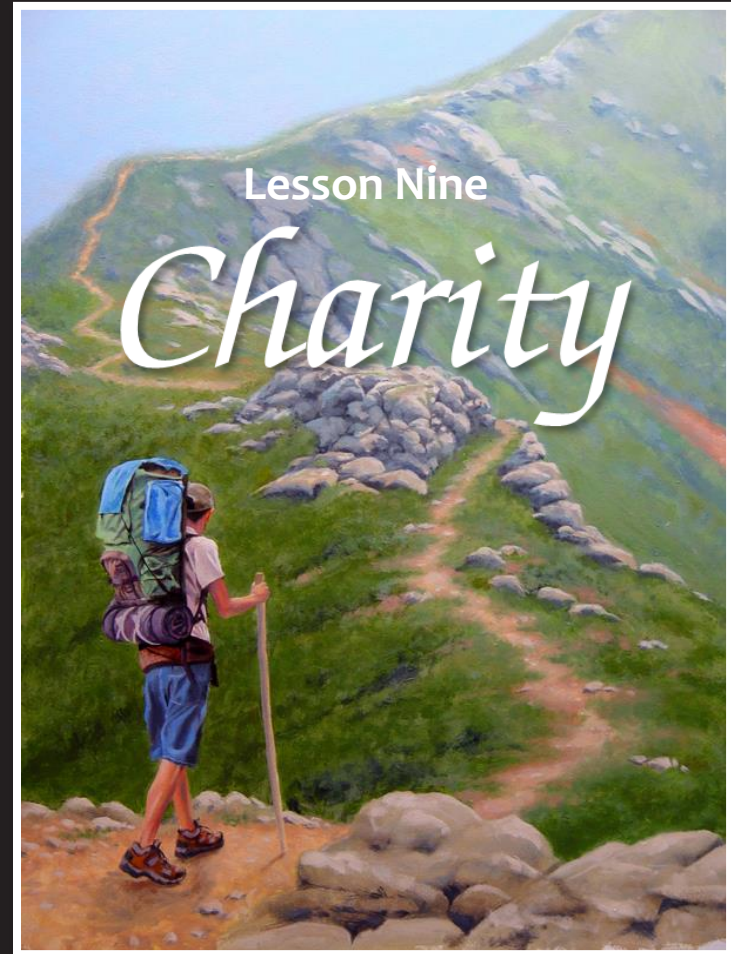


**IF YE DO
THESE
THINGS,
YE SHALL
NEVER
FALL**



On the same night he was betrayed and arrested, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment:

John 13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you,

**That ye love one another;
as I have loved you,
that ye also love one another.**

³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.



Previously, Jesus had taught his disciples to live by what is called the Golden Rule:

Luke 6:31

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.



This is as noble as natural man can be,
but it is ultimately self-serving.

Luke 6:31

And as ye would that men should
do to you, do ye also to them
likewise.



The new standard for love was the self-denying kind shown by Christ himself.

John 13:34-35

- ³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you,
That ye love one another;
as I have loved you,
that ye also love one another.
- ³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.



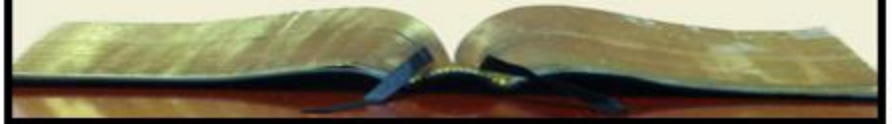
Later that same night, Peter denied Jesus three times. It was the last time Peter saw him alive in the flesh.



The next time Peter saw Jesus was after the resurrection. Would it now be Christ's turn to deny Peter? Remember what Jesus had said before:

Matthew 10:33

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.





Instead, Jesus took Peter aside and asked him a question:

John 21:15-17

¹⁵ So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter,

Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?

He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.

He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

¹⁶ He saith to him again the second time,

Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?

He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.

He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

¹⁷ He saith unto him the third time,

Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?

Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.

Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.



Jesus did not ask, “Do you love my sheep?”
He asked, “Do you love ME?”

We love God because he first loved us.
Because he loved us, we can love one
other with that same kind of love.

1 John 4:10-11

- ¹⁰ Herein is love, **not that we loved God, but that he loved us**, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- ¹¹ Beloved, **if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.**





In the King James Bible, this kind of selfless, sacrificial love is called **charity**.

Today we use the word **charity** in regard to donations made to the poor, but it is more than that.

