

Peter and His Epistles

Lesson # 18: Refreshing Our Memory

2 Peter 1:1-21

I. Introduction

- A. This letter was written 1-7 years after 1 Peter. Many of Paul's epistles have already been circulated (2 Peter 3:15-16).
- B. Peter refers to it as his second letter (2 Peter 3:1) and therefore was likely addressed to the same Christians that were scattered in Asia Minor (1 Peter 1:1)
- C. His first letter was focused on comforting the believers. His second letter is focused on cautioning those believers. It is full of warnings!
- D. Peter is reminding his readers regarding the basis of their faith: the reliable word of God.
- E. There is a special connection between the books of 2 Peter and Jude.

II. Our walk

- A. "The secret of commencing well" (1:1-4)
 - 1. Let's review exactly how one gets saved.

Eph. 2:8-10 *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*
 - 2. Let's review the basis of our salvation
 - a. The righteousness of Jesus Christ (vs. 1) See Rev. 19:11
 - b. Our knowledge of Jesus Christ (vs. 2) See Jn. 8:31-32
 - c. His power (vs. 3) See 1 Chr. 29:12
 - d. His praises (vs. 4)

1 John 2:25 *"And this is what he promised us—eternal life."*
- B. "The secret of continuing well" (1:5-9)
 - 1. "We must not only believe but also behave"

Add to your faith:

 - a. Goodness – moral excellence
 - b. Knowledge – being aware of the will of God
 - c. Self-control – the opposite of living in excesses
 - d. Perseverance – the ability to continue in faith

- e. Godliness – piety and devotion
 - f. Mutual affection – love for others
 - g. Love – self sacrificing for others
2. Note the fruit of the spirit outlined in Gal. 5:22-23
 - a. Love,
 - b. Joy
 - c. Forbearance
 - d. Kindness
 - e. Goodness
 - f. Faithfulness
 - g. Gentleness
 - h. Self-control
 3. Consider too the way godly love is described in 1 Cor. 13:4-7
- C. “The secret of finishing well” (1:10-15)
1. The spirit filled life takes effort! We need to grow (Eph. 4:15), increase (1 Thes. 3:12) and go on (Heb. 6:1).
 2. Our salvation rests on much more than a casual “sure, I’m a believer.” See Matt. 7:21 and 1 John 2:19.
 3. Eternal security
 - a. “Camp A” emphasizes John 10:27-29, John 6:37, 2 John 5:13
 - b. “Camp B” refers to 2 Tim. 2:11-12, Heb. 10:26-28, 2 Pet. 2:20-22

III. His word (1:16-21)

- A. Peter’s personal endorsement

“We are not following fables (cleverly devised stories)...we heard the voice.” See Matt. 17:1-13
- B. God’s Word
 1. “A sure word of prophecy” – it is trustworthy!

1 Kings 8:56 *“Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.”*
 2. “A light shining in a dark place” – it is effective! See Ps. 19:8, 119:105, 119:130
 3. “Prophets spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” – it is inspired!

2 Tim 3:16 *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”*

IV. So what?

As we are “working out our salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12), we can and should rely deeply on God’s Word.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are you confident in your salvation? Why? Why not?
2. How does what you believe demonstrate itself in how you behave?