

2PeterWeek11-2 Peter 1:1-11

Community Group Questions

1. How does it feel to know what you "have" in Jesus?
2. What are some ways you are pursuing growth?
3. Have you served Jesus and felt that it was very effective?
4. How does it make you feel to know that your salvation is secure?

For the past 10 weeks we learned about Grace and for the next 6 we will learn about knowledge. In second Peter we find that false teachers were trying to contaminate the church. Jesus wants His followers to know the truth and pass the truth down to others. As we move on to the next letter that Peter wrote the big idea of this letter is growing in knowledge.

What is knowledge? By definition...*Knowledge is- facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.*

What does the Bible say about knowledge?

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge

Proverbs 2:10 knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

Proverbs 24:5 a person of knowledge enhances their strength

Proverbs 18:15 An intelligent heart acquires knowledge,

The importance of knowledge to the life of a Christian helps us function in everyday life. *Today the knowledge we will gain from 2 Peter 1:1-11 is **what we have in Jesus and what Jesus desires for us, knowing these truths will help us live a Christ centered life.***

The amazing thing about the Jesus is He is a giver, He gives good gifts to those that do not deserve them. He gave Himself for a world that dis nothing good to earn is, He came to the very people He created and many rejected Him. GOSPEL

Vrs 1-4 tells us **What we have in Jesus** Because of the GOSPEL we have...

-Equal Standing vrs 1 This is interesting because this reminds us how God looks at His children. The beautiful news is that the Scriptures tell us that in Christ there is neither, male or female, Jew or Gentile. As this passage reminds us that in Christ we are equal. Christians should never be racist, prejudice, sexist, prideful and bottom line never hate and always strive for unity.

-Righteousness vrs 1 He took our sinfulness and gave us His righteousness. *Romans 5:18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.*

-Grace vrs 2 we spent the last 10 weeks learning about the impact of grace in our lives. The bottom line is we do not deserve anything good but by the grace of God we receive good and not only that we are able to act good toward others.

-Peace vrs 2 As Christians we have peace knowing that we have a future in heaven, we have peace knowing the God is good, we have peace knowing that He has a plan, we have peace knowing that He gave us His Word for comfort and guidance, we have peace knowing that He placed us in His family for care and companionship

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

-Life vrs 3 Not only eternal life but Jesus said He gives us abundant life. That means He gives us purpose, meaning and fulfillment. That means He gives us a reason to wake up each morning. That means we are all important like the video clip we saw. And how God uses our lives is important.

-Godliness vrs 3 We have the Holy Spirit living in us. So if someone says about us they are a “Godly person” they are seeing us as a person that is willing to step aside and allow God to take over and shine through in the things that we do.

I like what William Penn says about Godliness... *“True godliness does not turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in the world and excites their endeavors to mend the world.”*

He is saying a Godly person has a heart and desire to not be part of the problems but help solve the problems. Are you part of the problem...maybe you are the problem.

-Promises vrs 4 We can claim the promise of eternal life, we can claim the promise that He will never leave us, we can claim the promise that He will deliver us from evil, we can claim the promise that He is good. We can claim the promise that no matter what happens He will take care of us. We can claim the promise that He hears our prayers, we can claim the promise that there is no temptation that we will go through without His help.

And finally in Christ we have a...

-Divine nature vrs 4 In Christ we are a new creation the old is gone the new has come. *Warren Weirsbe said The Christian has been born into God’s family and has God’s nature within.*

Then we see a transition in verse 5 “for this reason”. Peter here is now saying because of *what we have in Jesus* we should care about...

What Jesus desires for us.

This indicates that there is something beyond spiritual birth; there is spiritual growth.

Jesus desires

-Growth vrs 5-8a there is continuum in growth stated here for Christians. Our faith in the Gospel is what set us apart and saved us. But other people can't see that without evidence...so Peter says

"Supplement your faith" with

Virtue-behavior showing moral standards. Other people should see we have a moral compass.

Knowledge-practical understanding, this is important because when we act on what we know to be true we are showing others is practical for life.

Self-control-the ability to maintain control in challenging circumstances. Anyone can say "I trust God" but the true test is when the pressure is on.

Steadfastness-firm and unwavering

Godliness-Using our lives to make a difference and reflect God

Brotherly Affection-fond feeling toward fellow Christians. If you can't treat your brothers and sisters in Christ well it is terrible advertisement for the Lord.

Love-wraps all these things together. Love for Jesus and love for others.

This may seem overwhelming as a Christian..."I can't do all this" but the encouragement that we have in verse 8 is that "these things are ours already and are currently working in us" the unfortunate thing is that many times we choose not to walk in them which renders us ineffective but Jesus wants us to grow so we can be more effective...He desires...

-Effectiveness vrs 8b-9

You can usually tell when Christians are not growing, they have these three characteristics:

1. They are ineffective or idle; that is, they will not work for Christ.
2. They are unfruitful; that is, their little knowledge of Christ does not produce fruit in their lives.

3. They are blind, lacking spiritual insight, spiritually “near-sighted.” Behind this lack of spiritual development is a bad memory, forgetting what God has done for them through Christ.

Are one or all of these true of you? Have you gotten off track?

Jesus desires His followers to live effective lives that bring change. Finally Jesus desires us to feel...secure

-Security He wants you to know for sure you are saved that you will be with Him for eternity.

There are two ways that we as believers can be sure that we are Christians

1. Believe what the Bible says about eternal security. Paul says in Ephesians 4:30 we are “*sealed for the day of redemption*” John 10 Jesus says that “no one can snatch us from the Father’s hands”. Romans 8 tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus.

We know that the Bible teaches eternal security but the second way we can know we are secure is also the answer to the question some Christians struggle with...”Am I really Christian?”

2. Vrs 10-11

Peter says, “Be diligent!” Be sure you are saved! Christians do not save themselves or keep themselves saved; but it is our responsibility to be sure we have the marks of a true believer.

We can be sure we are Christians by “*practicing these qualities*” of growth. Here is how this works...when we follow God’s plan for growth we will actually grow and we witness in our own lives the faithfulness of God and that we belong to Him.

Knowing what we have in Jesus and what He desires for us will help us live a life centered on Him.