

His Divine Power

Michael Green asks: "What is it that attracts a person to Jesus?" His answer: the *glory* and *goodness* of Jesus. One of the first times Peter met Jesus he was so overwhelmed by Jesus that he felt within himself that he was defiled, dirty, unclean, unworthy. "*Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!*" (Luke 5:8). Yet Jesus did not go away. He did not leave. And Peter stayed with him. Why did Peter stick with Jesus? Why would any of us want to? "His person attracts" (M.G.). *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness* (2 Pet 1:3).

When Peter wrote these words, he was using words that were familiar to the culture. For example, the word *divine*. He uses it twice:

divine power (2 Pet 1:3)

divine nature (2 Pet 1:4).

In the Bible it is only used here and in Acts 17 where apostle Paul uses it when he speaks to the people in Athens, Greece; words that would again be familiar to the culture. "*... we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by man's design and skill*" (Acts 17:29). In the Greek translation of the Old Testament the word *divine* is avoided, likely because it implied that the true God was impersonal, far away, unknowable (J.N.D. Kelly). But the word *divine* was popular in Peter's day for the people he was writing to.

Speaking of popular, our culture is constantly sending us row upon row of messages. Have we noticed? How many of us here watch t.v.? What happens between the programs we watch, what do we call those 30-second blurbs between? Commercials! Advertisements! Every one of them is telling us the same thing: we don't have everything we need, so we should use our silver and gold or our Master Cards to buy what we need so we'll have everything we need for a little while until the next time when we discover we don't have everything we need! Peter here reminds us that because of God's power and out of God's nature we have everything we need.

Everything we need: for what? *For life and godliness*. What kind of life are we talking about? Dallas Willard speaks about "The Divine Conspiracy," and the conspiracy is this: that he, God, through Jesus Christ, will grant us free of charge, with no small-print conditions, no clauses that tell of exclusions; God will give us "the eternal kind of life." This eternal kind of life comes to us because of "the triple agency of the promises, the power and the person of the Lord Jesus" (M.G.).