

CHRISTIAN PROFESSION AND CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

II PETER 1:5-7

Introduction:

- A. These hearers are a changed people.
 - 1. They have been born again. I Peter 1:23.
 - 2. They possess God's nature. v4.
 - 3. It is not religion, but true godliness. v3.

- B. Because of this they are to live godly.
 - 1. "Now for this very reason you must do your level best to supplement your faith with moral character"
 - 2. "If you wear His name, do what He says."

I. THE FIRST TRIAD.

- A. faith = firm persuasion, the conviction which is based upon hearing, not upon sight or knowledge."
 - 1. The beginning of all things.
 - 2. Without faith...

- B. virtue = superiority in every respect, excellence of any kind.
 - 1. Give God your best.
 - 2. This is a good reason for tithing!

- C. knowledge = the knowing of a thing, insight, understanding a matter.
 - 1. What kind of knowledge?
 - 2. All true knowledge is knowledge of God!

II. THE SECOND TRIAD.

- A. temperance = mastery or dominion over; self-control, the grace by which the flesh is controlled.
 - 1. Not conquered!

 - 2. Paul, the Apostle, Col. 3:5 mortify = make to die.

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- B. Patience = a remaining under a heavy load, enduring, holding out.
 - 1. Not trying to dump a heavy load.
 - 2. Can hurt yourself by dropping obligations!

- C. godliness = the real, the true, vital relationship with God, not outward show, opposite of religion.
 - 1. Pharisees had religion, not godliness!
 - 2. Paul had religion.
 - 3. Jews had religion.
 - 4. Greeks had religion.

III. THE THIRD TRIAD.

- A. brotherly kindness = love of the brethren.
 - 1. The universal sign of discipleship.

- B. charity = agape = love that is self-denying and compassionately devoted to its object.
 - 1. First exhibited by Christ. I John 3:16.
 - 2. Expresses God's relation to us. I John 4:9.
 - 3. Expresses relation between Father and Son. John 15:10. Col. 1:13.
 - 4. The distinctive character of the Christian life. I Cor. 13:

- C. diligence = speed, haste, zeal.
 - 1. "the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up."
 - 2. Paul to Titus 4:21, "Do thy diligence to come before winter."
 - 3. Apply this word to all the others.
 - 4. Don't delay developing your character.

- D. The results. vs8
 - 1. Barren = not working the ground, living without labor.
 - 2. unfruitful = yielding no fruit.