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NOAH WEBSTER 1828

CHARITY, *noun*

In a **general sense**, love, benevolence, good will; that disposition of heart which inclines men to think favorably of their fellow man, and to do them good.

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NOAH WEBSTER 1828

CHARITY, *noun*

In a general sense, love, benevolence, good will; that disposition of heart which inclines men to think favorably of their fellow man, and to do them good.

In a theological sense, it includes supreme love to God, and universal good will to men.

Just as the moon generates no light of its own, this love is not generated by man. It is a reflection of the love of Christ.



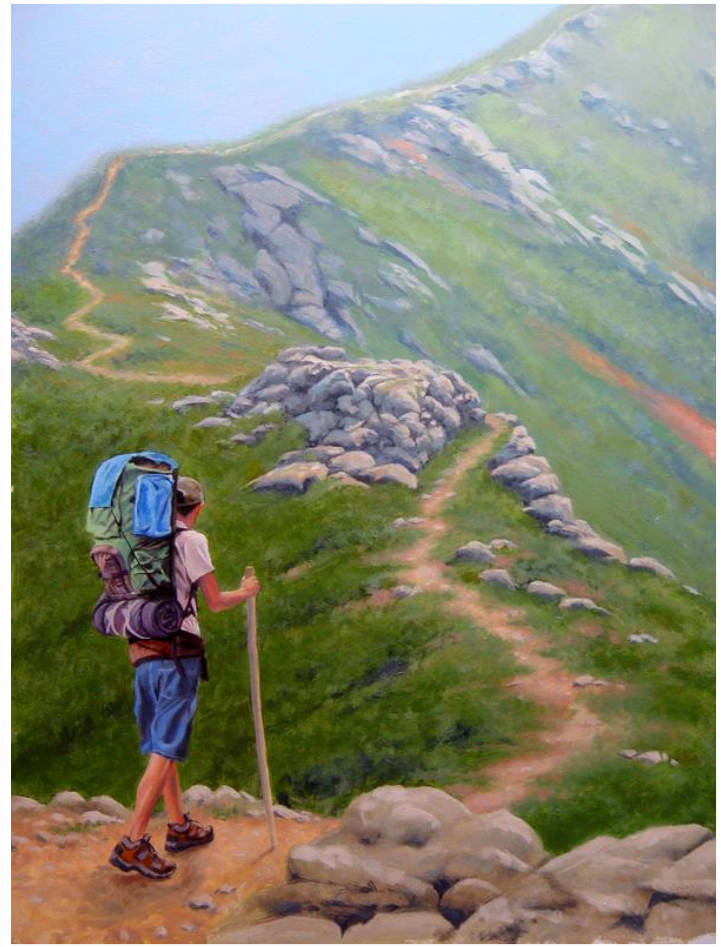
Without it, our best works lose their value.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **and have not charity,** I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
- 2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, **and have not charity,** I am nothing.

- 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, **and have not charity,** it profiteth me nothing.

