

“Understanding the Fruit of our Authentic Faith” 7/26/09

2 Peter 1:5-11

Joke of different denominations; some say 30-40,000

Studies in 2 Peter- “Avoiding the Snare of False Teaching”

What is your most valuable possession?

Perseverance- objective reality of God-given faith and salvation (Romans 8:28-39; John 10:28; 1 Peter 1:5; John 6:39-40; Philippians 1:6; Eph 1:4, 5, 11)

Assurance- subjective reality of God-given faith and salvation (Rom 8:14-17)

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." (1 John 5:13)

Challenges- demands of God’s law; insecurities; ignorance of Gospel which brings total forgiveness (past, present, future); decision reference; struggles with remaining flesh; understanding of trials; lack of obedience (John 2:23-24).

Benefits- blessings, comfort, strength, courage, understanding, hope

POINT 1- In understanding the fruit of our faith we see its CHARACTER

- A. The character of our faith is rooted in God’s power and our EFFORTS (Phil 2:12-13; Eph 1:3; John 15:16; 5; Col 1:28-29; 2 Cor 8:7- Zeal)

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:12-13)

- B. The character of our faith is rooted in specific VIRTUES (John 15:16; 5; Gal 5:22-23; James 2:14-26; 1 Corinthians 13; Matt 13:22)

Going Deeper God wants us to know that we need to be producing fruit!

POINT 2- In understanding the fruit of our faith we see its CERTAINTY

- A. The certainty of our faith is connected with RISK (Titus 1:16; 3:14; Matt 13:22; Mark 4:9; 1Cor 14:14; 1 John 2:19)
- B. The certainty of our faith is connected with abundant PROMISES (Hebrews 6:12; John 8:32; 2 Tim 4:8; 1 Cor 3:11-14; 2 Cor 5:10)

Going Deeper God wants us to be sure of our relationship with Him so we never stumble!

A man was standing off the edge of the Sydney Harbour Bridge --about to jump. A passer-by tried to talk him down; he asked: "well, are you a Christian?" to which the man answered "yes." He exclaimed: "great, me too; what kind of Christian are you? Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant?" The answer was: "Protestant." "Me too; what kind of Protestant? Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Pentecostal?" He responded, "Pentecostal." The man got excited: "me too; are you an initial evidence or a third wave Pentecostal?" "Initial evidence." "Me too; what kind of initial evidence? Are you a AOG, CRC, COC, CCC?" "AOG." Now, he got really excited: "Me too; are you Premillennial, Post Millennial or Amillennial?" The guy on the bridge said: "Amillennial" and with that the passer-by, becoming very angry, screamed: "Die, heretic!" and pushed him off the bridge.