

THE DIVINE NATURE.

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INTRO.:

A. Text: **2 Peter 1:3-4.**

B. Regarding the text:

1. We sing “we will follow the steps of Jesus...” The “divine nature”.
2. Christians are to partake of “divine nature” (**v. 4**).
 - 1) The opposite of sinful nature.
 - a. **Matt. 5:44** is an example
 - b. “Human nature” is acquired, not inherited.
 - 2) One is from God; one is developed by conforming to the world (**Rom. 12:1-2**).
3. The divine nature opposes the “corruption of the world.”

C. Christians are supplied the information, motivation, and method for developing the Divine Nature:

I. THE INFORMATION TO DEVELOP THE DIVINE NATURE (VS. 3).

A. We have the completed revelation. (**2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jude 3; 2 Pet. 1:3** “All things...”)

1. The source of our faith (**Rom. 10:17**)
2. The word is the guide for our practice (**Col. 3:17; 2 Cor. 5:7**).

B. We have the church to exhort and encourage us (**1 Thess. 5:11; Phil. 2:2**).

II. THE PROMISE CONNECTED TO THE DIVINE NATURE (VS. 4).

A. The value of any promise depends on:

1. The value of the promise itself.
2. The ability and willingness of the one who promised ().

B. We enjoy unconditional promises.

1. God’s promise to send the Savior (**Gen. 3:15; John 3:16; Matt. 1:21** “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”).
2. Christ will come to judge ALL of mankind (**2 Cor. 5:10** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”)

C. There are great and precious conditional promised.

1. Salvation from sin (**Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21** “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...”)
2. God’s providential care Christians (**Matt. 6:33** “seek ye first... and these things shall be added unto you.” **Psalms 37:25** “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”)

III. THE METHOD FOR DEVELOPING THE DIVINE NATURE (VS. 4).

A. By escaping the pollution of the world (**Rom. 6:4, 17-18** “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”)

B. By adding “to your faith...” The Christian graces (**Vss. 5-11**).

C. By “prayer and supplication with thanksgiving” (**Phil. 4:6**).

IV. CONCLUSION

A. In what kind of nature do we find ourselves?

B. Walking with God develops our divine nature (**Rom. 8:1**).