

Peter - Summons To Certainty And Sanity

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Intro:

- A. Be sure and be good
 - a. Be sure about things that really matter.
 - b. Be good in purity that God accepts.
- B. We are talking about Peter who felt sure he was going to die soon.
- C. Legendary history says Peter fleeing Rome met Christ who said “Where are you going, Lord?”
 - a. Jesus is reported to have answered that he was returning to Rome in order to be crucified again.
 - b. Peter said, “Not so, Lord,” and went in his place to be crucified upside down because he was not worthy to die in the same manner as Christ.
 - c. When men feel time is short they react strangely.
 - d. Some get drunk.
 - e. Some pray.
 - f. Louie XIV bankrupted France and said, “After my day the deluge will come.”
 - g. Politicians and statesmen have said the same.
 - h. What are you saying to the church?

I. Chapter one of Second Peter is an introduction to his thought, a summons to certainty and sanity.

- A. Peter begins his thought with a call to glory and virtue. (2 Peter 1:3-4)
 - 1. I was sailing through the North Sea recently and thought about the vast resources under that water.

- a. Our largest untapped resources are within ourselves for God has graced us with everything we need by his divine power.
- b. God has equipped you with vast resources but we use very little.
- c. I used to work in a children's home and discovered their eating habits were very narrow.
- d. They only wanted bread and rice, etc.
- e. God provides everything but we choose little.
- f. We don't want to be challenged but like our little familiar routine.
- g. It is not wrong to eat bread everyday but what do we miss?
- h. We are sharers in the divine nature, called to glory and virtue, but we prefer to walk.
- i. Glory is a word that comes from "heavy."
 - 1. In the Old Testament Eli's sons took the ark of God in order to battle the Philistines.
 - 2. Whatever happens in this bicentennial year I hope you will remember the phrase, "One nation under God."
 - 3. Being under God makes us accountable to him.
 - 4. Eli's sons thought they were safe with the ark.
 - 5. Well, the Philistines won, and Eli and his sons died.
 - 6. When the ark of God was lost the glory was lost.
 - 7. We are called to be heavy, as the hippies say, to glory.
 - 8. Mixing glory with cheap things is not worthy of our calling.
- j. We are also called to virtue, excellence.

1. Virtue was the highest quality the Greeks could think of.
2. God has provided the resources for believers to have virtue.
3. God demands and gives what he demands.
4. Prayer meetings used to begin by affirming the promises of God.
5. What has God promised you today?
6. Find and claim the promise of God for you today.
7. A mental institution had a man who thought he was Napoleon Bonaparte because he thought God told him so, yet his friend denied having told him that.
8. Playing God is a religious sin.
9. Give it up.

k. Sill, however, God promised to make us partakers of the divine nature.

1. Divinity is spanned only by Jesus Christ.
2. Irenaeus said, "God became what we are in order that we might become what he is."
 - i. This is not Mormonism.
 - ii. We do not turn into God, or angels.
 - iii. Some tombstones read, "Our angel and loved one."
 - iv. It means that God provides the nature for us to become what God desires.
 - v. Lust is giving ultimate value to secondary things.
 - vi. Ladies lust while shopping.
 - vii. Lust may be sexual, economic, or intellectual.

viii. A student wants “his A.”

ix. We all have lusts.

x. Isolating on one thing to the exclusion of others is lust.

B. Peter continues his argument with stair step of the Christian life. (2 Peter 1:5-11)

1. He goes from faith to love, and we should try to apply these verses to ourselves.

a. Faith has three parts; the Spirit works in more than our emotion.

1. The head.

2. The heart, or emotions.

3. The hand that acts.

i. One or another of these will try to take prominence.

ii. All are necessary.

b. Virtue, which is courage.

1. This is integrity..

2. Wholeness.

c. Knowledge of a practical nature.

1. Being an intellectual is not bad.

2. We need to accept the variety of gifts.

3. Knowledge is a mark of dedication to God.

4. God desires that we render back to him the gifts he has given to us.

d. Self-control, of four kinds.

1. Licentiousness that is out of control.

2. Complete control of passion.

3. Reason dominated by passion. (Romans 7)

4. Struggling but reason is coming out ahead of gross passion.

e. Patience, which is learning honestly what we cannot change.

1. There is an element of contented joy in this.

2. It is perseverance that is content.

f. Godly fear.

1. Being afraid of God in the right way.

2. The fool does not fear God.

3. Some people have craven fear of God.

4. God is not our buddy, not is he a taskmaster.

g. Brotherly kindness.

1. Some people love God but they just aren't kind.

2. There is something wrong with a lack of kindness.

h. Love.

1. Are you sure you love?

2. This is the most important virtue of all.

3. Few things in life are as important as godly love.