

components and the exhortation is simply to “grow”. The things that help us in this, in part, are summarized in Peter’s conclusions.

II. Discussion:

A. Be careful to please the Lord v. 14 ff

We are cleansed by the blood of Christ and the challenge presented here is to be diligent that we are faithful to Him in the calling He has given us. We confess and are strengthened in areas where we fail and our great hope is to be a faithful representative of the Lord. Moving away from sinful or harmful practices, we are found “in peace” and in happy service to Him.

B. Be faithful in His witness v. 15

We see that this is a present time for telling others of the mercy of God and the redeeming love of the Lord. This is a matter for every individual believer and we cannot compare ourselves with others and then feel superior or inferior. We buy up the time, so to speak, to bring the Gospel to others before the end of the age comes in the will of God.

C. Be concerned for His glory v.18

Taking care not to fail in our purpose (v 17) we learn more of the Lord day by day, year by year, and in so doing we are working for His glory and honor. A higher motive than our own self-seeking will enable us to succeed in our purpose, not to fail or be less in the testimony of the Lord.

III. Conclusion: Continue to grow. Ironically you may not be able to see it in yourself but by prayer, fellowship with God, study of the Word, witness in life, we are able to grow and while we do not measure ourselves we have the confidence in the Lord that He knows and supervises. The basics for this lesson are back in John 15 and if we are living in fellowship with Him we cannot help but grow. The danger is that we will forget what the ultimate purpose is and be taken with purely things of our own world rather than the things of God and in this sense we may fail in our purpose. But that is not a necessary end...so continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and succeed in a life that honors the Lord.