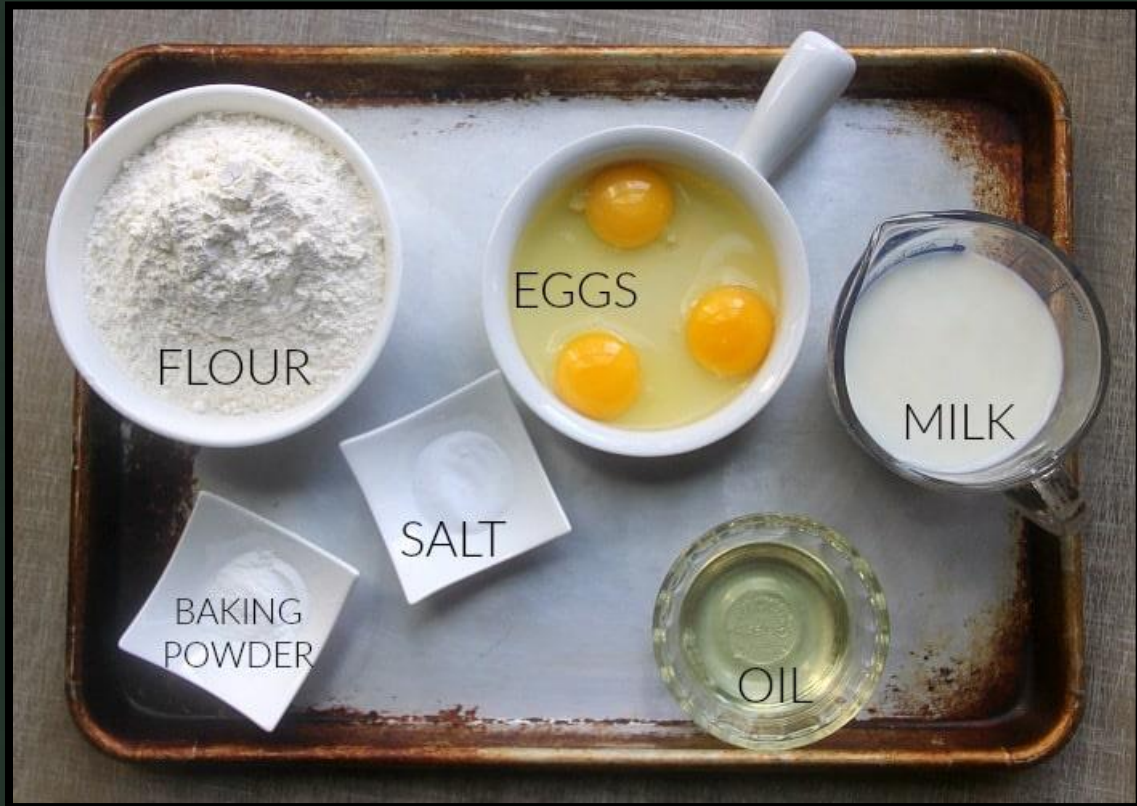
You could also say,
Though I have faith,
and I add to the faith, virtue;
and to virtue, knowledge;
and to knowledge, temperance;
and to temperance, patience;
and to patience, godliness;
and to godliness, brotherly kindness...



You could also say,
Though I have faith,
and I add to the faith, virtue;
and to virtue, knowledge;
and to knowledge, temperance;
and to temperance, patience;
and to patience, godliness;
and to godliness, brotherly kindness...
until I add *charity*, it adds up to nothing.



Think of the different ingredients needed to make bread:



They need to be proportionately mixed and kneaded together.



But dough still needs
to be properly baked.

