
Turn in you Bibles tonight to 2 Peter. We are still in Chapter 1 and will be focusing on verses 10 and 11 this evening. Let's go ahead and read our verses for tonight.

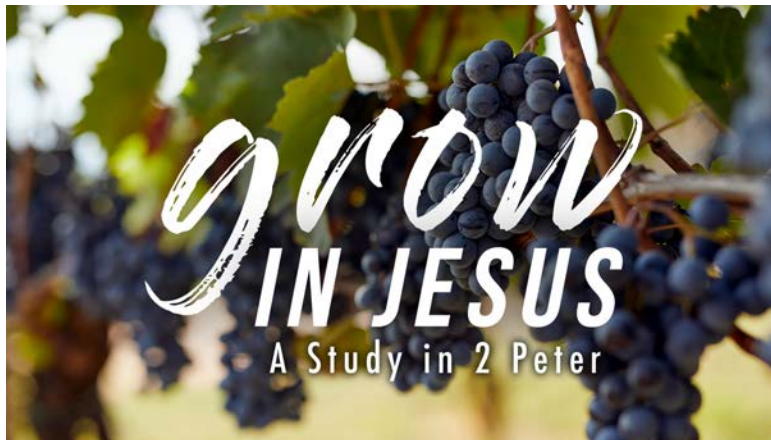
2 Peter 1:10-11

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Through this letter, Peter is combatting false teachings when it comes to salvation through Jesus Christ, and also the imminent return of Jesus Christ as he promised of his return in the Gospel of John Chapter 14. Jesus was comforting his disciples as he once again told him of his impending death, burial, and resurrection. The latter they seemed to keep missing. Jesus said these words.

John 14:1-6

¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



One of the main themes of this letter written by Peter is to give, what I am going to call, identifiers, which he is calling qualities, for believers of the assurance of their salvation. Not only the assurance of their salvation but ways that will help a believer grow in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we look and study these identifiers, we can compare them to our life and be assured of the salvation that we are proclaiming. Also, if we are truly being a disciple, a follower of the Lord Jesus.

Last week we saw several of these qualities, identifiers, indicators, characteristics, whatever word you would like to use that indicates a person is a follower of the Lord Jesus.

Look back at verses 5 to 7 again.

2 Peter 1:5-7

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection and brotherly affection with love.

I want to speak to Faith, very briefly. The faith that is being mentioned here is not an abstract faith in an idea or concept. This faith is an understanding that we are sinful, and, in that sin, we are wicked and evil in thought and in deed. With that knowledge we know our need of salvation. God provided the only way of salvation for us through Jesus Christ as he paid the payment we could not pay for our sins, died the death we deserve, took the wrath that was ours to take.

Through the conviction of the Holy Spirit, we surrender our lives in repentance in faith in and on Jesus Christ for salvation but also to grow in a maturity of our faith to give glory and honor to the Lord Jesus Christ with our lives.

Peter gave that list of qualities that describes salvation and a growth in our salvation, but he also gave a warning. He talked about a blindness.

We know from 2 Corinthians Chapter 4 verse 4 that Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Jesus Christ. That was our condition if you are saved or is your condition if you are not saved tonight.

Noone would even have an understanding of these qualities if it wasn't for the fact that God instilled them in our understanding to begin with. People will say they have these qualities, but it is because they are a good person and they do not need to be saved. That is part of the blindness that comes from Satan.

What Peter is warning about here as well is about those that may say they are saved but there is no indication in their life that these qualities are evident in their life.

These identifiers, characteristics are not boxes to check off. These are fruit that come from our salvation and is a heart led passion to glorify Jesus Christ in our lives not to point to our self-righteousness whatsoever! If these are not evident it causes someone to doubt, and they don't have the joy of assurance of their salvation.

Because of this warning, Peter encourages us to do an introspection, self-examination of our lives. Look at verse 10 again.

2 Peter 1:10

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

We have a saying here that Pastor Kevin said years ago, and I am not sure it has been used in a long time. But, whenever you see the word, "Therefore", in Scripture. You have to ask the question what is it there for? When you see the word, "Therefore", it is always referring back to the verse or several verses previously read. I believe we covered those verses quite thoroughly last week.

Therefore, what has just been described to you, be diligent in confirming this in your life. The word diligent here in the Greek is, *spoudazo*, which is a verb, which indicates a continuous action upon our part. To exert ourselves in obedience to God's Word so that we show we are in Jesus Christ.

This idea of self-examination, there are characteristics to be displayed that confirm we are followers of the Lord Jesus is not new.

In the Old Testament, God called Israel to be separate from all other nations. Why? To reveal through their lives that God was the only true God that created the universe, but also through repentance and obeying God could anyone receive forgiveness for their sins.

What did God give them to examine their lives against, whether they were obeying him or not? His Word, the Ten Commandments, the Law!

In Lamentations, the prophet Jeremiah tells the nation of Israel it is a good thing to do some self-examination.

Lamentations 3:40-42

⁴⁰ Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord! ⁴¹ Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven: ⁴² “We have transgressed and rebelled, and you have not forgiven.

