

Dying Words (A Series on 2 Peter)

“The Power of Awe-full Gratitude and Wonder”

2 Peter 1:3-11

Let's Get Right to the Matter at Hand

Peter's Mini-Sermon with a Mega-Message

4. What is the subject and the three points of Peter's mini-sermon in your own words?

Subject:

Point 1 (vv. 3-4):

Point 2 (vv. 5-9):

Point 3 (vv. 10-11):

5. The word “knowledge” is repeatedly used in this passage (2 Peter 1:2,3,5,8,12). What does Peter mean by “knowledge,” judging by his uses of the word?

6. What are some of things that distract you from pursuing character formation in a focused and passionate way?

7. What steps can you take to increase your awe and wonder over what God has done for you?

Peter's concern is that some of them won't be _____ into what he calls “the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

“We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”

Character and virtue _____. They don't appear instantly or automatically. These are traits we possess “in increasing measure.”

3 Implications:

- Our eternal _____ is at stake. Do you believe it?
- Spiritual formation ought be an urgent and passionate _____ in our lives.
- I need to ask: How much am I distracted from this pursuit by _____ things?

Summary: Eternal life (point 3), and the spiritual or character formation that keeps our faith intact until the end, thus assuring our salvation (point 2), is all made possible by God in his glory and in his goodness toward us, expressed in his precious promises of reconciliation and _____.

Participating in the Divine Nature

"[To participate in the divine nature] is a vivid way of reminding believers that they have the Holy Spirit residing in their hearts and that they can therefore begin to manifest some of those qualities that are characteristic of God himself: holiness, love, compassion, godliness." (Douglas Moo)

Awe-full Gratitude and Wonder

Four of the five "solas"s are articulated in vv. 1-4:

- Sola Gratia ("Grace Alone")
- Sola Fide ("Faith Alone")
- Sola Christus ("Christ Alone")
- Sola Deo Gloria ("to the Glory of God Alone")

What if the reason good pleasures or less benevolent pleasures can dominate my passions is because I've lost the _____ and wonder of God and of his grace, and I don't experience a deep gratitude for God's love and for what he's done for me?

How to Cultivate Awe-full Gratitude and Wonder

- R _____
- K _____
- E _____

You have to _____ love and devotion and deep gratitude and that takes effort, sometimes enormous effort.

- P _____

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read 2 Peter 1:3-11. How would you state Peter's concern (vv. 10-11) in your own words?
3. Peter lists eight virtues that we need to pursue.
 - Faith - trusting God and his provision in Christ
 - Goodness - moral excellence
 - Knowledge - to know God's will and character
 - Self-control - channeling our passions into God-honoring behaviors
 - Perseverance - the ability to stand fast under trials over the long haul
 - Godliness - ordering our lives to reflect God's holy character
 - Mutual Affection - loving action toward fellow believers
 - Love - more than a feeling, an act of the will that sacrifices for others and GodCircle two or three that need the most attention in your life. How you you better pursue the ones you circled?