

Sermon Text: 2 Peter 1:1-21 Trinitarian Ground of Perseverance

Your perseverance in fruitful faith in and knowledge of Christ is grounded in the threefold witness and work of the Holy Trinity.

1) You must persevere in fruitful faith in and knowledge of Christ by the power of God (1:2-15).

- a) God has sufficiently supplied you for a godly life so that you may share in His holiness and escape sinful corruption (1:2-4).
- b) You are responsible to grow in faith by nourishing faith with holy virtues (1:5-8).
- c) You will either persevere in fruitful faith or apostatize (1:9-11).
 - i) An apostate is one who appeared to be a Christian, but proved by his departure from true Christianity to be false (see 1 John 2:19).
 - ii) Life is not static, it is growing or it is dying.
 - (1) Forgiveness breaks the dominion of sin in your life. So, to live under the dominion of sin is incongruous with a forgiven life (1:9). This is willful blindness.
 - (2) Be diligent to stand firm in your calling and election (1:10). Grace makes one zealous for goodness.
- d) Perseverance in fruitful faith is necessary to enter the eternal kingdom (1:10-11).
 - i) “For if you practice these qualities you will never fall” (1:10b). “Fall” refers to apostasy.
 - ii) “For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (1:11). The eternal kingdom refers to the consummation of the Kingdom at Christ’s return.
 - iii) Not Meritorious Necessity, but Congruous Necessity
 - (1) Meritorious Necessity=I have earned and therefore deserve entrance into the kingdom.
 - (2) Congruous Necessity=I have genuine faith befitting the nature of the kingdom.
 - (3) “Justification is by faith alone, but the faith that justifies is never alone” (John Calvin).
- e) God has appointed means of grace to “stir you up” for fruitful faith (1:12-15).
- f) **Application:**
 - i) You must persevere in fruitful faith and knowledge of Christ.
 - (1) Putting Sin to death
 - (2) Cultivating holy virtues—knowledge and love
 - (3) Being zealous for godliness
 - ii) You can persevere in fruitful faith and knowledge of Christ by God’s power and promise.
 - (1) God’s personal presence and work
 - (2) God’s ordained means
 - (3) Hope in the eternal Kingdom

2) You will persevere by the threefold witness and work of the Holy Trinity.

- a) “For” connects verses 16-21 with the entire preceding discourse of verses 1-15. What follows (1:16-21) provides the grounds for what preceded (1:1-15).
- b) “The power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1:16) refers to the return of Christ at the consummation of the Kingdom. The transfiguration (Mark 9:2-8) anticipated the consummation of the Kingdom (1:16-18).

- c) **The Witness of the Son**—Self-disclosure of His Majesty (1:16)
- d) **The Work of the Son**—The King Provides Entrance to His Kingdom (1:11)
- e) **The Witness of the Father**—Enthronement of the Son as King and Anointing of the Servant as Savior (1:17-18)
- f) **The Work of the Father**—The Father Decrees Christ’s Office of Redeemer-King and Our Calling and Election (1:10, 17)
- g) **The Witness of the Holy Spirit**—Scriptural Prophecy brings Sufficient Light for Faith in Christ (1:19-21)
- h) **The Work of the Holy Spirit**—The Spirit Imparts Saving Knowledge of Christ to His People (1:1, 8, 19-21)
- i) **Application:**
 - i) God speaks and acts within history so that eyewitnesses can testify to His revelation.
 - ii) God’s speech is not obscure, unlike the words of the Pagan oracles.
 - iii) You do well to pay attention to God’s Word.
 - iv) The Holy Trinity is united in love for the souls of His elect so that each one may persevere in fruitful faith in and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Doxology: But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.