

2Peter 11-09-01b

We have been looking at this first chapter of 2nd Peter in particular verses 2 through 7 and We looked a little bit at the Greek in verse 5 Where it says but also for this very reason looking back at all of the gifts that God has given in the potential that he has created giving all diligence add and We looked at those words for our par ice pharaoh and epic or a get oh a lot of Syllables in there, but the such great Significance in the meaning of those words and the last thing I want to point out is that the par ice pharaoh by the way, this is where you really have to kind of know your Greek if you're not going to use a reference because even though the root of this is par ice pharaoh the inflected form that you find here in the text is par ice and egg Contes par ice and egg Contes and this is the aorist Active participle What do you know about the aorist participle? What's our little phrase the action of the aorist participle precedes the action of the main verb? And so we typically express that with the word having so having diligently Carried through and applied our diligence our spoo day sp-o-u-d-e Spoo dadzo sp-o-u-d-a-z-o is the verb from which this noun comes that means diligence or significant effort very Concentrated focused Application of your strength To a thing your your talents your knowledge, whatever it may be spoo day means you're really striving. It is translated strive as a verb But Having applied diligence Now we can chorus these things together So there is a definite sequence and when we think about you know, how do you make this happen in reality? It's all really nice Theology, but I've got a human Existence to carry on here and I've got stuff going on. I've got I've got circumstances and I've got challenges and you know I just some of this you know biblical in joining and exhorting and It doesn't really seem to fit when I'm in the midst of an effort.

Well We if we observe what the Bible says it says look first of all you have to apply this diligence you look at the tool set that God has given and Having picked up the right tool. This is how I think of it having Par ice Pharaoh Picked up and carried through that's ice Pharaoh para means alongside. So I went to the toolbox I picked up and I've carried this tool Through the situation and now I'm alongside the situation and I'm going to apply with spoo day Whatever it is that comes next So does that make sense? And what this means is that in the midst we just default You know what defaults are like if you go into Windows and you pull up your file Explorer It's going to default to something useless One of the most useless wasteful defaults in all of the world is Windows Explorer if you right-click start and choose Explorer it comes up and where does it take you by default? Somewhere down in the midst of you know, Sam my documents start menu and all of this stuff And there's nothing in there that I need if I wanted something off the start menu.

I had a click start I want to go to to a folder. Why don't you show me the last folder? I looked at an Explorer. Why isn't that the default but no and of course it has to open seven levels and so when I say Right click and say Explorer now I've got to wait and I get the little circle or the little hourglass or something and it's alphabetizing and sorting and going through a whole bunch of stuff and it Expands this thing on the left and finally I get this bunch of useless stuff in the right and then I've got to go up To the top and I've got the backup and say no no No, I want it or I've got to scroll

down on the left I want to go down here and it defaults to showing me icons big splotchy things And I can't hardly see anything in the folder.

I don't want that. I want a list. I like the detail list I want to see the name.

I want to see the date. I want to see the size I want to see what it is. I have to go in and it hides the file extensions by default I want to know if it's an exe or if it's a DLL or if it's a Doc or if it's a XLS or whatever it might be.

I want to see those extensions Don't it all of the defaults are wrong. I hate the defaults the defaults are useless the defaults waste my time Defaults are for people that just don't know anything about their computer and can't figure out how to change the defaults I have gone in and hacked my defaults my computer no longer comes up that way But it's very frustrating like today when I work on someone else's computer and everything is wrong Everything is impeding me and blocking my progress We want to get rid of the defaults now think about this What is our default behavior? If we get up from here and disperse We're gonna go into our default evening routine, right? It's getting fairly late by the time we finished Bible class and everybody You know it was like it says at the end of Mark each one went to his own home You know and that's where this that's where the thing ends Each one went to his own home, and then you get the shorter ending and nobody thinks that that's really inspired Well each one of us will go to our own home. Well.

