

Studies in 2 Peter
Introduction (3)
2 Peter 1:3-4
Partakers of the
divine nature

Introducing 2 Peter - Previously

- We have begun studying 2 Peter. Last month we began examining Peter's introductory remarks.
- His common greeting
- How through the knowledge of Jesus, we have a "like precious faith".
- Today, we examine vs. 4

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

The context

- **Vs. 3** - His divine power has given us “all things that pertain to life and godliness”
We have everything we need to obtain and retain salvation!
We learn it because He has revealed it to us in His word.

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

The context

- **Vs. 4** – *By which are exceedingly great and precious promises...*
- There is hope associated with living for Him
 - **Past** – OT promises
 - **Future** – anticipated promise – 2nd return, heaven, vindication
 - **Present** – forgiveness, spiritual blessings, our Mediator, etc.

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

The context

- **Vs. 4** – *By which are exceedingly great and precious promises...*
- Our text involves ALL these promises!
- They are exceedingly great and precious – superior in quality, and of high value
Contrast this with what the world offers – **1 John 2:15-17**

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

The context

- **Vs. 4** – *By which are exceedingly great and precious promises...*
- Through such, we are “partakers of His divine nature”
- Because we have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. This is WHY we can partake of His divine nature. **Cf. 2 Peter 2:20-21**

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

- *Partakers* – a form of the word for fellowship.
Translated “partners” in
Luke 5:10, 2 Corinthians 8:23, Philemon 17.
This is about sharing with or being in fellowship with God!
- This gives us insight into how the ‘divine nature’ relates to us.

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

- *Divine nature* – a reference to God's nature
- The word divine (θεΐας, theias) is related the word for God (θεός, theos).
- Used 3x (**vs. 3 & 4, and Acts 17:29**)

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

- *Divine nature* – a reference to God's nature
- It means qualities that make God – God AND that he possesses.

• Thus, we are NOT God, nor will we ever become gods! We are not deity in any sense of the word.

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

- HOW are we partakers of His divine nature? Some suggested & plausible meanings:
- **Genesis 1:26-27** – we are made in His image. We should live as intended man to live from the beginning
- **Romans 13:14, Galatians 2:20** – since we have obeyed the gospel, we are to “put on Christ” and live for Him – **Philippians 1:21**

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

- HOW are we partakers of His divine nature? Some suggested & plausible meanings:
- A reminder of who we are in Him – **John 1:12, 1 Peter 1:23, Colossians 3:10, John 14:23** – in Him we have relationship (partakers)
- **Philippians 2:5** – we do our best to think like Him as we live. WWJD

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

- HOW are we partakers of His divine nature? Some suggested & plausible meanings:
- **1 Thessalonians 4:17** –
an anticipation of our future home in heaven where we will once and for all time be with Him and likely share in His glory!

Partakers of His divine nature - 1:4

- HOW are we partakers of His divine nature? Some suggested & plausible meanings:
- While all of these manifest true principles, the context ties it to *having escaped the pollutions of the world*. Thus, related to blessings associated with obeying the gospel. CAN we continue to live like the world? **NO! Romans 6:1-6, 1 John 3:6-9**

Characteristics of His divine nature

- SINCE we are to be partakers of His divine nature, consider some qualities of God that we ought to possess!
Ephesians 5:1, *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*

Characteristics of His divine nature

We ought to possess:

- **Holiness** – **1 Peter 1:15-16, Hebrews 12:14**
- **Love** – **1 John 4:7-8, 16, Ephesians 5:2**
- **Perfection** – be complete – **Matthew 5:48**
- **Mercy** – **Luke 6:36, Matthew 5:7**

Characteristics of His divine nature

We ought to possess:

- **Forgiveness** – **Matthew 6:14-15, 18:21ff**
- **Righteousness** – **Matthew 6:33, cf. Romans 1:16-17**
- **Goodness** – **Romans 2:4, 3 John 11**
- In this life, we will likely never achieve the degree God possesses these, but we ought to keep working toward that end

Are you a partaker
of His divine
nature?

Let us pray!