

THEME: Be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only!

READ TEXT:

2 Peter 1:8-9

For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

MAIN POINTS:

- I. Obedient Fruitfulness - (vs.8)
 - II. Disobedient Forgetfulness - (vs.9)
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I. OBEDIENT FRUITFULNESS - (vs.8)

A. "For if these qualities"

1. The issue is "if" - (requires inspection and discernment)
2. "qualities" are the seven virtues in verses 5-7

B. "are yours and are increasing"

1. There should be Growth in Grace!
2. QUESTION: Are these seven virtues yours? - (possess?)
3. QUESTION: Are these seven virtues INCREASING in you?
 - Cruise-Control Christianity - (is that you?)
 - Pedal-to-the-Metal Christianity - (is that you?)

C. "they render you neither"

1. i.e. —> empower; result in

D. "useless"

1. i.e. —> impotent; inactive; empty; of no value; worthless
2. ILLUSTRATION: Pocket Lint CANNOT turn a screw through a piece of wood. There is no power. It is useless!

3. QUESTION: Are you living a Pocket Lint Christianity?

- **(Matthew 5:13-16)** *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

E. "nor unfruitful"

1. You are to be FRUITY (productive) and not merely LEAFY.

- **(Mark 4:18-19)** *"And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."*

2. Three of these seven virtues are also Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23)
 - self-control; brotherly kindness; love

3. **(Hebrews 5:12-14)** *"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."*

F. "in the true knowledge of"

1. Not fake or misinformed
2. Means a "legitimate knowledge"

G. "our Lord Jesus Christ"

1. "Lord" = Master
2. "Jesus" = His name
3. "Christ" = Messiah; Anointed One

II. DISOBEDIENT FORGETFULNESS - (vs.9)

A. "For he who lacks these qualities"

1. QUESTION: Are these 7 qualities apparent in your life?
2. In abundance (increasing) or lacking (decreasing) or non-existent?
3. POTENTIALLY: Saved or unsaved? (Christian vs. Deceived)

B. "is blind"

1. Can't see; unable to discern true spiritual condition.
2. Has reason to lack an Assurance of Salvation.

C. "or short-sighted"

1. i.e. —> near-sighted (can only see what's right in front of your face)
2. LITERALLY —> Greek ('myopia') - near-sightedness
3. Can only see objects near; can't discern far away.

4. ILLUSTRATION: (*Huntington Gardens in San Marino, CA*) - A shame to walk around the paths of the gardens only ever looking down at your feet and NOT at the flowers!

D. "having forgotten his purification"

1. Forgot what it was like to get saved (conversion)
2. **(Revelation 2:4-5)** *But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first...*
3. i.e. —> living like an unbeliever

E. "from his former sins"

1. The old man - (old self)
 2. Don't sin so freely in the things that Jesus suffered the Father's wrath for on your behalf!
 3. Instead ... bear fruit!
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POINTS OF APPLICATION

1. **Perform a "spiritual check-up" on yourself.** - (We go to medical doctors for regular check-up's, but do a spiritual self-examination to see if these seven "qualities are yours and are increasing.")
2. **When it comes to your ministry toward others and service for the Lord, are you useless and unfruitful or are you useful and fruitful? In other words, is your lifestyle one of Obedient Fruitfulness or one of Disobedient Forgetfulness?**
3. **How is your theology regarding "the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ? In other words, are you consistently learning about Jesus or just living off the fumes of distant past Bible study?**
4. **To be sure you aren't spiritually blind or short-sighted, pray to God and ask Him to open your eyes so that you could clearly understand your spiritual strengths and weaknesses.**
5. **As a believer, you've been purified of your former sins. Meditate on how God has made you wonderfully pure and live in such a way so as not to defile yourself.**
6. **Be sure you are truly saved!** - *"Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you." (2 Peter 1:10-11)*
7. **Read your Bible and obey what you read!** - (THEME: *Be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only!*)