SCRIPTURE:
“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

–2 Peter 1:1–4 (NIV)

MEDITATION: The Awesome Grace and Peace of Our God
In this passage, the apostle Peter began his second letter to Christians scattered throughout a multitude of areas. As in many other letters from this time, there are wishes for abundant grace and peace upon his audience. Something about studying this introduction when I did, struck a chord in me. Perhaps it was a result of living in isolation for so long or witnessing the social unrest across the United States or facing the saddening amount of death and instability in so many families of the world. In all cases, grace and peace seemed to be far from humanity. I wondered, how can we have this grace and peace?

Peter immediately answers this and says, “through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.” Peter points out that this grace and peace is accessed through our relationship with God. God is the foundation of it all. He both calls us into a relationship with him and ensures us that we will have everything we need to live and grow in those relationships.
What is so awesome about this? It becomes clear that no matter our condition in this world, it is always true that we have everything we need to live a life with God. Through his glory and goodness, he has called us into a relationship that cannot be shaken. In the persecution of the church during the writing of this letter, this was true. In the fall of Rome and the chaos of the medieval period that followed, this was true. In the darkest days of the World Wars, this was true. In the threat of nuclear fallout during the Cold War, this was true. And now, in this time of pandemic, economic hardship, and social unrest, this is still true. Our Father has not forgotten or abandoned us. He desires us. He has called us to abide in him. And he has ensured that we lack nothing in order to do so.

In this short passage, Peter reminds us to take stock of who God is and what he has done for us. Peter urges us to remember our relationship with him and what that means. It means that we have a stable foundation that will endure all hardships and trials. It means that we have received grace that will never be taken away. And it means we have a savior who will return for us and draw us into his eternal kingdom full of grace and peace.

REFLECTION:
Do you know God? If so, do you know him more than you did yesterday? Spend some time with God today to get to know him more.

1. If you do not know God, what is holding you back? Spend some time honestly assessing where you are at with your relationship with him. Reach out to a trusted friend or family member to investigate your concerns and questions.
2. What are God's "very great and precious promises" that he has given to you that allow you to participate in the divine nature?
3. When is the last time you reflected on God's promises he has made to you? Spend some time investigating these promises and God's character.

PRAYER:
Father, thank you for your glory and goodness. Thank you for calling each of us to be with you. Thank you for your great and precious promises. Thank you that we are not defined by our past lives and the troubles of our days, but that you help us to move toward you. Thank you for the identity you have given me and to all your children. I humbly ask for your grace and peace to be with your people. So many have suffered in so many ways. I know that you care for them and have good things in store for them. Please strengthen our hope and faith in the eternal life with you that you promised. For you do not lie, Lord. Amen.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Derek Wei is a second year PhD student at Cornell University studying biochemistry under Dr. Gunther Hollopeter. Derek completed his undergraduate studies at Otterbein University in Ohio. He first heard about the ASA through an unexpected email exchange with Francis Collins. He is now serving as the prayer committee coordinator for the ASA. He and his wonderful wife, Sophie, are living in Ithaca, New York, where they attend Bethel Grove Bible Church.