

2 Peter 1:1-11 Discussion Questions

Outline of Pastor Mike's Sermon

- **Introduction**
 - Man's story about a YouTube video convicting him about following Christ.
 - Table of Contents
 - A Gospel Greeting (v.1-2)
 - Provision, Partaking, and Pursuing (v.3-7)
 - Why Behind the What (v.8-11)

- **A Gospel Greeting (v.1-2)**
 - Introducing Peter
 - Simon and Simeon are pretty much interchangeable. Simon is the more Greek version of the name.
 - 2nd Letter
 - 2 Peter 3.1
 - Defining faith and knowledge
 - Faith- the subjective posture of trusting God alone
 - Knowledge- personal recognition of the significance of Christ through the Gospel
 - Grace- excessive favor normally based upon social status or value
 - Peace- reconciliation with God

- **Provision, Partaking, and Pursuing (v.3-7)**
 - ***Summary Point- Peter seeks to spur his fellow believers to pursue Godly character by reminding them of the provision and promises they have received from the Lord.***
 - v. 3- a declaration that God Himself has provided all that is needed for life itself and the pursuit of Godliness
 - v.4- Partaking in the divine nature
 - Not pointing to humans becoming divine
 - Rather humans exhibiting and displaying shared traits from God
 - Communicable vs incommunicable
 - Escaped corruption

- *“Philosophy sees that the most dreadful thing about the imprisonment is the fact that it is caused by the lusts of the flesh, so that the prisoner is the chief assistant in his own imprisonment”- Plato*
 - v.5- Lists of Godly characteristics
 - **Why Behind the What (v.8-11)**
 - *Summary Point- Peter presents a clear distinction between the growing believer and the one who has forgotten what the Lord has provided.*
 - Near-sighted is not the same as blindness, but such a degeneration of the ability to see that the eyes are ineffective
 - Calling and election
 - 1 Peter begins with his conversation of being the elect exiles
 - Never enter into complete ruin
 - D.A. Carson Quote
 - *People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.*
 - *Carson, D. A. (1998). For the love of God: a daily companion for discovering the riches of God’s Word. (Vol. 2, p. 25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.*
 - *If 1 Peter is attempting to encourage believers to live for Christ in the midst of suffering, 2 Peter is an urgent appeal for believers not to trade eternal promises for current comforts.*

- **Implications**

- Your habits casts votes for your true identity.
 - ***"Building better habits isn't about littering your day with life hacks . . . It's not about achieving external measures of success like earning more money, losing weight, or reducing stress. Habits can help you achieve all of these things, but fundamentally they are not about having something. They are about becoming someone."* - James Clear, Atomic Habits**
- Middle ground definitions of Christian maturity are kind and understanding. They are also false.

Discussion Questions

Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture, learn how to better read the Bible for themselves, and faithfully apply it to their lives.

Read 2 Peter 1:1-11

1. The theme of knowing Christ is an important one in this letter. It appears multiple times in just this passage. Pastor Mike explained that "knowledge" here is not referring to merely head knowledge, but instead to a more experiential knowledge, i.e., knowing something because you have experienced it personally and directly. It is the difference between knowing facts about someone and actually having a personal relationship with that person. The second type is the kind of knowledge of God that Peter is talking about.

a. How do you know that you know that you know God in this way? What in your life provides you with assurance?

b. What did it look like for you to go from knowing about God to knowing God personally? Was it a process or did both happen at the same time?

2. In vv. 5-8 Peter makes it clear that he want his readers to "make every effort" to pursue Christian maturity through grace-empowered character development.

It is important to notice that this is not a checklist to be completed and then we can move on. Instead, we are to be ever “increasing” in these qualities.

a. This means that what is most important is the direction of our lives. How would you describe the direction of your life right now?

b. Pastor Mike shared a quote from a former mentor: “the proof of your desire is your pursuit.” What do your current pursuits reveal about your desires?

c. How do we make sure that we are engaging our pursuit of righteousness in God’s strength and power as opposed to out of our own?

d. What is the danger of trying to be sanctified by the power of the flesh?

3. Walking the balance between legalism/moralism on one side and spiritual passivity/missiveness on the other is a challenge. For some of us, when we read something like this passage we are tempted run one direction or another.

a. What is your tendency? Which side do you tend to err on, legalism/moralism or passivity/missiveness?

b. What has God taught you about how to find and live in the appropriate balance of grace-driven effort and pursuit?

c. How did God teach you this?

d. Where do you still need to grow in this area?