That is a beautiful way to have this described. Let us test and examine our ways and return to the Lord. That is the whole premise behind self-introspection. Is there any thought or deed we need to repent of and turn back to the Lord in our repentance.

Think about the preaching Jesus did on that hillside in northern Israel just above the Sea of Galilee which became famously known as the Sermon on the Mount.



I got this from Pastor Kevin from his trip in 2007. Jesus opened this sermon as recorded by the Apostle Matthew with those famous words:

Blessed are the; and gave 9 indicators of what it means to follow Jesus and for the next three Chapters and 2659 words, counting the headings, described a life devoted to following the Lord Jesus Christ out of love and obedience to his Word, the Bible. It is in this sermon in Chapter 7 of Matthew that Jesus says these words concerning false prophets.

Matthew 7:15-16

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

This precept can be used towards us as individuals if we say we are a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. What fruit are we bearing? Well, here is a list of the fruit we are to bear!

Galatians 5:22-24

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

That fruit cannot be thoroughly expressed, thoroughly displayed without being in Jesus Christ. Jesus described that so beautifully as recorded by the Apostle John in John Chapter 15 as Jesus described that he is the true vine and we are the branches and Jesus said, ***“Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”***

As long as we abide in Jesus through reading and study of his Word, obeying his Word, praying, gathering together to stir each other up to love and good works, making disciples. As we are attached to the true vine Jesus, we bear what the Apostle Paul described as the fruit of righteousness when he wrote to the church in Philippi.

Philippians 1:9-11

⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Those last six words are the focus behind self-examination. That our lives will be a light of the Gospel to the glory and praise of God. Just as it says in Psalm 115:1:

Psalm 115:1

¹⁵ Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

The last place I want to take us that describes we are to examine and test ourselves is in 2 Corinthians Chapter 13. Turn there. The Apostle Paul is telling the church in Corinth that this is the third time he is going to come to them, and he is leaving them with some very stern words before he arrives. The Apostle Paul tells them this in verses 5.

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --- Unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

This verse is similar to what Peter is seeking to encourage and challenge those that receive the letter he is writing to them now. Peter is saying look at the qualities, indicators from verses 5 to 7 and see if those are fruit that you are pursuing in your life and are those permeating out of your life for the glory of Jesus' sake.

Use those qualities, indicators to confirm your calling and election.

What is this calling and election? I am going to begin with the calling. There are two aspects to this calling. In verse 10 the word calling is used in terms of an invitation. The first aspect is that God calls those to salvation to repent of their sins. Jesus said this, as recorded by the Apostle John in Chapter 6 verse 44 of the Gospel of John.

John 6:44

44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

Now comes several questions. How is God drawing us? What is he drawing us away from and what is he drawing us toward?

God first draws us by the Holy Spirit convicting us of our sin. As Jesus is explaining to the Apostles that last night before his crucifixion, telling them he must go away but he will be sending a comforter. Who is the comforter? The Holy Spirit and again the Apostle John records Jesus' words as he describes one of the main duties of the Holy Spirit is to convict people of sin.

John 16:8-9

8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me.

One of the best descriptions is how it is described in 2 Corinthians Chapter 7 verse 10.

2 Corinthians 7:10

10 For Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Godly grief comes only through the conviction of the Holy Spirit of our sin and that leads to repentance in our heart and this is where the second aspect of this calling comes into effect.

Godly grief comes down from God and repentance is directed to God, just as it says in Romans 10:13, ***For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*** So, God is drawing, calling, convicting us away from our sin and toward Jesus Christ!

True salvation does not come without conviction of our sin. That conviction opens our eyes to the wickedness and evil of our sin is against a wonderful, Holy, merciful savior. We are drawn to the point of repentance in calling on the Lord to save our souls. Conviction and repentance are two very important words when it comes to salvation. There is to be a repentant heart in the call to salvation.

Repentance takes us from the darkness of our sin into the light of Jesus Christ. Just as Peter described in his first letter to these dispersed Christians.

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

What we see here is our calling precedes our election. Now, there are a couple of different viewpoints on this point of election.

I do believe in the Sovereignty of God when it comes to salvation. Salvation is all of God! I believe in the foreknowledge of God that as he stands outside of time, he sees everything as one large painted canvas. I believe, when it comes to our salvation that we are chosen, and we become part of the elect of God. I believe in God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility!

Because of our calling and election in our salvation we can have assurance of our salvation knowing that there are indicators of our salvation and qualities that we have learned about to pursue in our lives to confirm this salvation. Jesus said this about those that truly follow him:

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

Back to my little analogy I saw years ago and liked. This is why we can have assurance of our salvation. Whose name is on this envelope? JESUS! Whose name is on this card? MINE. Our sin separates us from God but in repentance and surrender of our life in faith on the Lord Jesus, we are now in Jesus. In that we don't have a righteousness of our own, but by the blood of Jesus, his righteousness is imputed to us.

