BEING AN EFFECTIVE AND FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN
2 Peter 1:1-11

Introduction: 1) These are the final words of Peter to the Jewish Christians  2) Many make the mistake of thinking Peter is writing to people who think they are saved but are not. He is talking to Christians because: He asserts they are currently unfruitful and ineffective in their faith, they are living as if they had never been forgiven, and they can’t see into eternity because all they can focus on is the here and now. He is speaking to miserable Christians. He wants them to be effective and fruitful Christians, bringing glory to God, and to have assurance of their salvation, he wants them to enter heaven victorious.  3) These Christians have made two very serious mistakes and we need to see these today lest we become miserable Christians.

I. Two big mistakes
   A. Misunderstanding of the nature of faith
      1. They are thinking I have looked to Jesus for my salvation and now that is all I have to do. Faith will take care of everything from here on out. This is the misunderstanding of faith that thinks that Faith excludes works (Some make the mistake of thinking that if we include works with faith then we are thinking that works saves, not true faith does not have faith in works but true faith does work or it is not true faith) - James 2:14-20; Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 2:8-10
      2. The right understanding of faith is that faith understands that God is at work in us moving us to do good works - Galatians 5:6; Philippians 2:12,13; 4:13; 2 Peter 1:3-5 (The Christian life is a life of active passivity)
   B. They are spiritually lazy
      1. Peter tells us to diligently supplement our faith - 2 Peter 1:5 (illustration of a Christmas tree)
2. It’s amazing how Christians respond to worldly pursuits compared to spiritual pursuits (We can do some worldly activity for hours while we are exhausted with a few minutes of prayer or Bible study or Church services, lot of this has to do with spiritual laziness resulting from a lack of enjoyment in spiritual things, we can be treading dangerously into the love of the world which 1 John warns us not to do)

II. We are to supplement our faith - 2 Peter 1:5-7
   A. Virtue - This means power or energy. We are to pursue spiritual things energetically.
   B. Knowledge - We are to pursue the knowledge of the Scriptures and how to put into practice what we learn called wisdom. (proverbs is a book that pursues this activity)
   C. Self-Control - We are to be in self-control in all areas (Eating, drinking, sleeping, our emotions, not letting our feelings control our actions in sinful ways, our thought life, habits)
   D. Steadfastness - We need to learn not to give up but keep on going especially when it gets difficult to keep going (men ought always to pray and not give up, do not be weary in well doing, tribulation is designed to produce steadfastness in us)
   E. godliness - Seeking to become more like Christ by cultivating a deeper and growing relationship with Christ
   F. brotherly affection - Desiring the best for all of God’s children and helping them when you can (James is talking about this, this has a profound affect upon the unsaved)
   G. Love - This refers to those outside the faith especially those we don’t like very much

III. The results
   A. We will be fruitful and effective in serving and glorifying God with our lives - 2 Peter 1:8
B. You will have a more joyous life because you will enjoy God’s forgiveness of your sins and you will see eternity in front of you - 2 Peter 1:9
C. You will have assurance of salvation - 2 Peter 1:10
D. You will enter heaven as a victorious Christian - 2 Peter 1:11

Conclusion: 1) Peter was a great shepherd, he points out things that are wrong because he doesn’t want the saints to be miserable in this life and he wants them enjoy their salvation, living victorious lives bringing glory to God. 2) God has spoken to me about these things listed in this text and I can see some areas I still need to grow in, I need to trust God to help me grow in these areas and enlist the help of God’s people. Pick out your two most troubling areas and ask the Lord to help you work on them. Don’t choose to be a miserable Christian, be a happy Christian by growing in your faith.