Singapore Bible College Combined Chapel Dr. Rick Griffith

23 Feb 2017 Single Message

NLT 25 Minutes

**What to Know, What to Do**

Title

***2 Peter 1:1-11***

**Topic:** Knowledge

**Subject:** What do wedo with the knowledge that Christ’s deity makes us complete in Him?

**Complement:** Know you’re complete in Christ to be more like Christ (Knowledge should lead to Christ-likeness).

**Purpose:** The listeners will obey in an area of their life where they have knowledge not followed by action.

**Meditation:** 2 Peter 1:3

**Reading:** 2 Peter 1:1-11

**Song:** Knowing You, May the Mind of Christ My Savior, The Greatest Thing in All My Life is Knowing You, Seekers of Your Heart

# Introduction

### Interest: Who here wants more knowledge? Raise your hand.

Head

### Students, what do you think of your education so far? By this time in the semester, some students are just getting going, while for others, May (or graduation) can’t come soon enough.

Circle Books

### Prospective students, you certainly already know that knowledge is infinite and people have various opinions about education.

Infinite

##### Some love learning so they can pride their knowledge over others. If you’re thinking about coming to SBC to show off your knowledge, you will be disappointed.

Left Bulb

##### Others are at the other end of the spectrum and are anti-intellectual, thinking that education is a waste of time. Well, I wouldn’t encourage such people to come either!

Right Bulb

#### Peter avoids both of these extremes in 2 Peter. He wrote to his readers facing an internal problem of heresy, so he uses the words for “knowledge” 16 times in this short letter of three brief chapters—and he presents knowledge in a positive sense. Today we will see words for “knowledge” five times in the first 11 verses!

Greek Words

Chart

### Intro MPI: However, while knowledge is important, we can’t learn everything—so what do you really need to know? What’ll be on the test?

Head

#### When you consider how many things there are to know, it can be daunting. You seminary students came to SBC to get answers to your questions, but now your list of questions has grown! *So what are the essentials that we really need to know?*

Iceberg

#### You’ve come to the right place, because Peter has an answer for you in today’s text.

### Background: (The Greek world pursued the ideal government, mind, and body. We should shoot for the ideal too—in knowledge.)

Greek Ideas

#### Greeks sought ideals perhaps more than any society at that time—looking for the perfect society (deemed to be Greek democracy), the perfect mind (thought to be Greek philosophy), and the perfect body (thus the Greek Olympics).

#### In this context, Peter gives the divinely inspired version of perfect knowledge based on Jesus Christ.

Perfect Knowledge

### Preview: Today we’ll see the knowledge that God gives us, and then what we should do with that knowledge. The title of this message is “What to Know, What to Do.” These are our two main points.

Question   
• Do?

• 2 Pet   
1:1-11

### Text: What we need to *know*—and then *do*—are in the first eleven verses of 2 Peter.

T

(He first tells us *what to know*. So what’s that key truth that you really need to comprehend about your relationship with Christ? So, first, know that…)

MP

# I. You are complete in Christ as God (1-4).

[God gives you all you need in your knowledge and faith in Jesus as deity.]

## God gives us the same ***faith*** as the apostles due to Christ’s deity (1).

Faith

### Peter notes that his readers had the same faith as “ours” (1a).

1

#### There is a great sense of humility here where the great apostle puts himself on the same level as his meek readers.

#### In this pre-Gnostic world, teachers prided themselves with their privileged, so-called “secret knowledge.”

#### Yet Peter says the righteousness provided by Jesus Christ gives us all the “same faith”! Wow!

### The phrase “our God and Savior” also teaches Christ’s deity (1b).

#### “The grammar here clearly indicates that ‘God and Savior’ are one Person, not two (i.e., there is one Gr. article with two substantives). This passage ranks with the great Christological passages of the New Testament which plainly teach that Jesus Christ is coequal in nature with God the Father” (Gangel, *BKC*, 2:863-64).

#### We need to understand that our faith is in Jesus as God, not just some teacher of knowledge.

## God shows us Christ’s ***person*** for grace and peace (2).

Person

### The word for “knowledge” here implies an intimate, personal relationship.

2

### We need to know that grace is in Christ (2a).

### We need to know that Christ alone gives us peace (2b).

## God gives us Christ’s ***power*** to live a godly life (3).

Power

3

### Too often we think that we’re missing some great secret to godliness.

### Peter says that we already have all we need!

### If we already have everything we need for a godly life (3), then why does Peter wish his readers more grace and peace (2)?

