtues"

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

See Full List 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

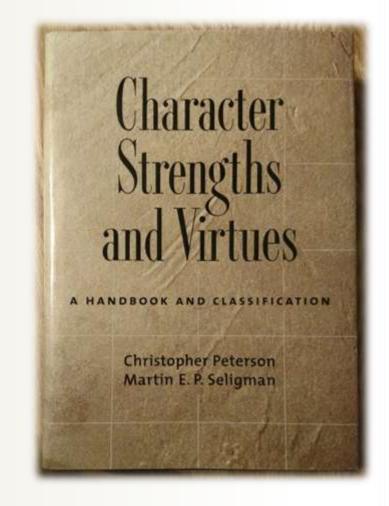
Peterson & Seligman's Character Strengths and Virtues

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!









Peterson & Seligman's 6 Character Strengths & 24 Virtues

1. Wisdom & Knowledge

Creativity
Curiosity
Open-mindedness
Love of Learning

2. Courage

Bravery
Persistence
Integrity
Vitality

Perspective

3. Humanity

Love Kindness Social Intelligence 4. Justice

Citizenship ~ Fairness Leadership

5. Temperance

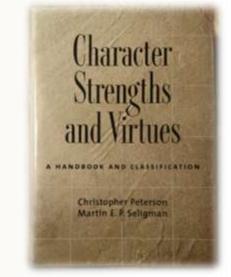
Forgiveness & Mercy
Humility & Modesty
Prudence ~ Self-regulation

6. Transcendence

Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence Gratitude ~ Hope ~ Humor Spirituality

Character Counts and here's the CLINICAL proof

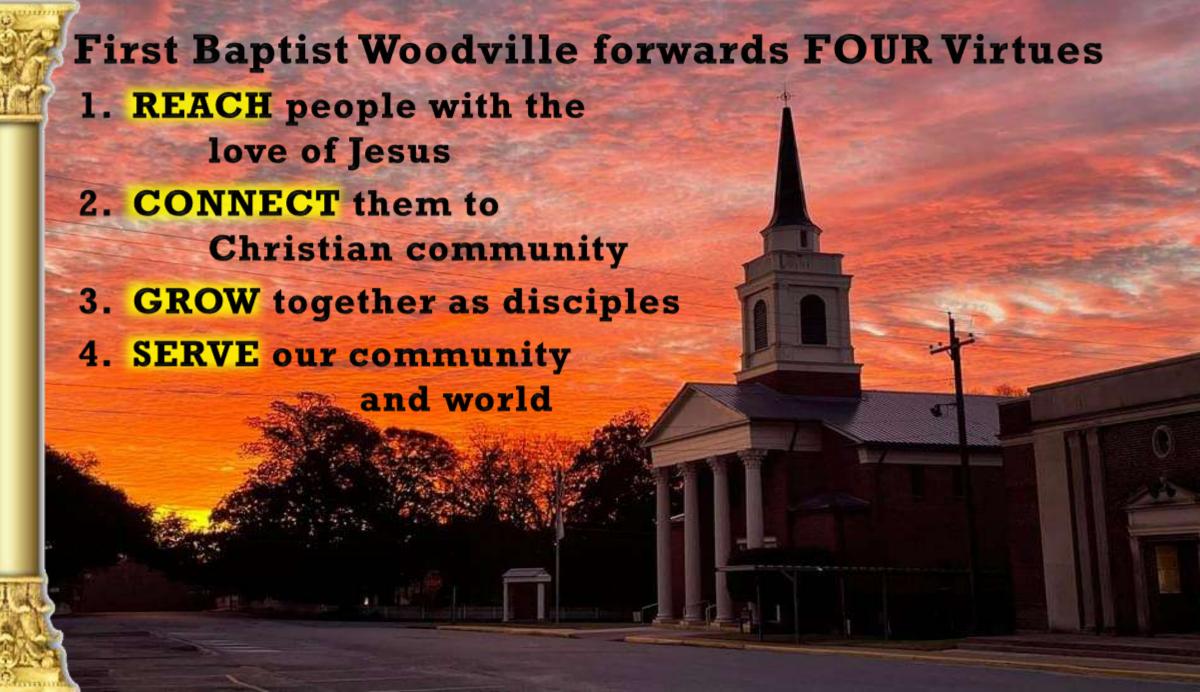
See paper, "Character—Sum of Virtues" here www.PreciousHeart.net/fm/Character.pdf





Wisdom is knowing the right path to take...

Integrity is taking it



"Supplement" FAITH in your living IN CHRIST



- * with Knowledge
- * with Self-control
- * with Endurance
- * with Godliness
- with Brotherly Affection
- ♦ with LOVE

Between FAITH & LOVE

Peter chose **SIX** Character Traits

Peter COULD have chosen more

Peter did NOT exclude others

Character = Sum of Virtues

Clear ... Short ... Stupendous



Behold the art & beauty of 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



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William M. Golden (1878-1934) Jim Reeves sings a rendition 1st & 5th stanza

While going down life's weary road, I'll try to lift some trav'ler's load;

I'll try to turn the night to day,

Make flowers bloom along the way.



^{2 Peter 1:5-7} 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 heart to write his LAST LETTER

His Last Farewell to his dear Christian brothers & 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

And GOD inspired Peter with whatever help he needed



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 1:5-7} 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 ...

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

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

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

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

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

Then ... God REVEALED to Peter and us

a stupendous promise

A Beautiful Life

William M. Golden (1878-1934)
Jim Reeves sings a rendition 1st & 5th stanza

Refrain

Life's evening sun is sinking low, A few more days and I must go,

To meet the deeds that I have done,

Where there will be No Setting Sun



^{2 Peter 1:11} For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ will be richly supplied to you.

That stupendous promise is that WE all will

LIVE our Eternal Life equal before God

If we grow in our born-again knowledge ... as we participate in the Divine Nature

Add to our **FAITH** the six good virtues in **LOVE**

The stupendously sublime & beautiful promise

^{2 Peter 1:11} ENTRY into the ETERNAL KINGDOM ... RICHLY SUPPLIED

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 – richly supplied

