## Introduction:

- A. We know that growth in the Lord is necessary:
  - 1. If not we become "useless or unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." V. 8
  - 2. What this says about us is that we are "blind and short-sighted having forgotten (our) purification from our former sins." **V. 9**
- B. Has that knowledge of truth (necessity of growth) mean we've always been "giving all diligence" in our growth in Jesus Christ?
  - 1. Apparently not: just reflect upon your life.
  - 2. This is a problem so very many Christians have.

## **Discussion:**

- I. Our Problem With 'Giving All Diligence'
  - A. We live in the flesh. Cp. Rom. 7:14-15
  - B. Practically, we don't live with a great enough appreciation for what God and Jesus Christ have done for us. Cp. Lk. 7:40-43
    - 1. The more we appreciate something/someone the more we manifest that appreciation.
    - 2. In today's busy world it is easy to use our lifestyle as an excuse to manifest our appreciation...
    - 3. ...Yet that is exactly the problem: the world takes hold of our lives and we lose sight of what we already know to be the most important in/to our lives. **V. 9**
- II. Motivation to Give All Diligence?
  - A. Keeping fresh (through God's word and worship of Him) *His precious and magnificent promises*.
    V. 4
  - B. Spending much time:
    - 1. Remembering His death for our life.
    - 2. Praising His name because ours was stained with sin.
    - 3. Confessing His name to/before others because He is the author and finisher of our salvation.
- III. "All Diligence" Looks Like...
  - A. A child who looks to honor their parents as young Christians. Eph. 6:1-3
  - B. A parent who trains up their children in the way they should go. Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6
  - C. A young couple (not married) who flees 'youthful lusts' but instead pursues righteousness. 2 Tim. 2:22
  - D. An employee/employer who fulfills their relationships and responsibilities "as unto the Lord". **Eph. 6:5-9**
  - E. It looks like a brother in Christ living with longsuffering alongside a weak Christian. Eph. 4:2
  - F. A Christian who desires/longs for the pure milk of God's word (1 Pet. 2:1). 2 Pet. 1:2, 5, 8
  - G. But doing such is difficult for anyone...unless he is willing to be transformed into God's workmanship for eternity. **Eph. 2:10; 2 Pet. 1:3**
  - H. That's where this 'list' comes in. We need to be diligent about "adding to our faith"... vss. 5-8

## Conclusion:

- A. Brethren, long for the Lord with a true knowledge of Him and what He has done for you.
- B. In this manner you will learn how to apply all diligence to grow in your Savior, Jesus Christ.