

15 January 2012 - Preached by Dr Alan Cairns

Message Topic: **The progress of Grace in the Soul (I) – Virtue (2 Peter 1:5)**

Scripture Text: 2 Peter 1:1-11

1. When a person truly receives the grace of God in his life and is saved by faith in Jesus Christ, there will be a change and growth in his spiritual life. Salvation is never a one-time experience. When there is a real spiritual life in a person, there will be spiritual growth and fruit.

2. In 2 Peter 1:5, a true believer will give diligence to have progress in his spiritual life. This diligence means an earnest effort and making haste in the action. To grow in the Lord, one needs to be diligent in our spiritual endeavor.

3. We must add or furnish and supply to our faith all the necessary spiritual ingredients as listed in 2 Peter 1:5-7 – virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. When we have all these areas, we will live a life in harmony pleasing to God.

4. The first is Virtue which means excellence and courage. The excellence of a Christian is found in him to glorify God in everything. He follows Jesus Christ and reflects Christ in his life.

5. Virtue also means courage that we are strong in the Lord. We will face afflictions and trials but we can remain strong in the Lord knowing He will help us to bear them and make us stronger in our faith in Him.