

**"Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus
Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:"**

Peter speaks of "the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ." By His perfect righteous life and His perfect sacrificial death Christ has purchased for the gift of a right relationship to God. In 1 Peter 3:18 Peter states that:

" For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

Christ earned righteousness for us through His atonement. This makes it possible for us to be declared righteous, to be born again, and to become partakers of God's holiness. Christ's saving work accomplishes deliverance (salvation) from the guilt of sin, the penalty of sin, the controlling power of sin, and the presence of sin for every sinner who trusts in Him.

C. The third foundational gift is referred to in verses 3 and 10. There we read:

verse 3 – "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

verse 10 – "Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling . . . sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,"

God has called us to Himself by His Spirit and His Word in the gospel message. This is a call that actually brings a person to Christ; a call that brings a person into God's marvelous light; a call that brings blessing; a call that brings a person into fellowship with Christ; and a call that brings a person into a right relationship with God.

What does God's calling provide for our spiritual life and godliness? Well, calling brings us out of the darkness or error and sin into the light of truth and holiness; and as we continue to live in truth and holiness, we enjoy the blessing of fellowship with Christ and with each other, as well as the blessing of knowing that we continue to have a right relationship with God through Christ's earned righteousness. And God continues to call us ever upward and onward to greater and higher attainments in godliness.

What a wonderful privilege, to know that the God of the universe has called us to