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THE BEREANS


ACTS 17:11

2 Peter 1:5-8
Lesson #3
The Way of the Cross
10/03/2021

2 Peter

Finding our way in a Confused World


Salutation	Three aspects of staying on track.		
Faith and the faith	Cultivate a mature faith in sync with Scripture.	Count the cost of worldly alternatives.	Clarify true and false hope.
1:1-4	1:5-15 1:16-21	2:1-22	3:1-18
	Holiness	Heresy	Hope



- Christian conversion is not the end but the beginning.
- Developing Christian character is a process that follows conversion.

1

“Holiness is not the way to Christ; Christ is the way to holiness. Better still, Christ is our holiness.”



Charles Spurgeon

2

We “in Christ”	Christ “in us”
Our Position by faith	Our Performance by faithfulness
Secure & complete	Dynamic & a process
Fit for heaven	Fit for earth
What Christ DID FOR us	What Christ DOES IN and THROUGH us
The Word of the Cross	The Way of the Cross
Coming TO Christ	Following AFTER Christ

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2 Peter 1

“5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your **faith** supply **moral excellence**, and in *your* moral excellence, **knowledge**, 6 and in *your* knowledge, **self-control**, and in *your* self-control, **perseverance**, and in *your* perseverance, **godliness**, 7 and in *your* godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in *your* brotherly kindness, **love**. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither **useless** nor **unfruitful** in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- If we want to be useful “salt and light” in this world, **we must nurture and build on our faith.**

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The point of 2 Peter 1

Christianity is not just about our initial **CONVERSION**.

It is also about
inner **CHARACTER**
and outer **CONDUCT**

lest it be **CHEAPENED**
and **USELESS**
(in this life).

5

A key observation #1

The faith (noun = Christian message) starts with what God has done.

- We are saved “by faith” apart from “good works” but not without a call to “good works”.

Ephesians 1:3

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,**”

Ephesians 4:1

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of **the calling with which you have been called,**”

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Ephesians 2

“8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

2 Peter 1:2-4

“4 Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.”

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

2 Peter 1:5-7

“5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, 7 and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.”

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Romans 12

“1 I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God,** to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

2 And **do not be conformed to this world,** but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**”

8

A key observation #2

The faith is focused on mirroring God’s image (character development).

- The end game is not: **emotional experience, political social reform, or world evangelism.**
- This is **consistent** with the other N.T. epistles.

Ephesians 4

“1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of **the calling with which you have been called,** . . . 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,**”

9

If you are a new convert
we want you to learn.
**so that after you have learned
you can teach others.**

If you are a wounded believer
we want you to heal.
**so that after you have healed
you can lift up others.**

If you are burned out in ministry
we want you to rest.
**so that after you have rested
you can relieve others.**

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A key observation #3

Bearing God’s Image is a process.

- Spiritual “New birth” is **like physical birth** in that it is just the beginning of a long process.

Hebrews 5

“12 For though **by this time** you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to **teach** you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a **babe.** 14 But solid food is for the **mature,** who because of **practice** have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”

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*How does God's image surface
in our lives in a useful (active) way?*

3. Sharing the values	brotherly kindness (decency)	love (devotion)
2. Spurning the alternatives	self-control (discipline)	perseverance (determination)
1. Sharpening the vision	moral virtue (design)	knowledge (direction)

faith (dependance)

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13 |

14

15 |

16

LIKE JESUS.

17 |

2. Spurning the alternatives

self-control (discipline) perseverance (determination)

- One of the strongest argument for Christianity is - consider the alternatives!
- America is not God's embassy on earth. We are and have always been aliens here.
- Aliens need to buck the winds of this world. What do we say "NO" to and "WHY"?

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1 Cor.13:4-7

Love is a response and contrast to

patient	trials	(depression)
kind	insults	(retaliation)
not jealous	success of others	(envy)
does not brag	success of self	(pride)
is not arrogant	power & authority	(arrogance)
is not unbecoming	freedom	(moral laxness)
not self seeking	competition	(selfishness)
is not provoked	confrontation	(combativeness)
holds no grudges	injustice	(cruelty)
does not rejoice	failure of others	(punitiveness)
rejoices in the truth	gossip & slander	(insensitivity)
bears all things	losses	(giving up)
hopes all things	bad news	(pessimism)
endures all things	delayed hopes	(give up)

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3. Sharing the values

brotherly kindness (decency) love (devotion)

- The Body of Christ (image of God) is a **community of disciples** with differing roles but a common Spirit.

Ephesians 4

"¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the **building up of the body of Christ;**"

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3. Sharing the values

brotherly kindness (decency) love (devotion)

- We bear the image of God but we are just one part of the diverse Body of Christ.
- We are to put our best foot forward without losing our balance or kicking our neighbor.
- We must see empathy as one of the first signs of community.

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Lessons

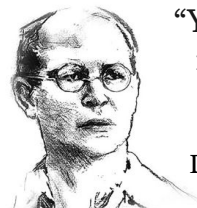
- Receiving Christ by faith is not the end, but **the beginning of a process.**
- Bearing "God's Image" starts with **character and leads to community.**
- Discipleship will **test our stamina and abiding faith.**
- The emphasis of **Apostolic teaching in Scripture** is key to interpreting the details.

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Discipleship is the Word of the Cross spoken through the Way of the Cross.

"It is only because he became like us that we can become like him."

"Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life."



"Your life as a Christian should make non believers question their disbelief in God."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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