

December 3, 2015

1 Peter 1:3b (NASB), **“everything pertaining to life and godliness”**

The Divine Provision

Because sin and failures are a constant in the Christian life even though the Christian is saved, many Christians find this hard to accept and so even after they have been saved they think something is missing. This faulty concept then causes believers to seek “second blessings,” “spirit baptisms,” tongues, mystical experiences, special psychological insights, private revelations, “self-crucifixion,” the “deeper life,” heightened emotions, demon bindings, and combinations of all those in an attempt to attain what is supposedly missing from their spiritual resources.

All manner then of ignorance and Scripture twisting accompanies these foolish pursuits which at their corrupt roots are failures to understand exactly what Peter is saying here. Christians have received **“everything”** in the form of divine power that is necessary to equip them for sanctification – they have no lack at all. In view of this reality the Lord then holds all believers accountable and responsible to obey all the commands of Scripture. Christians therefore cannot claim that their sins and failures are the result of God’s limited provision. Therefore there is no assault of Satan and no temptation that is beyond the Christians resources to overcome. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, **“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”**

In order to stress the extent of the divine power that is given to each believer, Peter makes the amazing statement that saints have received from God **“everything pertaining to life and godliness.”**

The great power that gave Christians spiritual life will sustain that **“life”** in all its fullness. Without asking for more, they already have every spiritual resource needed to persevere in holy living. **“Life and godliness”** define the realm of sanctification, the living of the Christian life on earth to the glory of God – between initial salvation and final glorification. With the gift of the new life in Christ comes everything related to sustaining that **“life,”** all the way to glorification. That is why believers are eternally secure and can be assured God will then empower them to persevere to the end, through all temptations, sins, failures, struggles, and trials of life.

The very last word in this section of verse 3 is “**godliness.**” It is the Greek word *eusebeia* which encompasses both true reverence in worship and its companion – active obedience, because you cannot have one without the other. The Christian should never question God’s sufficiency, because God’s grace that is so powerful to save is equally powerful to sustain them and empower them to righteous conduct that honors and glorifies God.

What a wonderful blessing and assurance it is to know that we have such divine provision as we live the life God has called us to live.