

“One Picture of Jesus” II Peter 1:1-4

Since my wife died suddenly on May 5, 2006, I have developed a new interest in pictures that we have taken across nearly forty-six (46) years of marriage. I have discovered that the pictures have helped to build important memories and to revisit those pictures again and again helps to refresh those precious memories.

All of this reminds me that the Bible is a valid written record of God’s revelation of Himself to people that contains many “word pictures” of Jesus Christ. Reading and studying these word pictures of Jesus teach us important spiritual lessons concerning who Jesus is, the remarkable qualities of His perfect life, and what He would have us be and do. One such pictures of Jesus is found in II Peter 1:1-4. What does this word picture teach us about Jesus.

1. Jesus possesses divine power. II Peter 1:3 refers to “His divine power.”

There is much emphasis today on power – nuclear power, military power, man-man power. But the greatest power on earth and in Heaven is the divine power of Jesus Christ – power that can literally take the life of a sinner – any sinner who is willing – and transform that person’s life into a redeemed child of God. There is a powerful message in that hymn which declares:

Would you be free from your burden of sin?
There’s power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you over evil a victory win?
There’s wonderful power in the blood.
There is power, power, wonder-working power,
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

2. Jesus is one who blesses the lives of His people. II Peter 1:3 says that Christ “gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness.” One translation says that “By His divine power Christ has given us everything we need to live a godly life.” This is a wonderful spiritual truth. In our own strength we cannot live that quality of life that God would have us live. But we do not have to rely on just our strength. Our text declares that Christ gives us all the blessings we need to live according to God’s will. What a Christ we know and serve!
3. Jesus is one who makes great promises to His people. Peter writes that “Christ has given us precious and very great promises.” I am not sure how many promises of God are contained in His Holy Word. There are many. And God is faithful and without exception keeps His promises. All the blessings of God promised in His Word can be ours through Christ if we are willing and ready to receive them and to be good stewards of them.

Years ago, I was blessed to hear Dr. Carl Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., speak on the subject “A Call To Commitment.” In that message – which I hope time will never erase from my memory – Dr. Bates spoke of the promises of God and then used a meaningful illustration. He said that Dwight L. Moody was talking to a friend one day and his friend said: “Dwight, do you know what I believe the first question will be when I stand before God in judgment?” “No, I am not sure,” said Mr. Moody. And his friend replied: “I believe God’s first question will be: ‘My child, why did you not let me bless you more?’”

4. Jesus enables us to share the divine nature of Almighty God. Peter writes in II Peter 1:4: “Christ has given us precious and very great promises in order that by receiving what He has promised we may escape from the destructive passion that exists in the world, and come to share the divine nature.” We are created in the image of God. We are able to have fellowship with God and to take on the divine nature. We can live on a higher level than the world expects. By the power of Christ our sinful human nature can be transformed. The Bible teaches that we cannot even begin to imagine what we can become if we are totally committed to God through faith in Jesus Christ. In John 10:10 Jesus said: “I am come that you might have life and that you might have life more abundantly.” With God’s help we can grow more and more spiritually speaking as we become greater sharers in the divine nature!

Look often at that word picture of Jesus found in II Peter 1:1-4 and you will be inspired and challenged to grow toward that divine quality of life which Jesus had in mind for all of us when He said in Matthew 5:48: “Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect.”

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