

Sermon Notes – March 12, 2017

Review

- ⇒ Two weeks ago we thought about how God brings seasons into our lives that humble us, during which we must resist the devil's specific temptations & hold onto Christ.
- ⇒ Last week we appreciated Peter's comments about our great need for Christ's righteousness instead of our own. In fact, Christ's righteousness is our only hope!

Today's Text: II Peter 1:5-11

In our text today, Peter gives an ordered description of what we would describe as Christian character—that is, things that should characterize a follower of Jesus. Further, he tells us to “be diligent” in pursuing Christ-like character!

What Should a Christian “Look Like”? (5-7)

- ⇒ In another text Peter tells us to “grow in grace” - that is, we're not _____ yet, and we won't be until we see Jesus face to face (Cf. I John 3:2).
- ⇒ Peter describes Christian character in a list of qualities that should characterize true followers of Jesus:
 - Virtue = _____
 - Knowledge = growing knowledge of God & His truth
 - Self-control = not controlled by _____
 - Steadfastness = _____, not a sprint
 - Godliness = genuine piety; the real deal
 - Brotherly affection = love for _____
 - Love = good-hearted affection for all people

Why is Godly Behavior So Important? (8-9)

- ⇒ James says it clearly: “Faith without works is dead.”
- ⇒ A follower of Jesus who is growing in faith & obedience DOES have something to contribute to God's kingdom, even if his _____ is small & his _____ are few.
- ⇒ On the other hand, without a life that “backs up” a profession of faith, we lose sight of _____. We often can't

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see what others clearly see, and honestly, we need others to help us see.

- ⇒ Sometimes a believer who _____ gives in to sin “_____” what it means to be a Christian in the first place.

What is Our Role – And God's – in Our Holiness? (10-11)

- ⇒ Peter tells us to be diligent to “confirm” our words of faith with genuine acts of obedience. That doesn't mean that we work FOR our faith, but that _____—it produces life change on some level.
- ⇒ A life of humble & faithful obedience—though imperfect—is God's preparation for life with Him forever.
- ⇒ We are called to exercise _____ in pursuing a life of obedient faith — but God alone can change our hearts & our _____.

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ As with salvation, so our growth in holiness is a work of God's grace. We are dependent on Him for any real progress in faith. That calls for great humility!
- ⇒ Do you long for God to change your heart & affections? Don't settle for simply outward conformity! Cry out to God to change you from the inside out!

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Next Sunday: March 19, 2017

“Strong Conviction vs. My Opinion”

(II Peter 1:12-18)

Pastor Tyler Pease