#### Evidently we don’t apply or access all that God has in store for us!

#### We are like a computer that has immense capabilities, but the user doesn’t know how to use them.

MacBook Pro

## God gives us Christ’s ***promises*** to live a godly life (4).

Promises

### What specific promises does God give to help us be like Christ (4)?

4

### Peter gives at least five promises in today’s text:

5 Verses Promises

#### He just gave the promise that *we have everything we need* to live a godly life (3).

• 3

#### We share “his divine nature” where *we will eventually become like Christ* (4b).

• 4b

#### We have the promise that *we can escape any sin* (4c).

• 10

• 4c

#### Also, *we are elected and promised salvation* (10).

#### If we’re consistent in character (5-9), then *we will be richly rewarded* (10-11).

• 10-11

(So what do you really need to know about Christ? Verses 1-4 tell us what *God has done*—We need to know that Christ’s deity makes us complete in Him. Our ***faith*** in his ***person*** gives us ***power*** and ***promises***. But what do *we do* with this knowledge? We need to…)

MPI

# II. Become increasingly like Christ (5-11).

MP

[Use your knowledge to grow in Christ-likeness.]

Ladder

## Grow step-by-step in Christ-likeness (5-7).

Read 5-7  
(3 slides)

### *Faith* in Christ justifies us and starts our growth in character (5a).

• Faith

### *Goodness* (moral excellence) results from sins forgiven (5b).

• Love

• Godly

• Good

• Self-Con

### *Knowledge* helps our goodness expand (5c).

• Know

### *Self-control* comes from knowing Christ’s own self-control (6a).

### *Perseverance* is self-control over the long haul (6b).

• Long

### *Godliness* results from persevering over the long haul (6c).

### *Brotherly kindness* results since godliness is relational (7a).

• Kind

### *Love* is the climax as the highest character trait (7b).

• Jesus

### These traits explain how we should show the divine nature in verse 4.

## Sadly, we don’t always grow in Christ-likeness (8-9).

Blackboard

### Some believers continue to grow and become more effective (8).

8

### Others stop character growth by forgetting they’re forgiven (9).

9

### In fact, most of the NT addresses believers who are not living up to God’s standards. This is why God moved authors like Peter and Paul and James and others to write!

#### At SMF chapel in my first year of seminary one student saw another student sitting by himself and exclaimed, “Wow! Look at that! A guy reading his Bible! Must be a first-year student!” Everyone laughed—sadly.

• 1st Yr.

Baby & Bible

Bag Over Head

#### That same year, a friend asked me, “Do you know how to tell the difference between a first-year student and a final-year student?” I didn't know. So he said, “The first-year student is all zeal, no knowledge. The final-year student is all knowledge, no zeal.”

• Last Yr.

## Yet when we work hard, we’ll be rewarded instead of falling away (10-11).

Reward

### When we work hard to show we’re saved, we won’t fall away (10).

10

#### Does “make your calling and election sure” (10) mean that we can add anything to Christ’s work to be saved? No. It means we should live consistent with that salvation.

#### The NLT captures the idea well: “Work hard to *prove* that you really are among those God has called and chosen.”

MPII

#### When you seek to be more like Christ, you won’t fall back. Instead…

### God will reward us when we live consistent to our calling (11).

11

#### Does receiving “a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom…” refer to a person as being saved (11)?

#### No, this refers to being fully rewarded like the person in verse 8 who keeps growing in character.

#### It means you do not “fall” (10b) like the person in verse 9 who has forgotten about his forgiveness.

Know?

(So what do you really need to ***know***? And, more importantly, what do you***do*** with this knowledge?)

# Conclusion

### *Know you’re complete in Christ to be more like Christ* (Main Idea). Have your knowledge of Christ lead you to be Christ-like (restated MI).

MI

### These 11 verses answered two key questions:

#### What to know? You are complete in Christ as God (1-4).

#### What to do? Become increasingly like Christ (5-11).

### Now what do you need to ***know*** or ***do***?

MPI

Know or Do?

#### How can you better ***know*** Christ?

• Know?

##### Do you need to grasp Christ’s person, power or promises most (2-4)?

##### How can you do this?

#### How can you better ***imitate*** Christ?

• Do?

##### Are you more like Jesus this year than last year?

##### How will you be more like Christ next year?

##### Which quality in verses 5-7 do you need to imitate? How?

### Prayer

Black

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### Peter wrote the same readers probably just months before this letter in AD 64.

### In that first letter he sought to encourage them to remain true to God’s grace despite their sufferings for Christ.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Who here wants more knowledge? Raise your hand.

