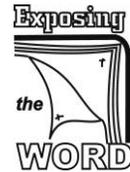


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The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



XIII- Remember to Confirm Your Calling: 2Pe 1:1-14

We enter now into the book that carried the name second Peter. In the first two verses is the claim of authorship and statement he is writing to believers.

2Pe 1:1-2 *Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord...*

Some think this may have been one of the last books written. It has been called the swan song of Peter because he talks about his departing. **2Pe 1:14** *Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.* Peter was certainly sure of his faith and believed what Jesus told him in **Joh 21:18** *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not..*

We will carry the same theme into this book that we began in First Peter, *Reminders of Truth*. Peter tells us that he would constantly remind others of the truths as long as he lived. **2Pe 1:12** *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...*

I- Make Sure of Your Calling:

However, our focus verse in this session will be on **2Pe 1:10** *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure...* I have entitled this *Remember to Confirm Your Calling*.

I realize we could get into a long discussion of calling and the view points of Calvinism and Armeanism but that is not where I wish to focus.

The HCSB says, *Therefore, brothers, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble.*

When I began to prepare this series and seek the outline that God would give me I had a sense here that we must take a look at our salvation and make sure that we are saved. Make sure of our election as it pertains to our saying yes to Christ.

James, who has falsely been accused of preaching works and not grace, said in **James 2:14; 17-20** *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ... 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

James is simply saying that if we are saved there will be fruit. Jesus said this in **Matthew 7:16-20** *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

So simply the question is do the products of our life bear evidence to our heart and to the others that we are indeed a child of God through faith in Christ?

II- Christ Sufficiency:

There has been many from the days just after Christ died even until today that claim that they have special insight and missing components necessary for salvation. They claim that special knowledge is needed. Notice what Peter reminds us of in **2Pe 1:3** *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:* All that is needed for salvation is found in the Lord Jesus, all needed for life and godliness.

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Notice it says He has called us to glory and virtue. The ESV translates *2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.*

Peter reminds them of the certainty of the promises in Christ. He calls them great and precious. *2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

The precious promises are that we will be like Christ. Now, it seems that I am a long way from this being a reality in my life. But we have the promise that we will be like Him in the future. John said in *1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

So there is little doubt that we are called to different than the world around us in holiness and character.

III- Have We Forgotten:

Peter gives a process of growth in verses 5-7 and tells us that some have forgotten that they have been delivered. *2Pe 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

It seems that after we have been saved a while we settle into a comfort zone with our salvation. Christ spoke to the church at Ephesus in *Revelation 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

Peter says in *2Pe 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence... The Phillips NT says For this very reason you must do your utmost from your side, and see that your faith carries with it real goodness of life.*

The Message says, So don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given...

Now notice what we need not forget as we grow. Because we have grace and salvation complete in Christ we are to grow. It is true that a child when he is born is totally human and needs only to grow and not become more complete we are complete in Christ and

need to grow. There are seven things here to add to faith.

1-add to your faith virtue; The NASB translates virtue moral excellence and the HCSB says goodness.

Gaebelin's Commentary gives great insight:

This word means something different from its general meaning in English. It means moral courage, a courage which refuses the gratification of the old nature. It is the soldier's courage, who stands manfully against all opposition. It is an energy by which the heart is master of itself, and is able to choose the good, and to cast aside the evil, as a thing conquered and unworthy of one's self. Such courage to stand and withstand, this energy to deny one's self, makes full communion with God possible. If such virtue is added to faith it leads to knowledge, the next thing. The truth of God and the things of God are known and learned by obedience, by walking in them. Knowledge gained, without virtue practiced, only puffs up and leads to hypocrisy.

2- and to virtue knowledge; To goodness and moral excellence we need to add knowledge. Add knowledge of the ways of God and the person of God. Charles Wesley said, "The more knowledge you have, the more renounce your own will; indulge yourself the less."

3- 2Pe 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; *Barnes Notes* says:

The word here refers to the mastery over all our evil inclinations and appetites. We are to allow none of them to obtain control over us....This would include, of course, abstinence from intoxicating drinks; but it would also embrace all evil passions and propensities. Everything is to be confined within proper limits, and to no propensity of our nature are we to give indulgence beyond the limits which the law of God allows.

4- and to temperance patience; Patience to endure the things that life throws at us. Most of us are not very patient by nature. I need to hear, and I trust you as well, the words of *Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall*

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mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

5- and to patience godliness;

Godliness is never used as an attribute of God. Vincent Word Studies says, “It is from... well, and... to worship, so that the radical idea is worship rightly directed.”

The same Greek word is translated holiness in **Acts 3:12**.

So we can tie together the thought here that when we are running the race of faith with patience we worship God who is worthy of all worship.

1Ti 4:8 says, *For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

6- 2Pe 1:7 *And to godliness brotherly kindness;* The sixth thing Peter reminds us of is brotherly kindness.

Joh 13:34 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*

Heb 13:1 *Let brotherly love continue.*

The word brotherly kindness here in **2Pe 1:7** is a very familiar term *Philadelphia*, or “love of the brotherhood.”

Just because we say that we have brotherly love is not enough it must be practiced. The city of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania is known as the city of brotherly love but it is in that city that they threw snowballs at the referees in a NFL football game and in December of 2009 two helpless fans were the object of a barrage of snowballs because they were for the San Francisco 49ers. Security had to take them away for their safety. Not much brotherly love there was there. Like I said it is not enough to say it we must practice it as well.

7- and to brotherly kindness charity. Practice of love sometimes is reserves for those on the inside, of like kind, of same skin pigmentation, of like social statue or some other things. Here the progress is not only those of the household of faith but also to those beyond.

Paul said in **1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ESV** *1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have*

not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Again it is not enough to say I love you and not practice it.

IV- Fruitfulness:

2Pe 1:8 *For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Peter reminds us that if we put these things into practice we will be fruitful. We will be a blessing to others and to God.

So when we look at our lives and our walk in light of these things are we convicted by them that we are in the faith or are we convicted by them that we need to grow.

We need to make our calling and election sure. We need to make sure that our fruits are from a genuine faith and not just simply religion. **2Pe 1:10** *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*