

Virtue

2 Peter 1:5-10

I. What Is Virtue?

A. Definition

1. Virtue – arête – “a virtuous course of thought, feeling and action; virtue, moral goodness” Thayer
2. “used in extra-biblical contexts to describe the heroic acts of military men” – Paul Edward Perish

B. NT Usage

1. Four verses in the NT (2 Pet. 1:3, 5; 1 Pet. 2:9; Phil. 4:8)

II. Virtue Exemplified

A. The Babylonian King Selects (Dan. 1:3-4)

B. Daniel Portrays (Dan. 1:8; 6:3-4)

C. Examples

1. Abraham
2. Joseph
3. Job
4. Ruth
5. Josiah

III. Importance of Being Virtuous

A. Christ Calls Us to Be Virtuous (2 Pet. 1:3)

1. Called by The Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14)
2. Called to Be Virtuous (1 Thess. 2:12, 1 Thess. 4:7)

B. Christian Graces – Growth Begins With (2 Pet. 1:5)

1. And beside this – “for this very reason” ESV
2. What reason?
3. Vv. 3-4: *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*
4. Diligence – *“earnestness, diligence: interest one’s self most earnestly”* Thayer
5. Faith – the foundation or substructure of conviction
6. *“Believers, Peter is saying, must be lavish in the time and effort they put into developing their Christian lives – not being satisfied with getting by on the minimum, but striving like the choregos of old to achieve the finest and most attractive production.”* – Norman Hillier
7. Virtue – *“In secular Greek arête denoted the proper fulfillment of anything. The arête of a knife is to cut; of soil to be fertile. The arête of Christians is to fulfill the*

purpose God has in mind for each of them, by reproducing Christlikeness in every department of life.” – Norman Hillyer

C. Because Christ Is Virtuous (1 Pet. 2:9)

1. Context – redemption
2. *“the virtues, those perfections of the wisdom, justice, truth, and goodness of God, that shone most illustriously in the Christian dispensation. These they were to exhibit in a holy and useful life, being transformed into the image of God, and walking as Christ himself walked.” – Adam Clarke*
3. Albert Barnes
 - a. Praise in public, family and social worship
 - b. always the avowed friends of God
 - c. make known to those who are ignorant
 - d. consistent life of a devoted Christian

D. Focus of Our Attention (Phil. 4:8)

1. True, honest, just, pure, lovely, & good report – these compose virtue
2. Your mind will dwell on something – it should be on virtue!
3. Col. 3:2; 1 Thess. 5:22

IV. Conclusion (Ezek. 36:26-28)

Sermon outline by: Brad Shockley