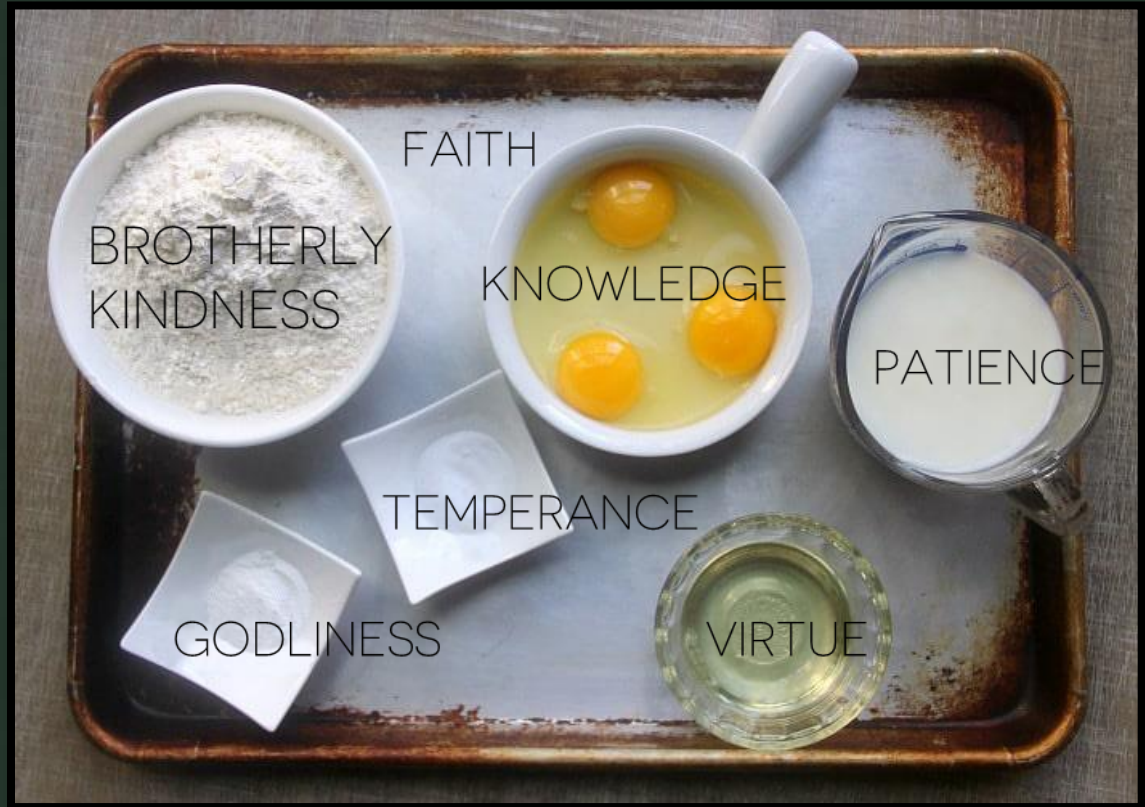


Love is the oven that
transforms all the
parts into what they
were meant to be.



Without love, our
Christianity is raw and
unappetizing.

Something very
beautiful is reduced to
a long, boring lecture.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- 4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind;
charity envieth not;
charity vaunteth not itself,
is not puffed up,
- 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly,
seeketh not her own,
is not easily provoked,
thinketh no evil;
- 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity,
but rejoiceth in the truth;
- 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things,
hopeth all things, endureth all things.
- 8 Charity never faileth:

The perfect love of Christ is embodied by these qualities listed in 1 Corinthians 13:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Proverbs 25:15

By long forbearing is a prince
persuaded, and a soft tongue
breaketh the bone.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Proverbs 14:30

A sound heart *is* the life of the
flesh: but envy the rottenness
of the bones.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Proverbs 27:2

Let another man praise thee,
and not thine own mouth;
a stranger,
and not thine own lips.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Proverbs 25:27

*It is not good to eat much
honey: so for men to search
their own glory is not glory.*



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Proverbs 16:17

The highway of the upright
is to depart from evil:
he that keepeth his way
preserveth his soul.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Proverbs 13:7

There is that maketh himself rich,
yet *hath* nothing:
there is that maketh himself poor,
yet *hath* great riches.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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2 Corinthians 8:9

For ye know the grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ, that, though he was
rich, yet for your sakes he became
poor, that ye through his poverty
might be rich.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Proverbs 15:18

A wrathful man stirreth up strife:
but *he that* is slow to anger
appeaseth strife.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Proverbs 15:26

The thoughts of the wicked *are*
an abomination to the LORD:
but *the words* of the pure *are*
pleasant words.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Proverbs 24:17-18

- 17 Rejoice not when thine enemy
falleth, and let not thine heart be
glad when he stumbleth:
- 18 Lest the LORD see *it*, and it
displease him, and he turn away
his wrath from him.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Psalm 119:128

Therefore I esteem all *thy*
precepts concerning all *things* to
be right;
and I hate every false way.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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1 Corinthians 13:8

... but whether *there be* prophecies,
they shall fail;
whether *there be* tongues,
they shall cease;
whether *there be* knowledge,
it shall vanish away.



Charity is the correct response to everything God asks of us.

1 Timothy 1:5

Now **the end of the commandment** is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:



It is the governing principle of Christian living.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Let **all your things** be done with charity.