What are we gonna? Do well? We've got a standard weeknight routine. We're gonna do what we do it's involves Toothbrushing and you know pet needs in or pet needs out or vice versa or you know turn down the sheets you know set the Coffee up for the next morning is a very important part of our routine They set the alarm is it at the right time am I gonna you know I set two alarms and some days to make sure I don't Miss something we just have a routine. That's our default well what we need to do is is examine our defaults and Say is this really in the light of what I'm learning out of 2nd Peter is this satisfactory now it may be You know maybe evening prayers are a part of our Routine and We stop at the end of the day just like we do at the beginning and perhaps in the middle Evening and morning and at noon will I pray and cry aloud and he shall hear my voice I? Will both lay me down in peace and sleep for thou Lord only makest me dwell in safety That will give him perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee and And we pause and we reflect and we think about promises And we review the day and we say you know is there something I could have done better Did I really fail is there something I should bring before the Lord and? Claim the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and and get that thing off the slate and be ready to start a new fresh day tomorrow In a better way doing a better thing that ought to be a part of our default but it often isn't and we get into the routine of the day and We fall into patterns.

We have a default and many times the default stinks The default is bad the default is failure the default is human energy the default partakes of No thing divine No thing Christ like no thing biblical no thing spiritual. We're Defaulting to acting just like the world just like the most godless

Unbeliever there is and we need to rethink that We need to be diligent. We need to look at the toolbox That God has given us through grace He has called us through his virtue and glory by the righteousness of Jesus Christ He has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness not some things It's not God has given us some things and the rest of them are over here on the world's shelf on religions shelf on ritual shelf on You know self-help shelf All things pertaining to life and godliness have been given to us by God all things it's kind of like We are thoroughly furnished unto all good works not just some good works all good works So all scriptures given by inspiration of God not some of it not just the good bits It's not some we can throw out because we don't like it That's most people do these days and believe me most people are throwing out parts of the Bible now you can't believe That's a whole nother subject so Make every effort.

We look at what God has given us know what's in the toolbox. I Do this we have so many files down where I work. I work with dr.

Criswell's personal stuff his files and All of the stuff that were associated with his work at the church, and so I've got directories and tapes and Collections of various things that were produced by the church printed by the church. We've got photos. We've got it's unimaginably vast and Sometimes I just take an hour And I'll just open up a file drawer and go through there and remind myself of what we have So that I know that it's there and the next time that Tammy Ledbetter calls me and says We're running an article in the Southern Baptist Texan, and we need a picture of dr.

Criswell doing X preaching greeting people Kneeling and talking to a little child. I know exactly where that is. Oh, yes We've got one of those in this filing drawer.

We've got that as a part of this publication or this collection and Every time I go through there. I find things that I didn't realize or didn't remember were there And I think wow I sure could use this two weeks ago when I had that phone call look at this This is perfect. Here's here's a listing of All of the sermons in this particular series.

This is great This will help me do my job But I have to go through and survey what we have because I can't remember everything This is one of the reasons we come to Bible class Bible class is a review of the tools in the toolbox we've got everything pertaining to life and godliness, but we've got to remember that it's there and It's easy to forget oh I've got an antidote for worry. I've got an antidote for depression. I've got an antidote for fear I've got an answer for this question.

I've got a resource that fits this situation I've got encouragement and motivation in this area where I lack it personally I've got strength where I am weak I've got a vision of glory where I can see only the mundane and the earthly and the pointless It's here. I just need to go look. I need to remind myself I Was trying to get a computer apart today I did a lot of stuff today and one of the screws that were put into this thing when it was Assembled had been stripped by the machine,

and it was supposed to be a Phillips But it was just round no Phillips screwdriver, and I had to get this screw out Well all I had were screwdrivers, and it could not be undone with a screwdriver Normally what I do in this situation is get out the Dremel cut a slot Then I can use a flat blade and get it out.

Well that wasn't possible. I was at work and I Thought what am I going to do and I looked around and I was trying to find something to grab the outside edges of this Screw and turn it to get it out I really needed to get this thing apart three of the four screws came out beautifully the fourth one was stripped and I just and Then it dawned on me. Oh I Brought a multi-tool down here for just this purpose I've got a I've got a tools all and it was six inches from me I was at my desk standing up as I do now I stand up all day long I love it, but in this second drawer down open it up There's a tools all beautifully in its little case pull it out flip it over its pliers Grab the screw came out.

