

Perhaps we can see this progression as moving from a nearsightedness in which believers do not take the long look and see the goal of complete likeness to Christ and do not live in light of that goal, but see only daily needs and concerns and how to meet them; to a blindness in which they are no longer enlightened by the illumination of the Holy Spirit who opens to our understanding His great and precious promises; and finally to a loss of awareness of their spiritual condition in Christ and the benefits of His redemption, including the great blessing of cleansing from their sins.

This brings us to the second question of our lesson:

## II. WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO MAKE OUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE?

In verse 10 Peter says: "Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall."

Earlier in this series we discovered that God has called us to Himself by His Spirit and Word in the gospel, with a call that actually secures our willing response in saving faith. And we also discovered that election is a gracious choice, made by God before the creation of the world, of some fallen human beings to salvation from their sin through saving faith, and that this choice is one that originated purely from God's free grace.

Paul states these truths beautifully in 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 when he says:

13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But Peter says "Be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure." How can this be done? If election and calling are all of grace and depend on God, how can we make them sure or firm or certain?

If God has chosen us and called us, then it is certain that He has! How then can we make our calling and election certain or sure?

Permit me to illustrate the distinction between objective certainty and subjective certitude by something that happened when our three daughters were still fairly