### It’s now seven weeks into the semester—and we all know that seven is the perfect number in the Bible.

### Students what do you think of your education so far? By this time in the semester, some students are just getting going, while for others, May (or graduation) can’t come soon enough.

### Prospective students, you certainly already know that people have various opinions about education.

#### Some love learning so they can pride their knowledge over others. If you’re thinking about coming to SBC to show off your knowledge, you will be disappointed.

#### Others are at the other end of the spectrum and are anti-intellectual, thinking that education is a waste of time. Well, I wouldn’t encourage such people to come either!

### Peter avoids both of these extremes in 2 Peter. He uses the words for “knowledge” 16 times in this short letter of three brief chapters—and he presents knowledge in a positive sense. We will see the word “knowledge” four times in the first 11 verses!

### However, while knowledge is important, we can’t learn everything. So what do we really need to know about Christ as believers? To put it more succinctly, what’s going to be on the test?

### When you consider how many things to know, it can be daunting. Even as seminary students, you probably came to SBC to get answers to your questions, but now you see that your list of questions has grown! What are the essentials that we really need to know?

### You’ve come to the right place, because Peter has an answer for you in today’s text.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Greeks sought ideals perhaps more than any society at that time—looking for the perfect society (deemed to be Greek democracy), the perfect mind (thought to be Greek philosophy), and the perfect body (thus the Greek Olympics).

### In this context, Peter gives the divinely inspired version of perfect knowledge based on Jesus Christ.

### The overall theme for Jan-Apr 2017 at SBC is Nurturing a Community of Learners 培育一个学习群体. The sub theme for each month is as follows:

#### Jan - Inspiring Vision 启动异象

#### Feb - Impacting Mission 开展使命

### We can’t learn everything, right? So today we will see what we *really* need to learn in our mission for Christ. Ready?

# Questions

### Where is the main division in verses 1-11?

#### Bauckham (WBC, 173) divides it into 1-2 and 3-11.

#### Wiersbe divides it into 1-4, 5-7, and 8-11.

#### I choose a hybrid approach of 1-4 and 5-11.

### What is basic teaching of each section in verses 1-11?

#### Divine Provision: God has given believers all they need based on their knowledge and faith in Christ (1-4).

#### Human Response: Believers should keep growing in Christ-like character and use this knowledge until Jesus rewards them (5-11).

### Why does Peter emphasize that his readers had the same faith as “ours” (1)?

#### There is a great sense of humility here where the great apostle puts himself on the same level as his meek readers.

#### In this pre-Gnostic world, teachers prided themselves with their privileged, so-called “secret knowledge.”

#### Yet Peter says the righteousness given by Jesus Christ gives us all the “same faith”!

### Who does Peter indicate by “ours” or “we” (1)?

#### “The word i˙so/timon [“equal honor/value”] was used for foreigners who had been granted the privileges of citizenship which were equal to those of the native born. The faith given them by God was of equal honor or privilege with that of the apostles’ faith.

#### “Here Peter foreshadowed his purpose by stressing that the faith of the apostles was no different from the faith of any believer. This contrasted with the pre-Gnostic doctrines of the false teachers who spoke of an inner circle of special knowledge attainable by and available only to a privileged few” (Kenneth O. Gangel, “2 Peter,” in BKC, 2:863).

### Does “our God and Savior” both relate to Jesus and teach his deity (1b)?

#### “The grammar here clearly indicates that ‘God and Savior’ are one Person, not two (i.e., there is one Gr. article with two substantives). This passage ranks with the great Christological passages of the New Testament which plainly teach that Jesus Christ is coequal in nature with God the Father (cf. Matt. 16:16; John 1:1; 20:28; Titus 2:13). ‘Savior’ is used of Christ five times in this short epistle (2 Peter 1:1, 11; 2:20; 3:2, 18)” (BKC, 863-64).

### How does the knowledge of Christ actually give us everything we need to live a godly life (3)?

#### We need God’s power for “life and godliness.” And…

#### “An intimate ‘full knowledge’ (e˙pignw¿sewß; cf. 1:2) of Christ is the source of spiritual power and growth (cf. Phil. 1:9; Col. 1:9-10; 2:2)” (BKC).

### If we already have everything we need for a godly life (3), then why does Peter wish his reader more grace and peace (2)?

#### Evidently we don’t apply or access all that God has in store for us!

#### We are like a computer that has immense capabilities, but the user doesn’t know how to use them.

### What specific promises does God give to help us be like Christ (4)?

#### Peter doesn’t list them, but I suspect they would include the promise of having everything available that we need to live a godly life (3).