I've been messing around for 10 minutes I'd look to see if Ken had left any pliers out in his area of the workroom. I'd wander around for 10 minutes I didn't know I didn't remember that I had the tool and when I didn't remember and I put it was perfect And I got the job done effortlessly Mindlessly easy with the right tool impossible without the right tool This is what Peter is reminding these scattered people of the Diaspora largely Jews He says look I already told you last time How God has called you and what your opportunity is for witness and to be the point of the spear as the gospel goes out throughout the Roman Empire But to do this you've got to remember to keep your personal spiritual life operating God has given you all of the tools, but you need to remember that they're there you need to pick them up and Par Ice Pharaoh carry them through and bring them alongside and then diligently ice Corregato bring them up as a symphony of United Harmonious voices instruments Reflecting the glory of God. It's not a cacophony.

It's not everybody singing a different song It's not Fading in and out because it's a distant station and you're in the middle of the night and it's a.m. And it's 600 miles away. No, it's strong and beautiful and clear and succinct so Having done. This is the this is the emphasis of the aorist participle You've got to decide to be diligent before you ever start pick up the tool you say I want to do this, right? I'm not, you know You can booger up a screw if you use the wrong screwdriver if it's a number two Phillips and you pick up a number one You can booger it and then nothing will get it out except the aforementioned lengthy procedure of slotting and whatnot You need the right tool but We start out being diligent, I'm gonna really do this job, right? I'm not gonna Gaff it off.

I'm not going to do it sloppily. I'm not gonna do it in a half-baked manner I'm not just gonna get out my pocketknife and the one time I loaned my pocketknife to somebody when they said No, if you got something I can get this screw out with the pocketknife had a blade and a screwdriver and I said Oh, yeah, and I handed them the knife without opening it Well, they opened the blade stuck it in the screw and and ruined my blade. My blade went on you know had a Z shape after that right, I Was just shocked And it was It was my brother-in-law, actually, I couldn't really, you know, give him too much grief, but I just thought what'd you do that for? Just open the other side we want to be sure and get the right tool and apply it diligently so When we have done this

Having decided to be diligent having decided to do this right going and getting the right things from God that he has provided for us We're going to create this course.

What is the course first of all is faith pistis This is the body of epinosis that we have and that we believe and we are now applying it That's why it's epinosis. It's experiential knowledge Picking up this this stuff. I'm cleaning.

I'm doing my chores. I'm executing a task I'm doing some not necessarily wonderful Activity, but I have figured out how to convert it into spiritual capital. I'm redeeming the time.

I've got the faith thing going I'm going to chorus with that virtue. This is an opportunity for character building for skill set enhancement I am going to get good at this. I'm not just going to do an adequate job.

I'm going to do a brilliant job This isn't just going to be The bronze medal. This isn't just going to be the silver medal. I'm going to do this in a gold medal fashion I'm going to add virtue and That's the word arete a-r-e-t-e and it just means nobility of character quality you When you do something, it's just always good.

You know, there are people it's just like the mechanic I got my car back from this afternoon down there at master tech. I love those guys. They are believers The fellow that manages the shop has a son who's a marine.

He's a stand-up guy He always finds a way to just go a little bit extra it's virtue I love taking cars down there I don't mind paying whatever it costs because I know that they're putting in just that little bit extra You know while I noticed that this needed doing and I just went ahead and threw that in, you know, I It and got it ready Knew you had a trip coming up got it ready in time kind of slipped it in made sure it got done Just that's virtue it just there's that little bit of added blessing that that comes in for free No charge, it just reflects the grace and the glory of God a little bit more add virtue and Then chorus in with that epinosis because once you have built the foundation of faith, which is applied to epinosis and You've added virtue Your your feet are on a little bit higher ground You can see a little bit more and the reason epinosis I asked myself the question I thought epinosis came in, you know up above and and that was what the faith was. So why is it mentioned again? because when we start this process and we see it clearly and We add virtue to our basic faith This gives us fresh insight the things that we have already learned have new meaning they there is a clarity of our perception and epinosis becomes epinosis it just Takes on life you begin to understand why the Word of God says the Word of God is alive and Powerful living things grow they strengthen they they adapt and Our knowledge of the Word of God that started out experientially at one level. We suddenly begin to see connections We see fresh the same things that we've always taken for granted.

