

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 10

II Peter 1:8-9 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, April 12, 2023 389 More About Jesus

Been a couple of weeks—remember, this is NOT merely a Bible Study—seeking to change HOW we study Bible—WHAT we are looking for in the text—teaching how to meditate INSIDE the Word, not just have it handed to us—like us to move toward **1. Memorizing the Text 2. Reading the Passage 3. Glancing Over your notes for a few minutes INSIDE the thoughts about text so come w mind already thinking about these things—then pray as come in, asking God for what see about Him/His World/His Values that not worshipping, thankful for, living in light of—repent of sins, head in fellowship with His values, etc. Now for this very reason also, what reason? Book opened by focusing on the GOD of Relationship, THAT God has given the power to live godly lives,(seeing His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge . . .) applying all diligence, I. The Life of Relationship with God is Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5 In your faith, supply the faith of v. 1 that sees God as described in vv. 3-4 leads to using ALL your energy, holy sweat focused on these things that accompany saving faith, II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5-7 1. Moral Excellence 2. Knowledge 3. Self-control 4. Perseverance 5. Godliness 6. Brotherly Kindness 7. Love effort not apart from, but flowing from work of God Phil. 2:12-13, effort IN God's presence; Hiebert reminds that all these qualities won't be fully developed in each person, but cannot focus on one to neglect of others; What happens to focus on these during day? b/c of this, next verses point to another essential piece of life inside relationship with God III. Lived with God's Goals for Growth, Not Yours vv. 8-9 from wherever you are w focus here, gives incentive—focusing on value/delight resulting from effort this way; command is enough, but God gives desire (don't neglect either—command, or seeking WHO would desire these things and why?) A. Positive Incentive for Effort Toward These Goals v. 8 For if these qualities are yours vv. 5-7 qualities characterized in your life, you own them—THIS is what you seek, imitate, talk about; and are increasing, yes, discernable, but more, verb implies abound, overflow; way of life they render you neither useless nor unfruitful; idle, word used in Matt. 20:3,6 parable of workers (standing idle in marketplace—gives them a job) so not USELESS in society; hot mean do nothing, but also whatever do adds up to nothing/meaningless; THIS verse mentions these words in negative, but point of verse focusing on process/way of living that is useful/bearing fruit; parable of soils—WE focus on bad soils, but good soil is where fruit—THIS fruitful, productive life is focus; But there is specific sphere of identity and usefulness; SOCIETY may deem you useful/fruitful, but GOD may say useless/unfruitful; THIS sphere only one that matters, in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. not talking about empty facts, but life—this is where you live (useful/fruitful in God's world, you fit, belong there); remember what godliness v. 3, v. 6 is? Acts responding from reverence to deity—these result of God's power, faith that gets these character traits by looking to Him, why? Col. 2:1-3, therefore, growing in this knowledge and trust His precious and magnificent promises—effort IN RELATIONSHIP as desire to know more and more about Him leads to horizontal hearts knit together in love; THIS brings noticeable change that SHOWS divine nature v. 4 I Thess. 3:12, II Thess. 1:3—OTHERS see evidence—this fits w I Pet. 2:12; others not only see, but benefit from it, Tit. 3:14 same word; NOT on own, in isolation; when do we stop increasing? When think have enough or think not valuable—THIS points to fact that NEVER have enough but way of life that keeps adding more—takes focus, effort; meant for display, lived b/r and benefit other people; what makes these qualities seem even more difficult when tied to relationships God has given us? Seems to work against them; redefines them; if truly saved to LIVE, to live on display, then see people issues as not getting in the way, but proving God's work, part of God's work; What hope and courage does verse 8 give to keep going? When can't live with/before THEM (including even yourself), remember, these virtues produced inside relationship, effort here IS result of growing in true knowledge of God/Christ; Blum EBC—knowledge of God is beginning, continuance, and goal of Christian life; Jn. 15:1-11 abide/bear fruit; therefore focus MUST be on relationship with God, not merely these virtues—THAT knowledge tested by presence/absence of growing in these virtues; who values what is offered in verse 8? Let me help--WHO VALUES deodorant/antiperspirant? So much trouble--how do you get through scents, brands, price, then white flakes, stains, spray, gel, glide-on, then aluminum, non—don't want cancer, but DON'T want sweat rings, DON'T want to smell—THESE negatives give incentive to look for something that avoids them) To whom would verse 8 be incentive to keep going in this direction? Someone who VALUES useful, fruitful, feels growing mess/consequences of NOT; SOMEONE who values God's opinion; Those who value being useful in God's kingdom—those who value pleasing God; Eph. 5:10-11—2 ways to live;**

Matthew 3:8-10 “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; ⁹ and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ “The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 12:36 “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Mark 4:19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Ephesians 5:10-11 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

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

Philippians 3:19-20 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Colossians 2:1-3 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater;

1 Timothy 5:13 At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.

Titus 3:14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.