

Ever Increasing Virtue

2Peter 1:8 *"For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (NKJV)

Ever Increasing Virtue

- **2 Peter 1:5-7** *"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."*
- You can't have some of these and not the others, they are like a brick arch, each brick dependent upon the others to keep the arch from collapsing.

What is Virtue?

- **2Pet 1:3** *"as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,"*
- **1Pet 2:9** *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"*
- It is sometimes translated moral excellence and goodness. The Greek word carries the idea of excelling or mastering something, in this context it seems to be talking about adding an excellent godly character like the one describing God and Jesus in 2Pet 1:3.

The Source of Virtue

- **Matt 19:16-17** *"Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.""*
- **Psalms 119:172** *"My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness."*
- **2Tim 3:16-17** *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*
- The source of virtue, righteousness or goodness is God and his commandments are the instructions for learning His virtues.

The Folly of Human “Goodness”

- **Proverbs 20:6** *"Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man?"*
- **Romans 10:1-4** *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."*
- **Romans 1:28-32** *"who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."*
- We live at a time when humanity is regularly redefining what is good or right, but know that God does not change.

Pursue God's Righteousness

- **Matt 5:6** *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled."*
- **Matt 6:33** *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*
- **1Tim 6:6-11** *"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness."*
- Keep growing at doing the right thing.