We had a working knowledge of it Suddenly I remember when this happened to me in math I was

not really I've never been a mathematical guy and it didn't really click until I started teaching algebra and I just thought you know solve for X simultaneous equations and it was just a routine It was I knew how to solve the problems. I could pass a test and I just applied the formula but when I started teaching it and trying to get it across to someone else and at the high school level I Suddenly thought oh That's why they keep talking about Function, you know function X F the F of X at F can be sine cosine tangent I'd always just thought why don't they if they mean cosine? Why don't they say cosine? What's this F of X business? but it began to dawn on me as I was teaching it that there is a there's a higher level of understanding where this stuff all kind of weaves together and you begin to kind of Master the the material you're not just functional with it. You can think about it in creative ways and If there's a single way to describe this next layer at the notice Epinosus it is Creative thinking Innovative thinking, you know it well enough that you can apply it in in fresh creative ways you it just achieves a level of clarity that you never had before you look at the Word of God and the same verses you looked at before you see the link you see the connection and This is why? Epinosus comes this is after you've got your virtue going after you've kind of figured out how to really be the person you should Be as you're applying your faith.

It's one thing to be faithful it's something else to be virtuous as you apply your faith and when we've when we have Chorus that in suddenly our insight deepens our grasp Strengthens and we really start figuring out how the plan of God works We start coming to know God and the way he thinks and it starts making a superior kind of sense So that's the Epinosus now, we're gonna chorus in when we've kind of gotten to that point Self-control Now and you would think well isn't self-control one of the virtues if I'm a virtuous person wouldn't I have self-control? Yes, but Now we reach Levels of self-control that we have never had before besetting sins that we could never quite shake patterns of Failure that never quite left Start to change Because this chorus starts to build and it starts gathering momentum and our life qualitatively changes in these specific areas and one of them is self-control and You think what self-control is think about the Lord Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane This is one of the most profound tests that any human being has faced Jesus knew what he was getting into with this impending sacrifice for sins the atonement Not to mention. I mean the physical suffering was bad enough But you know many people have have been brutally punished and tortured and and so on Jesus was looking at something at a whole other level Separation from his father the guilt of the sins of the entire world being treated as though you have committed every murder every rape every heinous abuse the Imaginable you are being held liable for that God is going to look at you as the perpetrator of that and for the Lord Jesus the grief in his soul was just awful But self-control is able to Look down the maw of a can and look down into the bottomless abyss and Not fall apart not unravel Maintain composure maintain the ability to think this is what a lot of us end up learning in in military training Your your boot camp your your early training one of the things they try to instill is to think under pressure self-control is good thinking under pressure You don't vapor lock you don't seize up. You don't panic you don't Wind up without a thought in your head just staring blankly like a deer in the headlights Self-control means I no matter what faces me You have to be someone with faith you

have to be someone with virtue and you have to be someone with a really good grasp Of how the plan of God works to reach this level of self-control The fruit of the Spirit love joy peace long-suffering gentleness goodness faith meekness self-control temperance that's the fruit of the Spirit and it certainly comes through his ministry, but this is a an advance this is as I said, this is this is what I see as the biblical edification complex right here so you add Self-control and you chorus that in it.

None of the others disappear there. This is just another voice being added and to that Perseverance, this is hoop Oh Monet. This is your standard word Which means to bear up under minnow means to remain and Hoopa is under you remain under There's a crushing burden.

You don't slip out from under it. You don't pull the Release and let the pack fall to the ground. You don't say I've had enough You can endure I was talking to a gentleman today who had to do round-the-clock care for an extremely elderly person who and And he said one of the things that was so difficult about that situation was the sameness every day began early in the morning with the same routine and Every different aspect of this person's care every bit of what into the went into them everything that came out of them all of the cleaning all of the Management.