Yes, we still will sin as we fight against temptation and the sinful flesh. But, when it comes to our salvation, in our repentance, the Holy Spirit of God indwells us and we are sealed by the Holy Spirit, look at these verses from Ephesians 1:13-14.

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

What did we read in the verses from John? No one can snatch them out of my hand, once sealed by the Holy Spirit. You cannot lose your salvation, the question is whether you were truly saved or not and once again we have these indicators, these qualities to examine ourselves with.

In fact, in verse 10 we see that we are told if we practice these qualities we will never fall. Look at verse 10 again.

2 Peter 1:10

10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

What does it mean to practice these qualities? When we practice anything, there is a plan, a task at hand, whether you play sports or play music. You practice to get better, or to stay sharp and be prepared for the times you play the game or play your instrument in whatever setting you are in.

That is what the word practice means in this verse. It is the Greek word:

Poieo – (Verb) to do, to act rightly, to carry out

Jesus said for us to be a disciple of his, we are to deny ourselves, and take up our cross, daily and follow him. We are to die to the passions and lusts of this world. ***What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but lose his soul!***

The staff is reading a book by Martyn Lloyd-Jones named, Seeking The Face of God, Nine Reflections On the Psalms. He wrote these words in relation to Psalm 84 verses 1 to 4.

The ultimate secret of every godly Christian, the real secret of this psalmist as he puts it so plainly here, is that he came at last to realize that the most priceless thing in life is his soul. The soul within me goes for all eternity. God has put into me, God breathed into man so that he “became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7), That is

what stamps men and women as being made in the image of God. “My soul is the most precious thing of all; that I want to safeguard and protect.”
Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Is your soul valuable to you? Our soul is only safeguarded as we first come to that point of repentance and calling on the Lord to save us. Then we continue to obey the Lord as a disciple and let these qualities, indicators be a reality in our lives.

We become fruitful in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, as it said back in verse 8, but we also express that knowledge as we let our light shine before others. For us, to show we are a good person?

NO! So that others may see our good works and give glory to our Father who is in heaven. As we are doing this self-examination, it is to confirm our salvation but in living out these qualities it should come from a heart of love for our Savior, Jesus Christ! It is to know God and make him known!

It is to ensure we are not cheapening the grace of God that tells us in Titus Chapter 2 that the grace of God trains us to deny ungodliness, not make excuses for our sin, but repent and forsake our sin.

Another point about this term of practicing. In the analogy I used, we practice preparing us for the game, which shows that preparation is important for the task at hand. The only difference I would say in this analogy would be that once we are saved, we are in the game.

We are to share the Gospel; we are to live that obedient life in honor of the Lord Jesus to glorify Jesus. We are to make every effort; we are to be all the more diligent living out these qualities in our lives. If so, as it says in verse 10, we will not fall or as this word can also be stumble.

Now you may say, I can say this myself. I stumble every day in some form or fashion. This does not mean we will never sin through our thoughts and/or our actions. We are quick to either take those thoughts captive and they may be temptations, but they do not become sins. When we sin, we are quick to repent and ask the Lord to forgive us and we forsake that sin.

We aren't lazy, we are to be careful, less we fall. We keep our eyes open, focused on Jesus! ***Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto our own understanding. In all our ways acknowledge him and he will make our paths straight.***

You know for all those that are truly saved we hold on to the hope that in our salvation there is the promise of eternal life. John 3:16, ***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.***

Titus 2 verse 13, We are waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

That hope is because of our faith, and in that we supplement our faith with virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, love. These qualities sought after ensuring what verse 11 describes.

2 Peter 1:11

11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Whether by way of the grave or we are alive when the rapture happens, there is the glorious entrance prepared for us. There is going to be a glorious reunion, with friends and loved ones, there is going to be worship, there is going to be praise. We are going to see Jesus face to face as our faith becomes our sight.

You saw the description of how heaven is described in verse 11. The eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

There are two parallel kingdoms running side by side. They are both eternal! There is the kingdom of darkness which is Satan's kingdom. There is the kingdom of light, the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There is the battle going on for the souls of mankind!

Jesus expresses this well to Peter at the Last Supper, the Passover meal before Jesus went to the cross. Jesus tells Peter that Satan has demanded to have you, that he might sift him like wheat.

What did Jesus say to Peter? But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail! Peter then boldly proclaimed, Lord, I am ready to go both to prison and die with you! Then Jesus said, Peter, you will deny me three times before the rooster crows.

But on that seashore, when Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me, Peter? Feed my sheep." There had to be some growth in Peter's life and that is the beauty of what we read now. Here is Peter encouraging believers to confirm their calling and election! Be all the more diligent, exert yourselves to be sure you are saved!

What these qualities are, are indicators that show we are growing in our faith. If we are growing in our faith then we are growing in Jesus and if we are growing in Jesus, then he is shown through our lives and then we are going to have that assurance of our salvation because it is confirmed in our hearts and our desire to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Are you sure? Are you sure of your salvation? Are you sure of your lostness? If so, repent and call on the Lord Jesus Christ to save your soul.