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THE BEREANS


ACTS 17:11

2 Peter 1:9-11
Lesson #4
Assurance and Recognition
10/10/2021

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



Building a basis for security in the faith.

1

Context

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.”

2

This week's text

“9 For the one who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, having **forgotten his purification** from his former sins.10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to **make certain** about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will **never stumble**.”


How can I have assurance of saving faith?

“11 for in this way the **entrance into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be **abundantly supplied** to you.”

How will my spiritual virtue in this life affect my experience in the next life?

3

The Gospel



What is done **FOR** us
Redemption

What is done **IN** us
Regeneration

What is done **THROUGH** us
Reformation

4

How are redemption, regeneration, and reformation related?

Are there two sides to saving faith?

1.

What Christ has done for us

2.

What Christ is doing to & through us

Do people have to display the obedience of a disciple of Christ before their faith is genuine?

5

2 Corinthians 5:10

“For we must all appear before the judgment-seat (Bema) of Christ, that each one may be **recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done**, whether good or bad.”

Romans 4

“⁴ Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. ⁵ But to the one who does not work, but **believes** in him who **justifies the ungodly**, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,”



6

Can a person have full assurance of saving faith without good works?

Some say “NO”

Others say “YES”

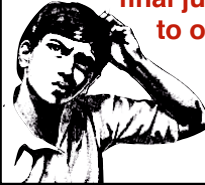
Roman Catholics see faith as a means to holy living which justifies us before God.

Commitment of faith (expressed in baptism) justifies us before any good works are done.

The Bible links the final judgment to our works.

OUR deeds will influence our rewards but not our salvation.

Many Protestants say faith must be notarized by moral virtue.



7

This is often a misunderstood caricature of grace / faith.

What constitutes true repentance and saving faith?

This is the expected fruit of saving faith, but not the essence of it.

Too little

Level #1

Superficial association
“knowing about the Gospel”

Level #2

Intellectual assent
“superficial faith confession”

Level #3

Committed Trust
“heartfelt confession of faith”

Too much

Level #4

Commitment to holy living
(a pure heart)

Level #5

Living a life of obedience
(a pure life)

8

Saving Faith
is inseparable from
commitment.

Commitment is key to
certainty.

Certainty build's
character.
Character is expressed in
conduct.

9

Matthew 6:21

“Where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also.”

We can be assured of eternal life -

- **because Christ paid our dues** and is our righteousness.
- **when we are “in Christ” by faith**, trusting what God has done in Christ for us.
- **as we consummate our union with Christ** by investing our lives in following him.

10

Sharing the values

brotherly kindness (decency) love (devotion)
godliness (demeanor)

Spurning the alternatives

self-control (discipline) perseverance (determination)

Sharpening the vision

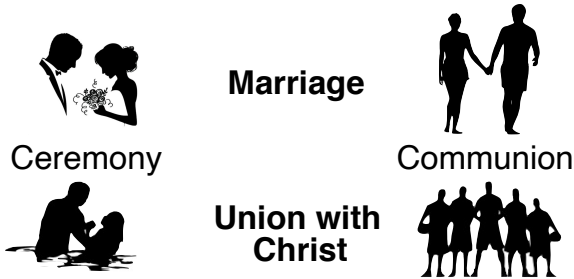
moral virtue (design) knowledge (direction)

faith (dependance)

11

Lessons for us

1. All who have a **committed trust and heartfelt confession of faith in Christ** are secure.
2. Assurance of this security comes from **active, growing, communion with Christ.**



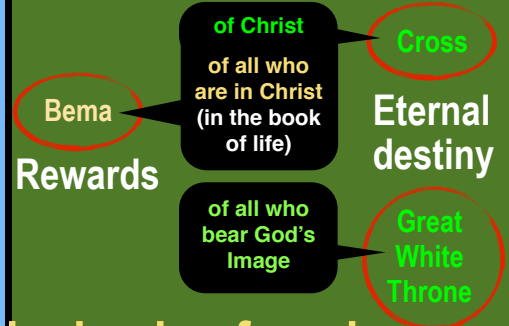
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Biblical Judgments

This life

- Natural Law
- Discipline
- Etc.

After this life



It is on the basis of works.

13

Both believers and nonbelievers will give an account of their works before God.

Romans 14

“10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat (**Bema**) of God. 11 For it is written, “*As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God.*” 12 So then **each one of us shall give account of himself to God.**”

14

Revelation 20

“12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. . . . 15 **And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**”

Names in the “Lamb’s book of life” (13:8, 21:27) **will escape condemnation (Rom.8:1-2).**

15

Philippians 4

“3 Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help . . . my fellow workers, **whose names are in the book of life.** 4 Rejoice **in the Lord** always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 **Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds **in Christ Jesus.**”

16

The “Bema” judgment of believers will expose the motives behind behavior.

1 Corinthians 4:5

“Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both **bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts;** and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”

17

The “Bema” judgment of believers will reward them for ministry.

1 Corinthians 3

“⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but **each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.** ⁹ For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

Moral virtue

Christ’s provision
for our need of
holiness

Ministry value

our labor for the
building up of the
Body of Christ

18

The issue is - how Christians build on their faith in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3

“¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man **builds upon the foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. ¹⁴ If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, he shall **receive a reward.** ¹⁵ If any man’s work is burned up, he shall **suffer loss**; but **he himself shall be saved**, yet so as through fire”

The judgment for reward and loss is based on the believer’s works, **but not for their salvation.**

19

The judgment of believers

1 Cor.3:10-14

of the
Spirit

The works

of the
flesh

The Foundation
Christ

20

How does my present conduct affect my afterlife -

- **not in terms of eternal security** if I am “in Christ” by faith.
- **but in terms of reward and loss** of worship gifts (?).

Which glass
is fullest?

Which glass
holds the most
water?



21

Lessons for us

1. **Christ is the righteousness of all believers** as they stand before God in the final judgment.
2. Believer’s motives, words, & deeds in this life will be **exposed** and judged.

What might this be like?

- Deeds of the flesh may bring tears **that will be wiped away and inspire worship.**
- Deeds of the Spirit may surprise us **and bring “awe” that will inspire worship.**

22

The drama of two crowns

- ✓ The Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8)
- ✓ The Crown of Victory (1 Cor. 9:25-27)
- ✓ The Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19)
- ✓ The Crown of Life (Jas. 1:12, Rev. 2:10)
- ✓ The Crown of Glory (1 Pet. 5:4)



Crown (shame)

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,



Crown (glory)

so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

23