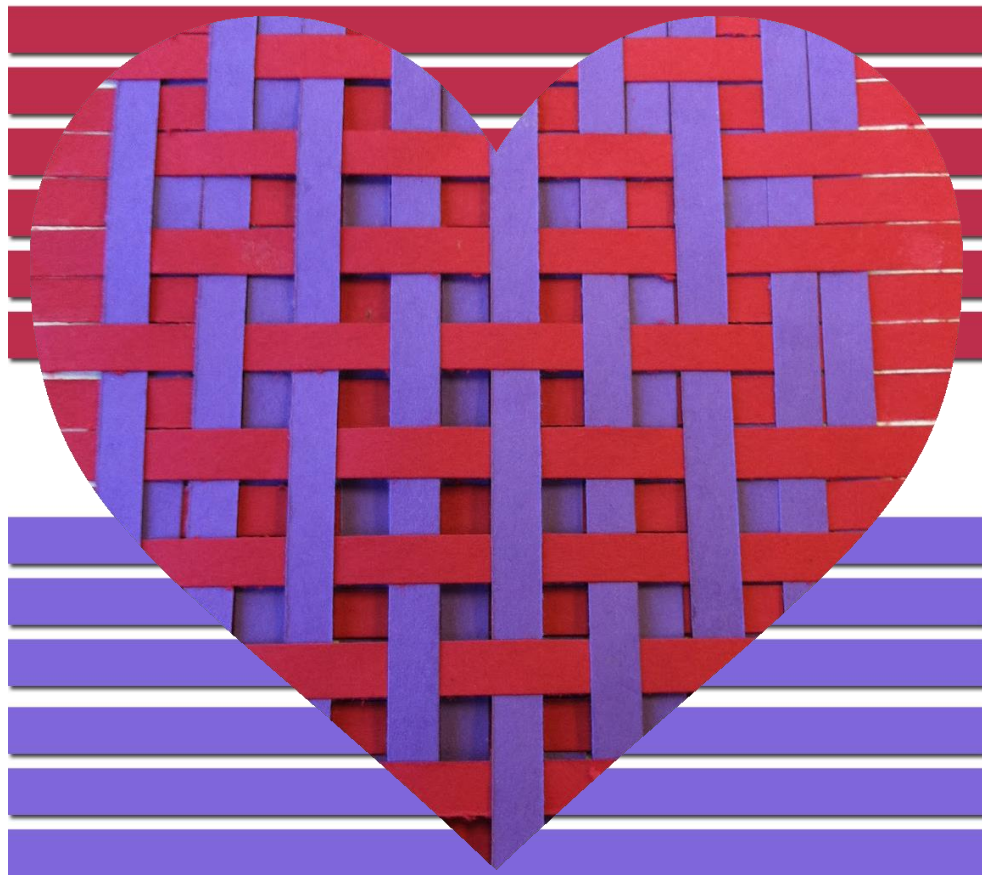


Now, as the saying goes,
birds of a feather flock together.



Any doctrine (true or false) divides people into two camps:

those who believe it,
and those who do not.



Only charity *transcends* doctrine to knit people together.

Colossians 2:2

That their hearts might be comforted, **being knit together in love**, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;



Charity is the glue that
keeps us together.

Colossians 3:14

And above all these things
put on charity, which is the
bond of perfectness.



And thankfully, charity hides away our sins.

1 Peter 4:8

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves:
for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

It is the greatest reality of all.

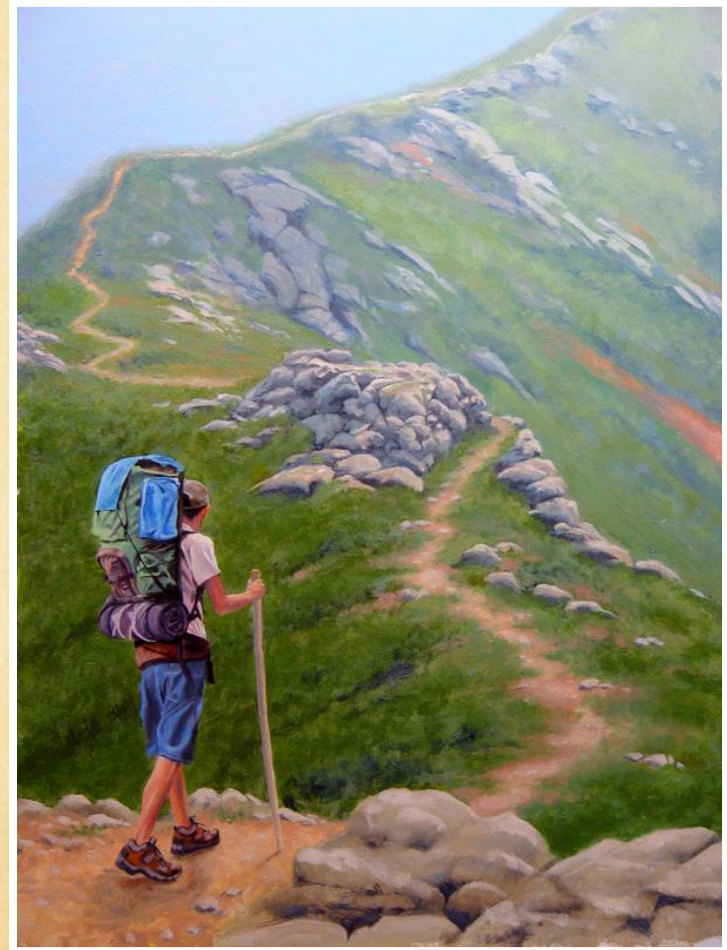
1 Corinthians 13:13

And now abideth faith, hope,
charity, these three;

but the greatest of these *is* charity.



Putting these things together one more time ...



