

But Peter says, Don't stop at that -- brotherly kindness, love. Now here is an unfortunate thing in the KJV. It says "to brotherly-kindness, charity." And charity today of course is an entirely different word than love. I don't know why the KJV put in this word charity! The Greek word agape occurs hundreds of times, and the KJV translates it love all but maybe one-fourth of the cases. And maybe a fourth of the cases they translate it as charity. I believe this was misleading even when this was written 300 years ago! This is a marvellous translation as a whole, that is into the language of 300 years ago. It was a marvellous translation. I think we need the Bible in our own language today definitely. But this was such a marvellous translation, so excellent, that it has continued to be used by Christians long after it should have been replaced in the language we use today. It had comparatively few flaws in it, but this is one of them. That it has this word charity which means nothing to people today and meant little then.

He says to brotherly kindness add love. Be kind to people no matter how you feel. But look to God to make the kindness not be an external thing but make it a true attitude of the overflowing love of God in your heart, that God wants us to have toward all men.

For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren -- I think this word barren is a little too narrow. I think we should use a little wider word like ineffective. Be neither ineffective nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. God wants every one of us to bring forth two kinds of fruits. There is external fruit, that is leading souls to the knowledge of Christ. External fruit is helping other Christians to grow in grace. That is the work we do, the fruit. But also there is the fruit that is internal development of character, the fruit of the Spirit as described in Galatians. And if we are striving to develop these qualities God wants us to have, we will not be ineffective, we will not be unfruitful. But through the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ we will be able to produce the fruit external and within our hearts that God wants us to produce.

Then v.9 he says, But he that lacks these things is blind and cannot see afar off. The blindness must mean not total blindness because if you were totally blind you'd see neither far off nor near! But he means you don't see much; you see a little. Now there are blind Christians. There are Christians who have truly been saved through Christ and who are stunted in their growth. And God says He has given us these marvellous blessings, but He wants us to develop. He wants us to develop these qualities. He wants us to step forward and then we will not merely see the things that are close but be able to see further into God's purposes and God's plan. We won't understand all of God's plan until we are with Him. There are things in the lives of all of us we don't understand. But I'm sure when the time comes and we look back upon our lives in the presence of Christ we will be seeing how He had a purpose for our for us in everything that came into our lives. So if we lack these things we can't see afar off. But if we develop these things He enables us to see more and more of the true meaning of what He permits to come into our lives.

And hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sin. Wherefore the rather brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election