#### We also share “his divine nature” where we will eventually become like Christ and thus have the promise now that we can escape any sin (4b).

#### We are also elect and promised salvation (10).

#### If we’re consistent in character (vv. 5-9), then we will be richly rewarded (vv. 10-11).

### How are the virtues of 5-7 different from Paul’s virtue lists (Bauckham, WBC, 174-75)?

#### Hellenistic terms are used that “correspond much more closely to the ethical terminology of Stoicism and Hellenistic philosophy” (p. 174).

#### The form uses the literary device called sorites that lists statements in a “succession of undisputable facts, to a climatic conclusion, each statement picking up the last key word” (p. 175).

### Is there a logical progression in the virtues of verses 5-7? Yes.

#### Faith is the natural starting place for character because trusting Christ for salvation justifies us (5a).

#### Goodness (moral excellence) then follows because our sins are forgiven (5b).

#### Knowledge but must continue to grow to help our goodness expand (5c).

#### Self-control can then come, because we first need knowledge of Christ as our model of self-control (6a).

#### Perseverance surely has to come later in the character traits since one can never start with long-suffering (6b).

#### Godliness results from persevering over the long haul (6c).

#### Brotherly kindness always follows godliness and never precedes it (7a).

#### Love is the ultimate quality that encompasses the others to climax as the highest character trait (7b).

### Do Christians always grow towards Christ-likeness (8-9)? No.

#### Some believers continue to grow and become more effective (8).

#### Other believers don’t grow in character because they forgot that they are forgiven (9).

#### In fact, most of the NT addresses believers who are not living up to God’s standards. This is why God moved authors like Peter and Paul and James and others to write!

### What does the NIV mean to “make your calling and election sure” (10)?

#### Does this mean that we can add anything to Christ’s work to be saved? No. It means we should live consistent with that salvation.

#### The NAU says, “Be all the more diligent to *make certain* about His calling and choosing you.”

#### The ESV says, “Be all the more diligent to *confirm* your calling and election.”

#### The NLT says, “Work hard to *prove* that you really are among those God has called and chosen.”

### Does receiving “a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom…” refer to a person as being saved (11)?

#### No, this refers to being fully rewarded like the person in verse 8 who keeps growing in character.

#### It means you do not “fall” (10b) like the person in verse 9 who has forgotten about his forgiveness.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Make your knowledge practical.

Focus your knowledge on Christ so you will become like Jesus.

# Possible Illustrations

The overall theme for Jan-Apr 2017 at SBC is Nurturing a Community of Learners 培育一个学习群体. The sub theme for each month is as follows:

Jan - Inspiring Vision 启动异象

Feb - Impacting Mission 开展使命

# Possible Applications

### Who here wants more knowledge? Raise your hands. Why do people want knowledge? Why do *you* want knowledge?

### At SMF chapel in my first year of seminary one student say a guy sitting by the campus fountain and exclaimed, “Wow! Look at that! A guy reading his Bible! Must be a first-year student!”

### That same year, a friend asked me, “Do you know how to tell the difference between a first-year student and a final-year student?” I didn't know. So he said, “The first-year student is all zeal, no knowledge. The final-year student is all knowledge, no zeal.”

### Overall Exegetical Outline

#### Divine Provision: God has given us all we need based on our knowledge and faith in Christ as God (1-4).

#### Human Response: We should keep growing in Christ-like character and use this knowledge until Jesus rewards us (5-11).

# I. The foundation of our knowledge is Christ’s deity (1:1-4).

# I. The basis of our faith is God giving us knowledge of Christ’s deity (1:1-4).

# II. The result of knowing Christ’s deity is everything we need for godliness (1:5-11).

Knowing and Growing (Wiersbe Outline)

# I. The Christian life begins with faith (1-4).

## This faith is in a person (1-2).

## This faith involves God’s power (3).

## This faith involves God’s promises (4).

# II. Faith results in spiritual growth (5-7).

# III. Spiritual growth brings practical results (8-11).

## Fruitfulness (8)

## Vision (9)

## Security (10-11)

# What to Know, What to Do

***2 Peter 1:1-11***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The purpose God gave us our knowledge and faith in Christ as God is to grow in Christ-likeness until we’re rewarded.