2 Peter 1:5-7, 10

5 And beside this, giving all diligence,

add to your **faith**
virtue;

and to virtue **knowledge;**

6 And to knowledge **temperance;**

and to temperance **patience;**

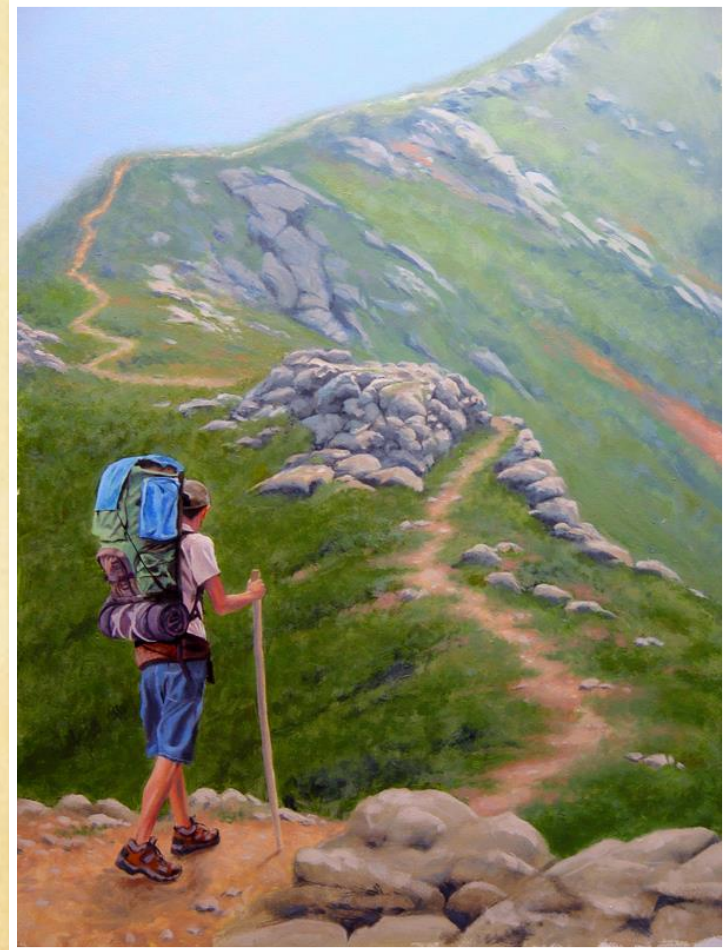
and to patience **godliness;**

7 And to godliness **brotherly kindness;**

and to brotherly kindness **charity.**

10 ...give diligence to make your calling
and election sure:

**for if ye do these things, ye shall never
fall:**



Without **faith**, we cannot please God.

Without **faith**, we cannot please God.
Without **virtue**, our faith is dead.

Without **faith**, we cannot please God.

Without **virtue**, our faith is dead.

Without **knowledge**, our efforts will be misguided.

Without **faith**, we cannot please God.

Without **virtue**, our faith is dead.

Without **knowledge**, our efforts will be misguided.

Without **temperance**, our knowledge will puff us up.

Without **faith**, we cannot please God.

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Without **godliness**, we will be corrupted by the unbelieving world.

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Without **godliness**, we will be corrupted by the unbelieving world.

We are called to one body, so we must add **brotherly kindness**.

Without faith, we cannot please God.

Without virtue, our faith is dead.

Without knowledge, our efforts will be misguided.

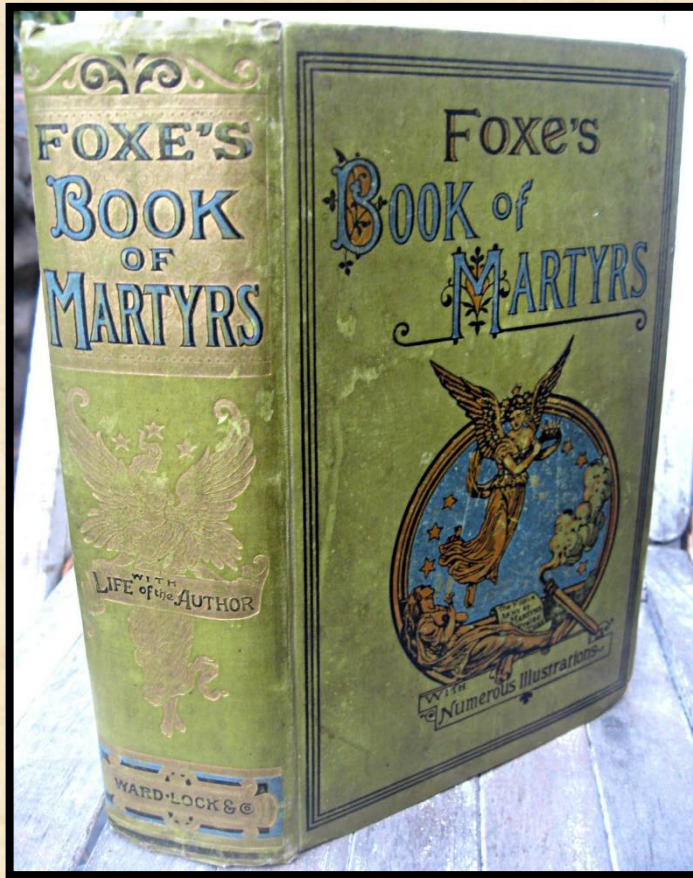
Without temperance, our knowledge will puff us up.

