

enjoying things that most of the world never even dreamed of. Here is half the people of the world having an income of less than \$200 a year and they are struggling along, and many of them are very happy in the economic situation they are in. We find our people here no matter what they've got they want more, more of it. They are unhappy because someone else has a bit more than they have! Instead of rejoicing that God has given us such marvellous things as He has, things no generation has ever had before, things no nation has ever had before.

So He makes us partakers of the divine nature and enables us to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. The corruption that is in the world because of low desires, because of harmful desires, because of evil desires. As a man thinks in his heart so is he. My how our nation has degenerated in this regard in recent years.

I just get disgusted every time I enter a town around here -- most of the towns as you enter on the outskirts you see a place with a sign Adult Pictures, or Adult Books. As if it was a sign of being an adult, of being mature that you to want that which you which is degrading. People should at least call things what they are! When we think of the marvellous blessings God has given our nation and of the way in which the moral life of our country has degenerated, it makes us realize the sinfulness of man, yet God has His purposes in it all. He wants us to grow, to mature and not be led astray by the wickedness we see about us.

In these first 4 verses, Peter's greeting to Christians are largely devoted to laying stress on what he has in Christ. On the blessings we are entitled to enjoy through Christ. And from vv.5-13 Peter turns to an exhortation to Christians. Some people find this hard to understand. We receive these marvellous blessings and there is nothing we can do to earn them. God gives them to us. By simple faith we receive the results of what Jesus did on Calvary's cross. Yet He wants us to work. Faith without works is dead. If we have been born again into the Christian life, we are going to grow in the Christian life. If a little baby simply lies still and never moves for 10 years, that baby will never get any strength. God gives us the strength but He wants us to use it. God lays opportunities before us and He wants us to step out on them. So Peter stresses the fact that if we truly belong to Christ we will be doing something for him, and we will be doing to make progress in our own lives, that any true Christians should be making.

Oh how little it is that most of us make during an entire life! We look back at the end and we realize we need to grow so much more than we have. How we should be able to just get into the situation and grow as God wants us to. We have to do our part. He calls upon us to do it and He gives us the strength with which to, but He wants us to exert our will.

So Peter says (v.5) give all diligence. A rather antiquated phrase. We might say, Be really diligent. Take a hold of it. If you are a Christian you have marvellous things from God and you can just rest in the blessings of God. But you are to step out and be diligent and do what God wants you to do! What does He want you to do. He says, Giving all diligence, add to your faith ~~virtue~~ virtue. James said, Faith without works is dead. Faith must result in action. Add to your faith virtue.