It was just a complete absorbing All consuming task and this went on without any relief or any help for over a year and a half for this particular individual and He said, you know God gave me the strength God gave the hoop Oh Monet the ability to bear up under and to do what for nearly anybody else would have been an impossible task The people that do this kind of care professionally are never allowed to do it more than five days running They do five days and they get a two-day break this individual and they do it for eight hours a day And then they go home this individual did it 24 hours a day seven days a week for 18 months without any relief and He was in his 60s when he did it for a person who was in his 80s and it's an incredible Thing to do and to do well and to do as under the Lord and this is the kind of spiritual strength that makes that possible To be a blessing to others to reflect the glory of Christ and to do it consistently with virtue with self-control With application of the Word of God in in new and profound ways and with perseverance and with that perseverance the next voice in the chorus is godliness and Godliness has almost lost its meaning. This is you sub a in Greek E you s e b i a and the EU means good like you on the loss the good news the gospel but you sub a is We've is is really partaking of the divine nature godliness is Reflecting the the character of God in its Magnificence in its grace in its you know, how can God be so patient with us? How can God wait? How can God forgive time after time? How can God sacrifice his only son? How could the Lord Jesus Christ love us enough to do what he did? We begin to partake and we begin to enter into things that are so far beyond our our understanding and or our abilities as humans, but it is Godliness it is the divine nature and the power of the Holy Spirit the presence of the Lord Jesus and the presence of God the Father begin to shine through us and that's godliness. It's not just oh What a godly woman what a godly man.

He's pious. It isn't piety It is the presence of God shining through it is the presence of God we become almost translucent and That glory of God begins shining through because he is there and then to that To that godliness You end up with brotherly kindness As it says here and this is Philadelphia philos for the Adolfos love for the brethren and We we begin to treat fellow believers the way God treats all of us which is magnificently beautifully graciously forgivingly long-sufferingly gently Non-judgmentally as fellow heirs of Christ Philadelphia and then the final voice that puts that final crescendo that that wonderful finish to the chorus is agape and this is that perfect self-sacrificing love toward people and back toward God and it really kind of comes full circle and and none of these things diminish Each of them just adds each of them is in harmony with the other and If these things are yours and abound it says in verse 8 if these things are yours and they mushroom they multiply you will Be not barren or unfruitful in the epinosis and you go right back to the foundation Your foundation will not be laid in vain You will not be barren and you'll not be unfruitful notice if we don't do these things our knowledge is barren and unfruitful God has provided God has given us but the tools are still sitting in the bag The job is still unfinished the screws are stripped. The work is is not done We are miserable God's glory is not reflected in us or through us.

None of these wonderful things have happened and it is our privilege to not be barren and not be unfruitful by Letting these things abound but to for them to abound. It's not passive. It's not automatic.

We have to Diligently carry through and bring alongside these things He who lacks these things is short-sighted even to blindness I was Kicking myself for wasting 10 minutes looking for some kind of a stopgap tool And I thought I've opened that drawer every day for over a year with that tool laying there Why didn't I remember it was there am I blind? Just forgetful Short-sighted not not thinking not remembering not you know, I had foreseen this situation. I thought you know one of these days I'm gonna need some needle nose pliers. I better take some down there And so I did and they were right there and for 10 minutes I forgot short-sighted even to blindness and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins and What this means is that we will be giving into those passionate cravings because it is one or the other We never stand still We are on either the up escalator or the down escalator and if we are not on the up Word way we're on the downward way.

We do not stand still there is always some kind of momentum in our life, and if we're not moving up we are moving down and We're gonna go right back into our old sins, and we will be enslaved by them. We will be powerless to overcome them Therefore brethren be even more diligent verse 10. What do you suppose the verb is there in verse 10? Spoo dadzo make every effort.