Without patience, we will grow weary in well doing.

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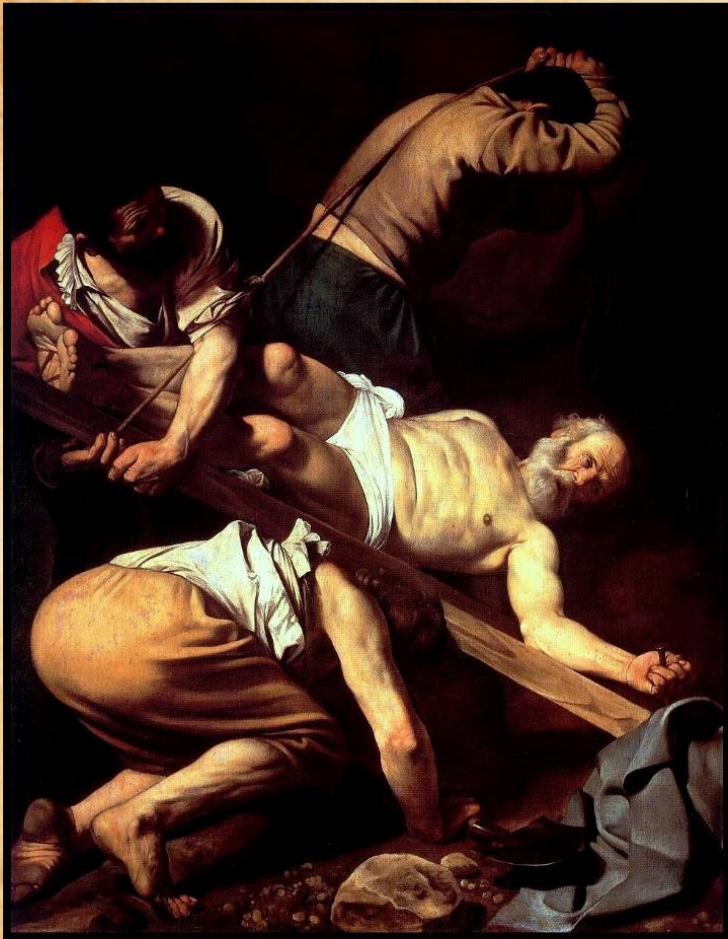
We are called to one body, so we must add brotherly kindness.

But without **charity**, it is all just a bunch of noise.



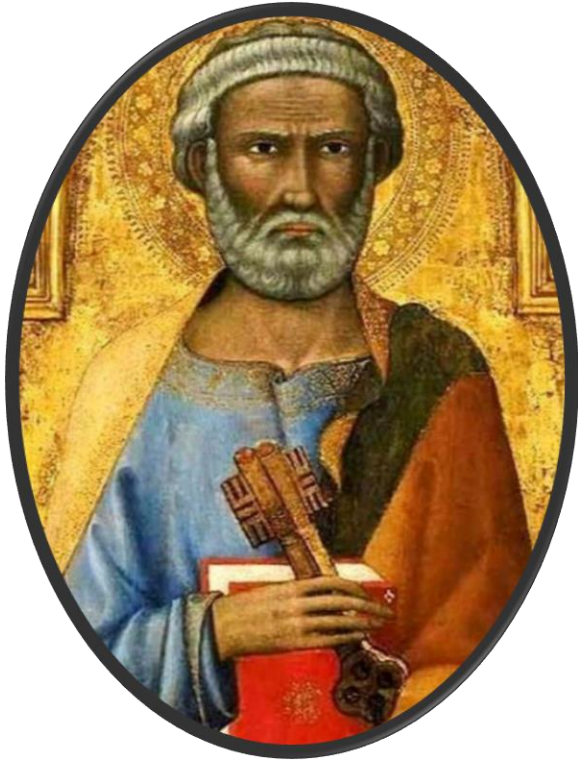
As we know, this second letter from Peter was written shortly before his death.