# I. Divine Provision: God has given us all we need in our knowledge and faith in Christ as God (1-4).

## God made the author Peter both a slave and apostle of Christ (1:1a).

## God gave the recipients in Turkey the same faith as the apostles due to Christ’s deity (1:1b).

## God gives us knowledge of Christ’s ***person*** for grace and peace (1:2).

## God gives us Christ’s ***power*** to live a godly life (1:3).

## God gives us Christ’s ***promises*** to live a godly life (1:4).

# II. Human Response: We should grow in Christ-likeness and use this knowledge until Jesus rewards us (5-11).

## We should grow in Christ-likeness in a logical progression (5-7).

### Faith is the natural starting place for character because trusting Christ for salvation justifies us (5a).

### Goodness (moral excellence) then follows because our sins are forgiven (5b).

### Knowledge but must continue to grow to help our goodness expand (5c).

### Self-control can then come, because we first need knowledge of Christ as our model of self-control (6a).

### Perseverance surely has to come later in the character traits since one can never start with long-suffering (6b).

### Godliness results from persevering over the long haul (6c).

### Brotherly kindness always follows godliness and never precedes it (7a).

### Love is the ultimate quality that encompasses the others to climax as the highest character trait (7b).

## We do not always grow towards Christ-likeness (8-9).

### Some believers continue to grow and become more effective (8).

### Other believers don’t grow in character because they forget that they are forgiven (9).

## We must hard work for Christ and be rewarded instead of falling away (10-11).

### When we work hard to show we are saved, we won’t fall away (10).

### God will reward us when we live consistent to our calling (11).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will obey in an area of their life where they have knowledge not followed by action.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Who here wants more knowledge? Raise your hand.

### Curiosity: Knowledge is infinite, so we can’t know it all. We need to be selective.

### Intro MPI: What do you really need to know? What’ll be on the test?

### Background: The Greek world pursued the ideal government, mind, and body. We should shoot for the ideal too—in knowledge.

### Preview: Today we’ll see the knowledge that God gives us, and then what we should do with that knowledge. The title of this message is “What to Know, What to Do.” These are our two main points.

### Text: Peter shows us what we need to know—and then do—in the first eleven verses of 2 Peter.

(He first tells us *what to know*. So what’s that key truth that you really need to know about Christ? Know that…)

# I. You are complete in Christ as God (1-4).

[God gave you all you need in your knowledge and faith in Jesus as deity.]

## God gives us the same ***faith*** as the apostles due to Christ’s deity (1).

## God shows us Christ’s ***person*** for grace and peace (2).

## God gives us Christ’s ***power*** to live a godly life (3).

## God gives us Christ’s ***promises*** to live a godly life (4).

(So what do you really need to know about Christ? Verses 1-4 tell us what *God has done*—We need to know that Christ’s deity makes us complete in Him. But what do *we do* with this knowledge?)

# II. Become increasingly like Christ (5-11).

[Use your knowledge to grow in Christ-likeness.]

## Grow step-by-step in Christ-likeness (5-7).

### Faith in Christ justifies us and starts our growth in character (5a).

### Goodness (moral excellence) results from sins forgiven (5b).

### Knowledge helps our goodness expand (5c).

### Self-control comes from knowing Christ own self-control (6a).

### Perseverance is self-control over the long haul (6b).

### Godliness results from persevering over the long haul (6c).

### Brotherly kindness results since godliness is relational (7a).

### Love is the climax as the highest character trait (7b).

## We don’t always grow in Christ-likeness (8-9).

### Some believers continue to grow and become more effective (8).

### Others stop character growth by forgetting they’re forgiven (9).

## When we work hard, we’ll be rewarded instead of falling away (10-11).

### When we work hard to show we’re saved, we won’t fall away (10).

### God will reward us when we live consistent to our calling (11).

(So what do you really need to ***know***? And, more importantly, what do you***do*** with this knowledge?)

# Conclusion

### Know you’re complete in Christ to be more like Christ (Main Idea). Have your knowledge of Christ lead you to be Christ-like (restated MI).

### These 11 verses answered two key questions:

#### What to know? You are complete in Christ as God (1-4).

#### What to do? Become increasingly like Christ (5-11).

### Now what do you need to ***know*** or ***do***?

#### How can you better ***know*** Christ?

#### How can you better ***imitate*** Christ?

### Prayer



**Rick Griffith**

2016

Message of 10

**Title**

***Passage***

# Introduction

Subject with a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ blank answer in hidden text

# I. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

# II. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

# Conclusion

### Main Idea has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

### Application question

**Thought Questions**

1. Read the passage aloud. Contrast:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Contrast** |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |

1. Text-based question

Text

Text

Text

Text

1. Application to your own Christian experience

Text

Text

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/new-testament-preaching/