It's the verb cognate for that spoo day. We had up there in verse 5 be even more diligent I told you to pick it up and carry it through and bring it alongside and put that diligence to work Now put in some more keep that cycle moving keep all of that chorus building Make those voices fuller

and throatier and louder and more Intune To make your call and election sure this is not some call like we've talked about in the past that some Theological persuasions think happens and it makes everything you know the whole tenor and tone and spirit of this passage is just the opposite God has already called us how by virtue and by glory So Make that call sure show that you've heard the call show that the virtue and the glory with which we are called is Reflecting back and is building and there's like a feedback loop that just makes it louder and stronger and more fruitful and more productive Make your call and election sure this isn't any kind of divine Overriding Divine choosing that that just makes certain things inevitable. There's no inevitability to this at all That's why he says be diligent and be even more diligent You've got to add you've got to chorus these you've got all of these are active Encouraging verbs that we need to do something.

How could you come back and say well, you know calling an election? It's all just gonna happen automatically. It's just it's just nuts If you do these things look at the very next phrase if you perform these things if Remember one of the qualifications of a promise in the Word of God is it's got a condition if you do these things You will never stumble and an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ I've been trying to get to this verse and even though I'm over time. I want to talk just for 30 seconds about the kingdom here this is the Ionian Basileon Basilea is the kingdom Ionia is unto the ages ice Ionian unto the ages kingdom Then we have the genitive Form of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ This is of or from now.

What does the whole verse say? Because our obvious question is well isn't there isn't the millennial kingdom the kingdom of Christ and then after that is the eternal kingdom of the Father so are we being entered into the millennial kingdom because that's the kingdom of the Son Well, if you look at the entire verse, it says an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ now in this context What has been supplied to us and how was it supplied? We have been given everything pertaining to life and godliness now and here and that came from the righteousness of Jesus Christ and The entrance into the eternal kingdom is also going to come from the Lord Jesus Christ who supplies this entrance an Entrance will be supplied to you into the kingdom the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and It is the ice Ionian kingdom which is what we call the kingdom of the Father to distinguish it from the kingdom of the Son But remember in the new Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven and you have the throne Who is sitting on the throne of the kingdom of the Father? It is still the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember the Lamb is the light. There's no there's no Sun and there's no darkness because the Lamb is the light and It is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ the eternal kingdom So we in this phrase we do not see the millennium in view we like to take a phrase or a term and we say well now technically it's always going to be this thing and what we have to do is look at context here and Peter nowhere Addresses the millennial kingdom in his either one of his letters He talks about the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He talks about reward He talks about partaking of the divine nature and he talks about being united with the Lord Jesus Christ in the eternal future and for us that is going to be immediately in the place that he has prepared for us in John 14 and Ultimately, it is going to be in the kingdom of the Father So even though this says the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ If it wasn't everlasting you could make a much stronger case that while I really think he's talking about the millennium but the unto the ages kingdom, this is the everlasting kingdom a kingdom world without end and When you're talking to the Jews in the Old Testament and say that the millennial kingdom is La Olam that's the thousand-year kingdom and really for them it is going to it kind of stretches into the kingdom of the Father because what they obtain and What they are given is going to morph right on into the kingdom of the Father In the same way that what we lay hold of here is going to morph into our time with Christ and the eternal kingdom Peter says this is the reason he is not going to be negligent to remind us always of these things and we want to remind Ourselves of these things as we go through this study. This is our great opportunity To not just hear it not just have it as knowledge But to really be diligent to make this happen in our daily experience Everything has been given to us. All we've got to do is remember that it's there Don't be opening the drawer a week from now and saying look the pliers were there the whole time We want to get there in these next hours in the day tomorrow in the day that follows In the days and weeks ahead.

We want to begin this process. Let it build its momentum. Let that chorus rise and Sing the praises of God in our lives and reflect his glory It is his glory and his virtue that calls us and it's his glory and his virtue that will be reflected in us when we really Exploit these wonderful gifts, but we'll close here for tonight in a word of prayer Father thank you for the truth of your word Thank you for the the beautiful picture that is painted in these words from the Apostle Peter and the wonderful Encouragement that it offers to us that our lives can be transformed our time and our day Can be redeemed and be invested in the eternal future We can be equipped and prepared for service both now and in the ages to come We thank you for these things and we ask your blessing on us and your enabling power through your spirit and through your word that these Things will come to fruition and be multiplied in our lives As we think about them and meditate on them in the days ahead.

We pray these things in Jesus name. Amen