Foxe's Book of Martyrs states that according to writings of Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus (aka St. Jerome), Peter was executed in Rome by order of the emperor Nero.



“He was crucified, his head being down and his feet upward, himself so requiring, because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was.”

We do well to keep Peter's words of wisdom in remembrance:

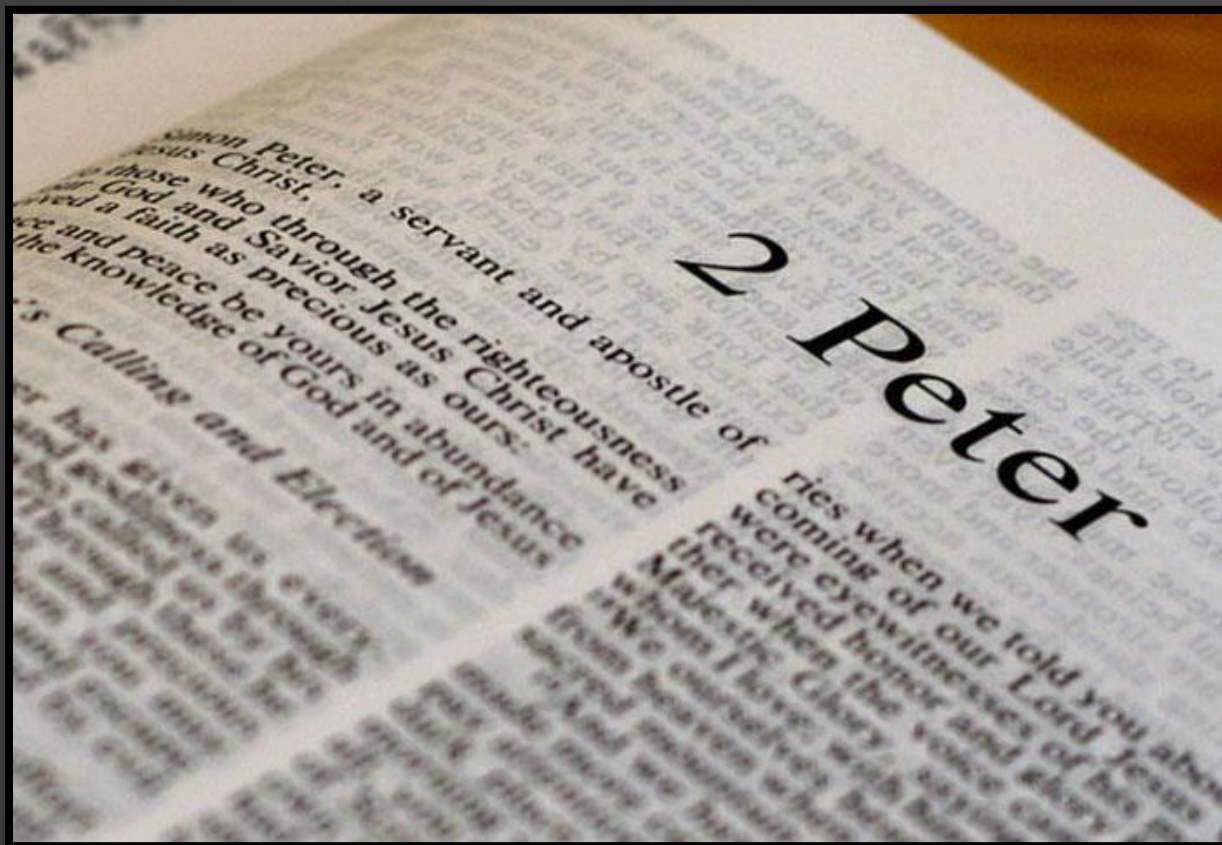


2 Peter 1:12-15

- ¹² Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know *them*, and be established in the present truth.
- ¹³ Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;
- ¹⁴ Knowing that shortly I must put off *this* my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.
- ¹⁵ Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

Do these things!
Do not hear them only.

For if ye do these things,
ye shall never fall.





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